

ABSTRAK

Umat Berkebutuhan Khusus (UBK) merupakan istilah yang digunakan Gereja Katolik untuk menyebut mereka yang tunanetra, tunarungu, tunagrahita dan autis. UBK sering kali mengalami diskriminasi dalam kehidupan menggereja ataupun bermasyarakat. Gereja Keuskupan Agung Semarang mulai menunjukkan perhatian khusus terhadap UBK dalam pendampingan dan pelayanan sakramen inisiasi serta penyediaan fasilitas yang mendukung partisipasi mereka dalam kegiatan Gereja.

Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk menggambarkan pandangan Gereja terhadap UBK serta menganalisis praksis pendampingan dan pelayanan sakramen inisiasi yang dilakukan di Keuskupan Agung Semarang. Metode yang digunakan adalah studi pustaka dan wawancara dengan Romo Vikep Kategorial, romo paroki dan beberapa pendamping atau katekis yang memberikan pendampingan bagi UBK di Paroki St. Antonius Kotabaru. Gereja menegaskan bahwa UBK merupakan ciptaan Allah yang *Imago Dei*, sehingga memiliki nilai dan martabat yang sama. Maka, UBK perlu mendapatkan perhatian khusus sehingga mereka merasa diterima dalam Gereja. Gereja Keuskupan Agung Semarang mengembangkan pendekatan berbagai kegiatan pendampingan dan pelayanan sakramen. Pendampingan dan pelayanan merupakan wujud konkret dari iman akan Allah yang menyelamatkan semua orang tanpa terkecuali.

Kata Kunci: Gereja Katolik, Imago Dei, Keuskupan Agung Semarang, umat berkebutuhan khusus, sakramen inisiasi.

ABSTRACT

People with special needs (UBK) is a term used by the Catholic Church to refer to those who are blind, deaf, disabled and autistic. UBK often experience discrimination in church life and society. The Church of the Archdiocese of Semarang has begun to show special attention to UBK in the assistance and service of the sacrament of initiation as well as the provision of facilities that support their participation in Church activities.

This study aims to describe the Church's view of UBK and analyse the praxis of assistance and ministry of the sacrament of initiation in the Archdiocese of Semarang. The method used is literature study and interviews with the Vicar of Categorical Affairs, parish priest and several assistants or catechists who provide assistance for UBK in St Antonius Kotabaru Parish. The Church affirms that UBK are God's creation *Imago Dei*, so they have the same value and dignity. Because of this, UBK need to receive special attention so that they feel accepted in the Church. The Church of the Archdiocese of Semarang develops an inclusive and pastoral approach to UBK through various assistance activities and sacramental services. Assistance and sacramental service to UBK is a concrete manifestation of faith in God who saves all people without exception.

Keywords: Catholic Church, Imago Dei, Archdiocese of Semarang, people with special needs, sacrament of initiation.