

## CHAPTER I

### Introduction

#### A. Background of Study

Celibacy is singleness or celibacy, and not marrying.<sup>1</sup> In a sense, it is an offering of self based on complete love that is specifically related to the shepherding of souls in order to unite with the purity of God. Celibacy is a form of sacrifice and obedience to the religious vows that are at the heart of the vocation to the Catholic priesthood. Celibacy also plays a very important role in enhancing the spiritual life and in the spiritual journey.

Celibacy is one of the fundamental commitments in the life of a Catholic priest who aims to devote himself fully to God and the people. This commitment has been an integral part of the Catholic Church for centuries, but in the modern context, the practice faces various challenges. Social and cultural changes that are increasingly open to individual freedom as well as the psychological demands faced by priests make celibacy a vocation that requires spiritual and mental fortitude.<sup>2</sup> Therefore, this study aims to analyze the influence of celibacy on improving the spirituality of priests in the Catholic Church of Paroki Santo Mateus, Pare, and identify the strategies they use in overcoming these challenges.

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<sup>1</sup> Yohanes Hario Kristo Wibowo, "Penghayatan Selibat Imam sebagai Kesaksian Hidup di Zaman Sekarang," *Jurnal Teologi* 6, no. 2, 2017: 126, <https://doi.org/10.24071/jt.v6i2.997>.

<sup>2</sup> Dedi Hantono dan Diananta Pramitasari, "ASPEK PERILAKU MANUSIA SEBAGAI MAKHLUK INDIVIDU DAN SOSIAL PADA RUANG TERBUKA PUBLIK," *Nature: National Academic Journal of Architecture* 5, no. 2, 2018: 86.

In the development of the teachings of the Catholic Church, celibacy is not only considered as an obligation to receive the sacrament of priesthood, but also as a special gift from God. For those who practice celibacy, it is also a surrender to the Church.<sup>3</sup> Thus, the Catholic Church that will be the source of this research is Catholic Church of Paroki Santo Mateus, Pare, which is the only and largest Roman Catholic Church in Pare. The priests in the church make celibacy a means to get closer to God based on sincere service and love. As for the uniqueness of the church, there are carvings of buildings and a statue of Jesus in front of the church. There are several things that distinguish this church from others, namely, in the implementation of any ceremony is not accompanied by musical instruments so as to emphasize the sacredness of the ceremony. And this church does not have a baptismal pool like churches in general. The congregation in this church is approximately 500 people.

Celibacy not only focuses on theological aspects, but also integrates psychological and sociological perspectives.<sup>4</sup> With this approach, it can provide a broader understanding of how celibacy can increase closeness to God, while presenting emotional challenges that must be managed by pastors. In addition, this study also highlights how church community and social support can play a role in helping pastors live out their celibate commitment more stably.

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<sup>3</sup> Thomas Bedjo Oetomo dan Ivan Kurniawan Waruwu, "Konsep Selibat Pada Masa Intertestamental Dan Tinjauan Teologis Terhadap Selibat Gereja Katolik," *Jurnal Missio Cristo* 5, no. 1, 2022: 25, <https://doi.org/10.58456/jmc.v5i1.22>.

<sup>4</sup> Imanuel Boimau, "TINJAUAN TERHADAP DASAR-DASAR TEOLOGIS PRAKTIK HIDUP SELIBAT," *Jurnal Amanat Agung* 16, no. 2, 2021: 327.

In addition, this study presents new insights into the strategies used by pastors in dealing with the challenges of celibacy. Some of the strategies found in this study include spiritual reflection, active involvement in the church community, as well as the development of positive personal activities such as reading, writing and exercise. As such, this study not only provides theoretical insights, but also offers practical solutions that pastors can apply in better living out their commitment.<sup>5</sup>

The main contribution of this research is the development of concrete strategies for the Church to support priests in their celibate life. This research provides the basis for a more systematic pastoral approach in accompanying priests, including in terms of spiritual formation and emotional well-being. The results of this study are expected to serve as a reference for the Church in designing more effective programs to maintain the spiritual and mental balance of priests, so that they can carry out their ministry more optimally and meaningfully.<sup>6</sup>

Thus, the author wants to know about the meaning of celibacy itself, as well as explore further how celibacy can affect the improvement of the spiritual life of priests in the Catholic Church of Paroki Santo Mateus, Pare. In addition, the author wants to know the challenges and ways to overcome the problems faced by priests in carrying out the celibate life.

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<sup>5</sup> Yosua Sibarani, "Hidup Selibat Sebagai Karunia Tuhan: Studi Eksposisi 1 Korintus 7:7," *CARAKA: Jurnal Teologi Biblika dan Praktika* 3, no. 2, 2022: 194, <https://doi.org/10.46348/car.v3i2.120>.

<sup>6</sup> Hardawirjana dan Siswoyo, "DIREKTORIUM TENTANG PELAYANAN DAN HIDUP PARA IMAM,".

## **B. Problem Formulation**

1. What challenges do pastors encounter in practicing celibacy?
2. How does celibacy affect the spiritual improvement of the pastor in Paroki Santo Mateus Church?

## **C. Purpose of Study**

1. To know name some of the challenges pastors face in living celibacy
2. To explain the influence of celibacy on the spiritual improvement of pastors in Paroki Santo Mateus Church

## **D. Significance of Study**

The researcher hopes that upon completing this study, it will provide great benefits and receive positive feedback from readers, both academically and practically. The following are the general benefits of research activities including:

### **1. Theoretical Contribution**

Theoretically, this research is expected to contribute to body of scientific knowledge and enhance understanding for both the general public and students of the Faculty of Ushuluddin Religion Study Program

at Darussalam Gontor University. It aims to support the development of

intellectual capacities and deepen the understanding of cultural and religious values and norms within the context of a specific religion.

## **2. Practical Implications**

Practically, this research is expected to be present as a reference, a source of reference, and a guideline in writing scientific papers. Besides that, it is also expected to be useful to each reader. Moreover, can provide an ethical and moral example for the community. Likewise, choosing to live in chastity can inspire others morally and ethically. In addition to the benefits for the church itself, celibacy can provide a full focus on church service and the needs of the congregation.

## **E. Previous Study**

In the course of this research, the researcher has not found Any studies that address the topic that discusses the title of this thesis in depth. However, the researcher found several sources or theses whose content can be used as a guide and reference in writing the researcher's final project. The key findings from these studies are as follows:

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**First Thesis** *PENGARUH KONSEP MAHABBAH TERHADAP HIDUP SELIBAT*<sup>7</sup> (STUDI KASUS RABI'AH AL-ADAWIYAH) By Mahmudah Nurur Rohmah, Faculty of Ushuluddin and Humanities, State Islamic University, Walisongo, Semarang, 2019. This thesis aims to study and understand the influence of the concept of mahabbah Rabi'ah al-Adawiyah on his choice of attitude to intercelibate. This study uses a type of literature research (*Library Research Method*) to search for the data needed. As well as applying the data collection methods used in the research are documentation and data analysis. From this literature, the author will explain celibacy itself and the spiritual influence that the pastor will have in his life.

**Second Thesis** *KISAH SELIBAT SEORANG ROMO (STUDI KASUS ROMO TIMOTHEUS SIGA DARI GEREJA KATOLIK ST. STEFANUS MANUKAN SURABAYA)*<sup>8</sup> by Mifnatul Ilmah, Religion Study Program, Faculty of Ushuluddin and Philosophy, Sunan Ampel State Islamic University, Surabaya 2022. This thesis discusses the meaning and meaning

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<sup>7</sup> MAHMUDAH NURUR ROHMAH, "PENGARUH KONSEP MAHABBAH TERHADAP HIDUP SELIBAT (STUDI KASUS RABI'AH AL-ADAWIYAH)" (Fakultas Ushuluddin Dan Humaniora Universitas Islam Negeri Walisongo Semarang, 2019).

<sup>8</sup> Mifnatul Ilmah, "KISAH SELIBAT SEORANG ROMO (STUDI KASUS ROMO TIMOTHEUS SIGA DARI GEREJA KATOLIK ST. STEFANUS MANUKAN SURABAYA)" (Program Studi Agama-Agama Fakultas Ushuluddin Dan Filsafat Universitas Islam Negeri Sunan Ampel Surabaya, 2022).

of inter-celibate life for Father Siga in Catholicism and knowing the life of Father Siga's religious experience while living a celibate life. This study employs a qualitative writing method case study method, to obtain the required data, the author conducts comprehensive data collection techniques, observation, and in-depth interviews. Meanwhile, this research will discuss Celibate Life and Its Influence on the Improvement of Spiritual Life for pastors at the Catholic Church of St. Mateus Parish, Pare.

**Third Thesis** *Faktor-Faktor Penyebab Warga POUK TNI AL Sunter Hidup Membujang*<sup>9</sup> by Augita Gabrielle Emmanuella Study Program: Theological Sciences, Faculty of Theology, Satya Wacana Christian University, Salatiga 2019. This thesis discusses the factors that affect the residents of POUK TNI AL Sunter's decision to live celibately and describes their commitment to living a single life that is directly confronted with social relations. This study uses a type of qualitative research data collection method using interviews and documentation. In reviewing the research, the researcher wanted to discuss how Celibate Life was lived by the pastor at the Catholic Church of Paroki Santo Mateus, Pare.

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<sup>9</sup> Augita Gabrielle Emmanuella, *"Faktor-Faktor Penyebab Warga POUK TNI AL Sunter Hidup Membujang"* (Fakultas Teologi Universitas Kristen Satya Wacana Salatiga, 2019).

**Fourth** Thesis *Etika Seksual Dalam Gereja Roma Katolik Dan Gereja Kristen Protestan*<sup>10</sup> by Nur Fitri Barliyana Religion Study Program, Faculty of Ushuluddin UIN Syarif Hidayatullah Jakarta 2020. This thesis examines sexual ethics in the Roman Catholic Church which evaluates sexual acts in the context of Catholic moral theology and explores the meaning of celibacy as an attitude to imitates Christ. This study employs a of literature research (*Library Research Method*) to search for the data needed. As well as applying the data collection methods used in the research are documentation and data analysis. In this case, the author will explain the life of celibacy where the life is not allowed to marry and is obliged to live to the maintenance of chastity.

**Fifth** Thesis *PERAN PENDETA DALAM MENANAMKAN SPIRITUAL JEMAAT GEREJA PADA MASA COVID-19*<sup>11</sup> (Studi di Gereja Marturia Tanjung Karang Kota Bandar Lampung) By Imam Nururi, Religion Study Program, Faculty of Ushuluddin and Religious Studies, State Islamic University (UIN) Raden Intan Lampung, 2022. This thesis discusses the role of pastors in instilling spirituality in the church congregation and the

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<sup>10</sup> Disusun Oleh, "ETIKA SEKSUAL DALAM GEREJA ROMA KATOLIK DAN GEREJA KRISTEN PROTESTAN," 2020.

<sup>11</sup> IMAM NURURI, "PERAN PENDETA DALAM MENANAMKAN SPIRITUAL JEMAAT GEREJA PADA MASA COVID-19" (Fakultas Ushuluddin Dan Studi Agama-Agama Universitas Islam Negeri (UIN) Raden Intan Lampung, 2022).

supporting and inhibiting factors of pastors in instilling spirituality during the COVID-19 period. This study employs a of qualitative research data collection method using interviews and documentation. After reviewing the study, this study will discuss the influence of improving the spiritual life of pastors and their role in the Catholic Church of Paroki Santo Mateus, Pare.

To date, the researcher has not found any scientific paper specifically discussing Celibate Life and its Influence on Enhancing the Spiritual Life of the pastor. The primary distinction of this study from previous research is that there is a special interest in further exploring how celibate lives and its influence in improving the spiritual life of pastors in the Catholic Church of Paroki Santo Mateus, whether there are challenges and obstacles in carrying out the celibate life. Additionally, it will explore how these challenges can be overcome in the practice of celibacy.

#### **F. Theoretical Framework**

Celibacy is one of the main commitments undertaken by priests in the Catholic Church as a form of total devotion to God and the people. In practice, celibacy is not only related to theological aspects but also has

psychological and social dimensions that affect the spiritual life of priests.<sup>12</sup>

Each individual has a different way of understanding and living their religious beliefs and teachings, including in living a celibate life. Therefore, it is important to examine how celibacy affects the spirituality of priests, especially in the Catholic Church of St. Mateus Parish, Pare, and how they deal with the various challenges that arise in living this commitment.

In conducting this study, the researcher Aims to employs a psychological approach to understand how individuals perceive and relate their behavior related to their religious experiences. Similarly, how humans reach for beliefs or religions to get closer to their God will be increasingly diverse according to their level of thinking.<sup>13</sup>

Thus, this research will be discussed in several ways, first it will explore the general knowledge of celibacy in Catholic Christianity. The second is related to the influence of celibate on the improvement of the spiritual life of the pastor in the Catholic Church of St. Mateus Parish, Pare. inally, it will discuss the challenges and ways to overcome in living celibacy.

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<sup>12</sup> Imanuel Boimau, "TINJAUAN TERHADAP DASAR-DASAR TEOLOGIS PRAKTIK HIDUP SELIBAT," *Jurnal Amanat Agung* 16, no. 2, 2021: 327.

<sup>13</sup> Izzah Azizah Alhadi, "Pendekatan Psikologi Dalam Studi Islam" (*Jurnal Pengabdian Masyarakat Dan Penelitian Thawalib*, 2023), 38, <https://jurnal.staithawalib.ac.id/index.php/thame/article/view/178>.

## G. Methods of Research

Research methods are scientific steps or procedures used by researchers in seeking data to meet their research objectives, arranged in the form of data collection and data analysis.<sup>14</sup> The research is carried out to make it easier for researchers to understand and explore what they will research. The series of research activities is to determine the type and method of approach, know the data collection techniques, and analyze the data to be researched. Moreover, certain steps in this series must be performed sequentially, one at a time.

### 1. Type of Research

To establish the truth, evidence based on valid facts is needed. Therefore, it is important to conduct research known as scientific research. This research employs a type of *grounded research* or field research that aims to study all conditions in the field intensively. The research method employed a qualitative method because qualitative studies emphasize field realities over the researcher's subjective perspectives.<sup>15</sup> The descriptive method of analysis was used to describe celibate life and its influence on

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<sup>14</sup> Sugiyono, *Metode Penelitian Kuantitatif, Kualitatif, dan R&D* (Bandung: Alfabeta, 2019). Hlm. 2

<sup>15</sup> Missiliana Riasnugrahani dan Priska Analya, *Buku Ajar: Metode Penelitian Kualitatif* (Ideas Publishing, 2023).

the improvement of the spiritual life of the pastor in the Catholic Church of Paroki Santo Mateus, Pare.

For the researcher to deepen his research, he wants to use a psychological approach, which is obtained to find out how humans can find and believe their behaviour related to their religious experiences. Similarly, how humans reach for beliefs or religions to get closer to their God will be increasingly diverse according to their level of thinking.<sup>16</sup> Psychology itself is a science that studies human psychology which reflects in behaviour and attitudes both outwardly and spiritually.<sup>17</sup>

## **2. Research Object**

The research object consists of the research location and subject, making it easier for the author to find accurate information. The location of the intended research object is the Catholic Church of St. Mateus Parish, Pare. With the object of the interview, namely the pastor to get natural and reliable information.

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<sup>16</sup> "Pendekatan Psikologi Dalam Studi Islam," 38.

<sup>17</sup> Asep Rosidi, "PENDEKATAN PSIKOLOGI DALAM STUDI ISLAM" (Jurnal Inspirasi, 2019), 47.

### 3. Data Collection Techniques

The data collection techniques that will be used in the research here as follows: *First*, in-depth interviews are structured to obtain information orally through questions and answers related to celibacy and its influence on the spiritual enhancement of the pastor. *Second*, direct observation, namely by observing the activities carried out by the pastor in the Church Catholic Parish of Saint Matthias, Pare. *Third*, the collection of documents related to the church to obtain information and archives to be analyzed.<sup>18</sup> Then the researcher will explain the methods used, namely:

#### a. Descriptive Method

Descriptive method is a method used to describe or describe completely about several variables concerned in a particular phenomenon or reality.<sup>19</sup>

Researchers use this method to describe the meaning of Celibacy.

#### b. Analysis method

Analysis is an activity carried out by researchers after collecting data and then processed in such a way as to find conclusions.<sup>20</sup> Researchers use

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<sup>18</sup> Dr. Sugiyono, *Metode Penelitian Kualitatif*, (Bandung: Alfabeta, 2021), hlm. 106

<sup>19</sup> Dr. J.R. Raco, M.E., M.Sc. dan Dr Conny R Semiawan, *METODE PENELITIAN KUALITATIF (JENIS, KARAKTERISTIK, DAN KEUNGULANNYA)* (Jakarta: PT Grasindo, 2010), 67.

<sup>20</sup> Abubakar, *PENGANTAR METODOLOGI PENELITIAN*, 121.

this method to analyze the the spiritual improvement and challenges of celibacy for Pastors in Paroki Santo Mateus Catholic Church, Pare.

#### **4. Data Source**

Based on the research source, the data is divided into two types, primary and secondary. Primary data is obtained or collected directly from the main source, to emphasize the discussion. Secondary data is obtained or collected indirectly from the primary data source but through other parties. The data sources used are as follows:

##### **a. Primary Data**

- 1) Paroki Santo Mateus Catholic Church, Pare.
- 2) Pastor at Paroki Santo Mateus Catholic Church, Pare.
- 3) Kecerdasan Emosional Dalam Hidup Kaum Selibat, written by Agustinus L. Nggame, OFM, Publisher of PT Kanisius, in 2022. This book contains the emotional intelligence of a self-building pastor.
- 4) Tantangan Hidup Membiara di Zaman Modern, written by Paul Suparno, S.J., publisher of PT Kasinus, in 2016. This book contains the challenges of monastic life and how to overcome them.
- 5) *SACERDOTALIS CAELIBATUS*, written by Pope Paul VI, Publisher of the DEPARTMENT OF DOCUMENTATION AND INFORMATION OF

THE INDONESIAN BISHOPS' CONFERENCE, in 1967. This book contains the Celibate Life of a Pastor in defending the tradition of the Catholic Church.

- 6) *Celibacy and Religious Tradition*, written by Carl Olson, Oxford University Press Press, in 2008. This book contains the meaning of celibacy and the role of celibacy, or a lack of it, in various religious traditions.
- 7) *Ekaristi Tinjauan Teologis, Liturgis, dan Pastoral*, written by E. Martasudjita, Pr. Translator of the Theological Library, 1991, This book explains the duties and responsibilities of Church leaders.

#### **b. Secondary data**

Secondary data are several research sources related to the theme the researcher will discuss. This data is in the form of books, journals, articles, e-books, newspapers, magazines, and others where the data is related to celibate life and its influence on improving the spiritual life of a pastor.

#### **H. Systematic of Study**

To achieve systematic research, the researcher divides the related discussion into 4 chapters as follows:

Chapter One, this chapter contains the Background of the Problem, Problem Formulation, Research Objectives, Research Uses, Literature

Review, Theoretical Framework, Research Methods, and Writing Systematics.

Chapter Two, in this chapter, the author would like to explain the variables that will be discussed in this study, namely an Overview of Celibacy, Spirituality, Pastor, and the Catholic Church of Paroki Santo Mateus

Chapter Three, in this chapter, the researcher attempts to explain his analysis of the influence of celibate on the improvement of the spiritual life of the pastor in the Catholic church of St. Matthew Pare parish. Along with the challenges and ways to overcome celibacy.

Chapter Four, this is the last chapter that contains three things, namely the conclusion, the researcher's suggestions to the reader, and the bibliography.