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WARAKORN SATHITKARN : CHRISTIAN ETHICS AND AIDS CARE IN THAILAND. THESIS ADVISORS : SIVALEE SIRILAI, M.A. (PHILOSOPHY), SARINTHIP SATHEERASILAPIN, M.A. (LINGUISTICS), Fr. BUNJONG SANTISUKNIRAN, M.A. (MORALITY THEOLOGY), 150 p. ISBN 974-663-630-8

The rapid spread of AIDS and increasing number of people with AIDS are serious health problems which have been emphasized not only in Thai society but all around the world. As no vaccination or effective treatment for HIV exist for the time being, all AIDS victims died. Some of the full-blown AIDS patients have been rejected by their families and society lacks an adequate understanding of the disease. The Catholic Church in Thailand has responded to this problem.

The purpose of this research was to study Christian ethics and AIDS care. The specific aims of the study were; Christian beliefs concerning life, suffering and death, the Great Commandment, the Catholics Church's attitude toward AIDS and people with AIDS, and moral principles which have been applied for providing care for the sick. 11 people working in The Franciscan Foundation and Camillian Social Center in Rayong were interviewed focusing on ethical issues; veracity and truth telling, confidentiality, respect for human dignity patients' rights, spiritual healing and palliative care.

The studies have shown that based on God's commandment, "Love your neighbor as yourself" is the way of life held by Catholic faith fuls. According to the Catholic Church's policy, love, faith and hope should be grounds for providing proper care for AIDS patients especially terminally ill patients. The dying patients should be received as a whole person and spiritual needs should be responded to according to their beliefs.

The researcher believes that all religious people should work collaboratively in order to advocate for people with AIDS and to protect them from prejudice and bias from families and society. Moral and religious teaching can be the proper way to prevent this dreaded disease.