

SUMMARY

The thesis "Man and God, a photographic study of Estonian clergy" deals with the nature of clerical work and seeks confirmation of the hypothesis: "The profession of a clergyman is a regular day job".

The theoretical part of the work focuses on the current representation of Estonian clergy on book covers, in the press, in photo books, and in paintings. During the research, it remains undetected that any of the Estonian photographers have systematically covered the clergy and their professional activities through photography. In the photo books and photo series of Estonian cultural figures, there are also clergy among others, but they fulfill their role there as examples of representatives of various professions. Clergymen have been systematically captured in paintings by the portraitist Aapo Pukk, whose painting series of the bishops of the Lutheran Church is an important basis for this work.

In the practical part of the research, I portray 12 Estonian clergymen. I capture two portraits of each clergyman, one in the church and clerical clothes, the other outside the church in some other activity that provides a counterweight to his work in the church. A total of 24 photos will be taken. Photographs of each clergyman form image pairs.

The first picture shows a clergyman wearing a liturgical garment in a church. The composition of the picture seeks correctness and considers the surrounding environment. The photo is black and white, taken with a tripod and a 70mm focal length lens.

The second picture shows a clergyman outside the church doing something else, which provides a counterweight to his work in the church. The second photo is captured in color in a more casual composition while holding the camera in hand without looking through the viewfinder. The 35mm lens brings the viewer closer to the model.

The two pictures together form a whole, the purpose of which is to reveal the personality of the clergyman and his relationship with his work.

The analysis of the pairs of images reveals that the hypothesis stated at the beginning of the work, "The profession of a clergyman is a regular day job," is not true, as the clergy's activities outside the church are also directly or indirectly related to their clerical role. Despite my desire to show the subjects in the church in a clerical role and doing something

else outside of church work, this was visually successful in only five pairs of twelve images. In addition, an interesting fact emerges, according to the sense of the clergy, the boundary of clerical work is between conducting liturgies in the church and all other activities, rather than all church-related work and private life.

In the future, I intend to continue my research and publish a representative publication of Estonian clergy to record their contribution to society and culture.