Doctoral school - "Religion, Culture, Society"

The name for the doctoral school - "Religion, Culture, Society" - is the result of a reflection that seeks to position future research socially and ecclesiastically, in the spirit of Vatican II, and thereby also to raise awareness of the importance of religion, culture and society in a compelling reciprocity. This paradigm of theological research is taken for granted in Western Europe, but has remained rather alien to the Catholic minority church in our country, most of whose members also belong to an ethnic minority. With the new research paradigm, the mega-topics of post-conciliar theology are brought into view in such a way that the focus on the following overarching question always remains in the foreground: The role and possibilities of the concrete application of Catholic Social Teaching for a vital Church in Romania, in the Hungarian-speaking area, in East Central Europe. Indeed, the post-communist societies of East-Central Europe continue to be in transition, and the relevant question arises daily as to what role Catholic higher education and theology should play in this protracted transition process, so that the inherent values of these societies are not entirely lost in the transition.

In this sense, this Doctoral School pursues the overarching goal of supporting the professionalization of the Church towards greater engagement with social and pastoral challenges of today. In doing so, Catholic Social Teaching is our central guideline, not only referring to the preferential option for the poor, but also focusing on the issues of solidarity, human dignity and the principle of subsidiarity. The necessary link between theoretical teaching and practical application is thereby realized by the fact that the research projects of the doctoral college ultimately serve to professionalize present and future leaders, who are an indispensable building block in the process of developing vital communities in which social and pastoral commitment are organically linked.