

ABSTRACT

The idea of this ambitious project—Sources of Christian Social Teaching and Ministry—is to demonstrate the fundamental unity of the Church's moral principles and guidance for social life by collecting, translating, preparing and publishing documents from the Early Church to Church today. Knowledge of the sources is crucial for understanding the continuity and changes in the Church's social thinking and activity. Most documents are presented in Ukrainian translation for the first time. The project involves representatives of different denominations from Ukraine and from abroad, and helps the ecumenical efforts.

The present volume is a collection of the documents of the Ukrainian Greek-Catholic Church from the years 1989–2008. The UGCC has always been very actively engaged in Ukrainian society. After legalization in 1989 and after the breakdown of the Soviet Union, this Church became one of the fastest-growing religious communities in Ukraine. According to 2008 year surveys, the Church enjoys deep trust not only among its own adherents but also among a significant proportion of others.

The 375 documents collected here cover a broad range of topics—from election campaigns and legislative concerns to fundamental human rights issues, from civil society and state-building to reconciliation attempts, from migration to ecology. Numerous pastoral and open letters, appeals, addresses and statements by patriarchs, bishops and special Church commissions consistently present positions of the Church with regard to Ukrainian public life and demonstrate the inculturation of the key principles of the Christian ethic in the post-totalitarian realities of Ukrainian society.

The first two chapters present, in chronological order, documents issued in 1989–2000 (under Patriarch Myroslav Lubachiv's'ky), and in 2000–2008 (from the election of Lubomyr Husar until May 2008). A separate chapter includes documents that were issued by the UGCC jointly with representatives of other Churches and religious communities. The last chapter contains some homilies of patriarchs, which show a deep organic connection of liturgical texts with key principles of the Christian social ethic. Commentaries from Orthodox and Protestant perspectives were prepared exclusively for this collection, and five appendices were added to facilitate use of the book.

By preparing this series of sources, the Institute of Religion and Society of the Ukrainian Catholic University and the Justice and Peace Commission of the Ukrainian Greek-Catholic Church would like to contribute to the renewal of studies on social thought. The project also creates cooperation between academic work in the humanities at the Ukrainian Catholic University and at other schools.

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