

ABSTRAK

**DINAMIKA PENDAMPINGAN IMAN ANAK GENERASI ALPHA
DALAM PERSPEKTIF PASTORAL PAUS FRANSISKUS
DI GEREJA ST. ANTONIUS PADUA KOTABARU**

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ABSTRAK

Perkembangan teknologi digital telah membentuk karakteristik baru pada Generasi Alpha yang memengaruhi cara mereka belajar, berinteraksi, dan menghayati iman. Kondisi ini menghadirkan tantangan sekaligus peluang bagi Gereja dalam melaksanakan Pendampingan Iman Anak (PIA) agar tetap relevan dengan kebutuhan anak-anak masa kini. Penelitian ini bertujuan mendeskripsikan pelaksanaan Pendampingan Iman Anak (PIA), menganalisis dinamika dan tantangan yang dihadapi para pendamping dalam mendampingi anak-anak Generasi Alpha, serta merefleksikan dinamika tersebut dalam perspektif pastoral Paus Fransiskus. Penelitian ini menggunakan metode penelitian kualitatif dengan pendekatan fenomenologi. Data dikumpulkan melalui observasi partisipatif, wawancara semi-terstruktur, dan dokumentasi terhadap delapan pendamping PIA serta satu validator yang dipilih secara purposive. Data dianalisis untuk memahami pengalaman para pendamping dalam membangun relasi dengan anak-anak Generasi Alpha selama proses pendampingan iman. Hasil penelitian menunjukkan bahwa Pendampingan Iman Anak di Gereja St. Antonius Padua Kotabaru telah dilaksanakan secara aktif melalui pendekatan yang kreatif, dialogis, dan partisipatif. Para pendamping berupaya membangun relasi personal dengan anak-anak melalui berbagai metode yang disesuaikan dengan karakteristik Generasi Alpha. Namun, mereka masih menghadapi tantangan berupa mudahnya anak terdistraksi oleh teknologi digital, rentang perhatian yang relatif pendek, serta perlunya inovasi dalam metode pendampingan. Perspektif pastoral Paus Fransiskus menegaskan bahwa budaya perjumpaan, kedekatan, dialog, dan pendampingan yang kontekstual menjadi landasan penting dalam pelayanan iman anak. Penelitian ini menunjukkan bahwa keberhasilan pendampingan iman tidak hanya ditentukan oleh metode yang digunakan, tetapi juga oleh kualitas relasi antara pendamping dan anak sebagai wujud kehadiran Gereja di tengah perkembangan zaman.

Kata Kunci: Pendampingan Iman Anak, Generasi Alpha, Pastoral Paus Fransiskus, Pendamping PIA, Gereja Katolik..

ABSTRACT

**THE DYNAMICS OF FAITH FORMATION FOR GENERATION ALPHA CHILDREN
FROM THE PERSPECTIVE OF POPE FRANCIS' PASTORAL MINISTRY AT ST.
ANTONIUS PADUA KOTABARU CHURCH**

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ABSTRACT

The rapid development of digital technology has shaped the characteristics of Generation Alpha, influencing the way children learn, interact, and live out their faith. This situation presents both challenges and opportunities for the Church in implementing Children's Faith Formation (Pendampingan Iman Anak / PIA) in ways that remain relevant to the needs of today's children. This study aims to describe the implementation of the Children's Faith Formation program, analyze the dynamics and challenges encountered by facilitators in accompanying Generation Alpha children, and reflect on these dynamics from the perspective of Pope Francis' pastoral ministry. This study employed a qualitative research method using a phenomenological approach. Data were collected through participant observation, semi-structured interviews, and documentation involving eight PIA facilitators and one validator selected through purposive sampling. The data were analyzed to gain an in-depth understanding of the facilitators' experiences in building relationships with Generation Alpha children throughout the faith formation process. The findings reveal that the Children's Faith Formation program at St. Antonius Padua Kotabaru Church has been implemented actively through creative, dialogical, and participatory approaches. The facilitators strive to build personal relationships with the children by applying various methods adapted to the characteristics of Generation Alpha. Nevertheless, they continue to face challenges, including children's susceptibility to digital distractions, shorter attention spans, and the need for more innovative approaches to faith formation. Pope Francis' pastoral perspective emphasizes that a culture of encounter, closeness, dialogue, and contextual accompaniment provides an essential foundation for children's faith ministry. The study concludes that the effectiveness of children's faith formation depends not only on the methods employed but also on the quality of the personal relationships established between facilitators and children as a concrete expression of the Church's pastoral presence in the digital era.

Keywords: Children's Faith Formation, Generation Alpha, Pope Francis' Pastoral Ministry, PIA Facilitators, Catholic Church.