

SUMMARY

The formation of religious identity: the Laukuva parish case

/LAUKUVA II

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The article analyses a case of the shaping of religious identity (Roman Catholic) in the ethnographic region of Samogitia, Laukuva parish. A woman, which was interviewed, was born in 1928 and was living in this parish all her life. I would like to notice that she belongs to a little educated peasant family. The land farm owned by her parents (around 12 ha) was smaller than the average size of the land farms in the district. I would like to pay attention to the family's relations as well. The woman was living with her aunts and grandparents for sometime during her childhood and adolescence. Her aunt, whom she was living with, belonged to the Tertiaries religious community.

I would like to notice that the religious identity of the individual interviewed is closely connected with the religious identity of her family. This group religious identity ensures the religious identity of the individual and her family members of several generations. However, the unity of religious identity of the family is ensured by the religious identities and religiosity of the elder family members. The religiosity of the individual was being shaped mostly by the closest family members and other relatives which were linked through the same living place as well. The principal creators of the religiosity of the individual were her parents. Her mother was the first.

The representative of the younger generation is trained to the moral norms which organise the activities of the family. In such way the individual is made to be used to religiosity as well. The aspects of the forcible and voluntary (self-)disciplining of the individual should be noted in such situation. The characteristic feature of the image of the authentic religiosity having been formed by the mother in the childhood of the individual is concordance with the religious practices and the moral behaviour quality.

I would like to underline the role of the material things, which were held and used by the individual during her First communion. They fixed religiosity and ensured its continuity during all the life of the individual. On account of this the individual tries to keep them during the whole life.