

HO CHI MINH NATIONAL ACADEMY OF POLITICS

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**BUILDING THE CONTINGENT OF CATHOLIC PARTY
MEMBERS IN VIETNAM'S COMMUNIST PARTY
IN THE RED RIVER DELTA PROVINCES**

**SUMMARY OF THE DOCTORAL DISSERTATION
MAJOR: PARTY BUILDING AND STATE GOVERNANCE**

Code: 9310202

HANOI - 2026

**THIS DISSERTATION WAS COMPLETED
AT THE HO CHI MINH NATIONAL ACADEMY OF POLITICS.**

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**The dissertation was defended before the Academy-level Dissertation
Evaluation Council, convened at the Ho Chi Minh National Academy of Politics,**

At 2:30 PM on April 22, 2026

**The dissertation can be accessed at the National Library of Vietnam and
the Library of the Ho Chi Minh National Academy of Politics**

INTRODUCTION

1. Rationale for the Dissertation Topic

The contingent of Party members constitutes the most fundamental component shaping Party organizations and the Communist Party as a whole. It strengthens the Party's close relationship with the people; consolidates and enhances the Party's political leadership role and prestige; and serves as the decisive factor determining the leadership capacity and combativeness of grassroots Party organizations. To fully and effectively uphold this role, the contingent of Party members must be firmly built to meet the requirements of successfully implementing the Party's lines and tasks in each stage of the revolutionary process. President Ho Chi Minh emphasized: *"To lead the revolution, the Party must be strong; the Party's strength lies in good Party cells; and good Party cells are formed by good Party members."* The practice of the Vietnamese revolution has repeatedly validated this assertion. Therefore, building a strong contingent of Party members has always been considered by our Party a vital, regular, and strategic task.

To meet the requirements of leading the cause of national renewal, the Party has emphasized the need to develop the contingent of Party members across all social strata—from workers, farmers, and intellectuals to private entrepreneurs and religious believers.

The Red River Delta provinces (Ninh Bình, Hưng Yên, Bắc Ninh, Quảng Ninh) constitute a socio-economic hub of strategic importance for national defense and security. Simultaneously, this region is one of the major Catholic centers in the country, with a large concentration of Catholic followers. The contingent of Catholic Party members plays an essential role in disseminating and mobilizing Catholic communities to implement the Party's guidelines and the State's policies and laws; strengthening public trust; fostering solidarity between religious and non-religious communities; and contributing to the struggle against attempts by hostile forces to exploit religious issues for subversive purposes.

In recent years, Party committees and organizations in the Red River Delta have paid attention to building the contingent of Catholic Party members and have achieved positive results. The number of Catholic Party members has increased, with improvements seen in age structure, gender balance, and educational attainment. Many Catholic Party members have demonstrated a core role within Catholic communities and in grassroots political and social life. However, when viewed against the new requirements, the building of the contingent of Catholic Party members still reveals several constraints. Education and training to improve political theory, cultural knowledge, and professional competence remain limited; task assignment for Catholic Party members is sometimes inadequate or inconsistent; the admission of Catholics into the Party at many commune-level Party organizations has not received adequate attention and continues to face difficulties; the Party admission rate among Catholics remains low in many areas; the management of Catholic Party

members participating in religious activities is at times lax; and the role of grassroots political organizations and the people in participating in the development of this contingent has yet to be fully emphasized, with shortcomings in both content and methodological approaches.

The primary causes of these limitations stem from the insufficient and incomplete understanding among some Party committees, cadres, and Party members regarding the position and role of this task; the dissemination of the significance and importance of building the contingent of Catholic Party members has not been given adequate attention; and a portion of Catholic followers still lack a comprehensive understanding of the leadership role of grassroots Party organizations, resulting in limited motivation and determination in striving for Party membership.

In the context of the country entering a new phase of development marked by deep international integration, the rapid expansion of multimedia communication and social networks, religions-including Catholicism-in Vietnam in general, and in the Red River Delta in particular, will enjoy favorable conditions and opportunities to develop in the spirit of “living a good life and good faith” and accompanying the nation toward prosperity. However, potential complexities remain. Hostile and reactionary forces continue to exploit religious issues to divide national unity, undermine the trust of certain segments of religious followers, and negatively affect national construction and defense. This situation requires that the building of the contingent of Catholic Party members be carried out with renewed thinking, comprehensive and synchronous solutions, and approaches suited to the region’s specific characteristics.

To contribute to addressing the urgent issues outlined above, the study of the dissertation topic “*Building the Contingent of Catholic Party Members in Vietnam’s Communist Party in the Red River Delta Provinces*” is of significant theoretical and practical necessity.

2. Research Objectives and Tasks of the Dissertation

2.1. Research Objectives

Based on a clarification of the theoretical and practical issues related to building the contingent of Catholic Party members in the Red River Delta provinces in the current period, the dissertation aims to propose fundamental solutions to strengthening this work toward 2035.

2.2. Research Tasks

To achieve the above objective, the dissertation undertakes the following tasks:

1. To conduct a comprehensive review of domestic and international studies related to the dissertation topic, identifying established results and research gaps that require further examination.

2. To explain and clarify theoretical and practical issues concerning the building of the contingent of Catholic Party members in the Red River Delta provinces in the current period.

3. To survey and assess the actual situation of Catholic Party members and the building of this contingent in the Red River Delta provinces from 2015 (the beginning of the Party Congress term at all levels) to the present, identifying achievements, limitations, causes, and lessons learned.

4. To propose orientations and major solutions for strengthening the building of the contingent of Catholic Party members in the Red River Delta provinces toward 2035.

3. Research Subject and Scope

3.1. Research Subject

The research subject of the dissertation is the process of building the contingent of Catholic Party members in the Red River Delta provinces in the current period.

3.2. Research Scope

Scope of Content

The dissertation focuses on issues related to the building of the contingent of Catholic Party members in the Red River Delta provinces.

Survey and research area:

+ Before the merger on July 1, 2025, the survey covered 9 provinces in the Red River Delta: Quang Ninh, Hai Duong, Hung Yen, Bac Ninh, Vinh Phuc, Thai Binh, Nam Dinh, Ninh Binh, and Ha Nam. + After the merger from July 1, 2025 to the present, the survey covered 4 provinces in the Red River Delta: Ninh Binh, Hung Yen, Bac Ninh, and Quang Ninh.

Scope of Time

The research period extends from 2015 to the present, ensuring adequate data for comparison across two Party Congress terms. The proposed orientations and solutions are applicable until 2035.

4. Theoretical and Practical Foundations, and Research Methodology

4.1. Theoretical Foundations

The dissertation is grounded in Marxism-Leninism, Ho Chi Minh's thought, and the Communist Party of Vietnam's viewpoints on Party members; Recruiting party members who are religious.

4.2. Practical Foundations

The practical foundations consist of the current situation of Catholic Party members and the building of this contingent in the Red River Delta provinces since 2015.

4.3. Research Methodology

The dissertation employs the methodological framework of Marxism-Leninism and Ho Chi Minh's thought, with the dialectical materialist methodology playing a central role. Specific methods applied include:

- the method of systematization;
- the logical method combined with the historical method;
- analytical and synthetic methods;
- methods specific to Party building and state governance studies, including field investigation, surveys, practical review, and sociological investigation.

5. Scientific Contributions of the Dissertation

1. Formulates a scientific concept of building the contingent of Catholic Party members in the Red River Delta provinces and identifies its components and modes of implementation.

2. Provides a systematic assessment of the actual situation of building this contingent in recent years and draws six key lessons learned.

3. Proposes a system of solutions to continue strengthening the building of the contingent of Catholic Party members in the Red River Delta provinces to meet the requirements of the new situation. Two breakthrough and distinctive solutions include:

- promoting the development of Catholic Party membership and strictly implementing Party regulations on the religious activities of Catholic Party members;
- enhancing the role of the Vietnam Fatherland Front and socio-political organizations, while effectively mobilizing Catholic dignitaries and lay leaders to participate in building the contingent of Catholic Party members.

6. Theoretical and Practical Significance of the Dissertation

6.1. Theoretical Significance

The research findings contribute to further clarifying theoretical and practical issues regarding the building of the contingent of Catholic Party members in the Red River Delta provinces in the period of renewal.

6.2. Practical Significance

The research results may serve as reference material for the work of building the contingent of Catholic Party members in the Red River Delta provinces. They may also be used as reference material for research and training in Party-building studies.

7. Structure of the Dissertation

In addition to the Introduction, Literature Review, Conclusion, References, and Appendices, the dissertation is structured into four chapters comprising nine sections.

Chapter 1

LITERATURE REVIEW

1.1. RELEVANT STUDIES IN THE WORLD

The dissertation reviews three major groups of foreign research works relevant to the topic: 1/studies on religion and Catholicism; 2/studies related to Party members and the building of Party member contingents in political parties and ruling parties; 3/studies concerning Party members of political or ruling parties who are adherents of a religion. These research groups-represented in scientific projects, monographs, reference books, doctoral dissertations, and scholarly articles-provide valuable theoretical foundations and suggest important directions for the study of building the contingent of Catholic Party members in the current context.

1.2. RELEVANT STUDIES IN VIETNAM

The dissertation systematizes and synthesizes three groups of domestic research works directly related to the topic: 1/studies on religion and Catholicism; 2/studies on Party members and Party member affairs; 3/studies on religious adherents who are Party members, particularly research on building the contingent of Catholic Party members. These works, presented in various forms such as scientific projects, monographs, reference materials, doctoral dissertations, and scientific articles, contribute essential theoretical foundations and offer significant insights for in-depth investigation into the topic.

1.3. OVERVIEW OF RELATED SCIENTIFIC STUDIES AND RESEARCH ISSUES IN THE DISSERTATION

1.3.1. Overview of the Findings of Related Studies

The domestic and international studies reviewed above have approached and interpreted the topics of religion and Catholicism from various perspectives and scopes; as well as examined issues concerning Party members, Party cell building in general, and Party members who follow a religion in particular. Based on the analysis of published scientific works both inside and outside the country, several key contributions can be identified:

First, both theoretical and empirical studies consistently affirm that religion is a socio-historical phenomenon closely associated with the formation and development of human communities. Under any political regime- including socialism-religion continues to exist as a legitimate spiritual need of a segment of the population. This originates from people's faith, emotions, and psychology, as well as from certain limitations in cognition and socio-economic conditions. Therefore, the existence and evolution of religion are objective realities that reflect the diverse spiritual life of society.

In the course of their development, religions in Việt Nam have preserved their distinct identities while harmonizing with national culture, thereby shaping a diverse and tolerant religious landscape that aligns with contemporary trends of dialogue and cooperation. However, religion is also influenced by globalization, which creates opportunities for exchange while simultaneously posing risks of being exploited by hostile forces to incite division and instability. Consequently, our Party consistently

upholds the principle that religious affairs must ensure the people's right to freedom of belief and religion, while resolutely preventing all acts of abusing religion to undermine national unity and security.

Second, the studies addressing Party members and Party cell building (ĐNĐV) adopt various approaches but provide substantial theoretical and practical analyses regarding the position and role of Party cell building; they identify the core components of Party cell building, the factors influencing it, and assess the current state of Party cell building in recent periods. Based on these assessments, the studies propose solutions aimed at improving the quality of Party member admission and strengthening Party cell building, thereby contributing to the attainment of socio-economic development goals, the enhancement of material and spiritual living standards of the people, the maintenance of political stability and social order and safety, and the mitigation of negative phenomena. These efforts help promote dynamism and creativity, together with other social forces, in fostering national development.

Third, studies on the development of Party members who follow a religion uniformly emphasize that recruiting religious adherents into the Party is an essential component of the Party's and the State's policy of great national unity. It helps build social consensus and cohesion; alters the composition of local Party organizations; strengthens the leadership capacity and combativeness of grassroots Party organizations-particularly the pioneering and exemplary role of cadres and Party members in religious areas-while contributing to consolidating and reinforcing the trust of religious communities in the leadership of the Party and the management of the State.

The aforementioned studies provide valuable reference sources and suggest important directions for the dissertation. However, to date, no research has conducted an in-depth and systematic examination of the theoretical foundations, practical issues, and solutions regarding the building of Party cells with Catholic Party members in the provinces of the Red River Delta in the current context, from the perspective of the discipline of Party and State building.

1.3.2. Issues Addressed in the Dissertation

Building upon the aforementioned research findings, the dissertation "*Building the Contingent of Catholic Party Members in the Red River Delta Provinces in the Current Period*" focuses on the following key issues:

First, the dissertation clarifies the theoretical foundations for building the contingent of Catholic Party members in the Red River Delta provinces. It elucidates the relevant concepts, identifies the components and methods involved, and analyzes the significance of developing the contingent of Catholic Party members in the region today. Establishing and rigorously interpreting these theoretical issues provides the conceptual basis for examining the current situation and proposing solutions to strengthen the contingent of Catholic Party members in the Red River Delta provinces in a manner consistent with the context, characteristics, requirements, and tasks of accelerating the national renewal process.

Second, based on the established theoretical framework, the dissertation conducts a survey and assessment of the current state of building the contingent of Catholic Party members in the Red River Delta provinces in recent years. It clarifies the strengths and achievements, identifies existing limitations, analyzes the causes of both strengths and shortcomings, and draws practical lessons for developing this contingent.

Third, the dissertation forecasts the influencing factors and proposes orientations along with a system of feasible solutions to strengthen the contingent of Catholic Party members in the Red River Delta provinces, thereby meeting the Party's requirements and tasks in the new situation.

Chapter 2

BUILDING THE CONTINGENT OF CATHOLIC PARTY MEMBERS IN THE RED RIVER DELTA PROVINCES TODAY – THEORETICAL AND PRACTICAL ISSUES

2.1. OVERVIEW OF THE PROVINCES, PROVINCIAL PARTY COMMITTEES, AND THE CONTINGENT OF CATHOLIC PARTY MEMBERS IN THE RED RIVER DELTA PROVINCES

2.1.1. The Provinces and Provincial Party Committees in the Red River Delta

2.1.1.1. The Red River Delta and Its Provinces

The Red River Delta is a region of exceptional political, economic, cultural, national defense, and security importance for the entire country. Its natural conditions, population characteristics, historical traditions, socio-cultural features, and religious composition have created both favorable factors and significant challenges for Party building efforts-particularly for building the contingent of Catholic Party members in this area.

First, the provinces in the Red River Delta hold a strategically important position and possess considerable potential and advantages in mobilizing resources for socio-economic development.

Second, the provinces of the region are characterized by rich cultural and historical traditions associated with the wet-rice civilization.

Third, the region exhibits religious diversity, with a large Catholic community.

Alongside these advantages, the region also faces various difficulties and challenges, including population pressure, employment and environmental issues; new social contradictions arising from industrialization and urbanization; and persistent efforts by hostile forces to exploit religious issues-especially Catholicism-to undermine and divide the great national unity bloc.

2.1.1.2. The Provincial Party Committees in the Red River Delta

Provincial Party Committee of Vĩnh Phúc: Established in March 1930, immediately after the founding of the Communist Party of Vietnam, this is one of the

earliest provincial Party committees in the country. As of June 2024, the Provincial Party Committee comprised 13 party committees directly under the Provincial Party Committee (including 9 district- and municipal-level Party Committees and 4 other party committees directly subordinate to the Provincial Party Committee), with 605 grassroots Party organizations and 75,731 Party members.

Provincial Party Committee of Bắc Ninh: The Provincial Party Committee of Bắc Ninh was established in late 1940, during a period when the revolutionary movement in the North was rapidly gaining momentum. At present, the Provincial Party Committee comprises 11 party committees directly under the Provincial Party Committee, 576 grassroots Party units, and 58,143 Party members.

Provincial Party Committee of Hưng Yên: The Provincial Party Committee of Hưng Yên was founded on 29 November 1941. Having undergone multiple stages of the revolutionary struggle, the Provincial Party Committee now has 13 party committees directly under the Provincial Party Committee, 536 grassroots Party organizations, 2,714 Party cells directly under grassroots Party committees, and a total of 71,175 Party members.

Provincial Party Committee of Hà Nam: The Provincial Party Committee of Hà Nam was established in March 1930, alongside many provinces in the Northern Delta region, reflecting the locality's long-standing revolutionary tradition. At present, the Provincial Party Committee consists of 10 party committees directly under the Provincial Party Committee, 536 grassroots Party units, and over 51,000 Party members.

Provincial Party Committee of Ninh Bình: The Provincial Party Committee of Ninh Bình was established in March 1930 and is one of the earliest local Party committees, playing an important role in leading the revolutionary movement in the province. The Provincial Party Committee currently comprises 11 party committees directly under the Provincial Party Committee, 681 grassroots Party organizations, and nearly 80,000 Party members.

Provincial Party Committee of Nam Định: The Provincial Party Committee of Nam Định, established in March 1930, is likewise one of the local Party organizations with a long revolutionary tradition. At present, the Provincial Party Committee has 15 party committees directly under the Provincial Party Committee, 921 grassroots Party organizations, 4,293 Party organizations directly under grassroots Party committees, and a total of more than 110,300 Party members.

Provincial Party Committee of Thái Bình: The Provincial Party Committee of Thái Bình was established in June 1930 and soon became a center of the revolutionary movement in the region. Currently, the Provincial Party Committee consists of 13 party committees directly under the Provincial Party Committee, 700 grassroots Party organizations, more than 4,300 Party cells directly under grassroots Party committees, and a total of over 108,600 Party members.

The Party Committee of Quang Ninh Province: Established in October 1930, Quang Ninh is the cradle of the miners' workers' movement closely associated with the history of the Vietnamese revolution. The province currently has 20 subordinate party

committees, including those of districts, cities, towns, and other affiliated party organizations, with more than 103,000 party members.

The Party Committee of Hai Duong Province: Established on 10 June 1940 in Ta Xa Hamlet, Hop Tien Commune, Nam Sach District, in the context of a nationwide revolutionary upsurge. To date, the provincial Party Committee consists of 15 subordinate party committees, 640 grassroots party organizations, and more than 109,000 party members.

As of 1 July 2025, in accordance with the national administrative restructuring at the provincial level, the Communist Party of Vietnam Central Committee has issued decisions on the establishment of newly amalgamated provincial Party Committees. Specifically:

- **Decision No. 313** of the Politburo establishes the Party Committee of Ninh Binh Province under the authority of the Central Committee on the basis of merging the former provincial Party Committees of Ninh Binh, Ha Nam, and Nam Dinh;

- **Decision No. 311** of the Politburo establishes the Party Committee of Hung Yen Province under the authority of the Central Committee on the basis of merging the former provincial Party Committees of Hung Yen and Thai Binh;

- **Decision No. 310** of the Politburo establishes the Party Committee of Bac Ninh Province under the authority of the Central Committee on the basis of merging the former provincial Party Committees of Bac Ninh and Bac Giang.

Thus, from this point forward, the Red River Delta region consists of four provincial Party Committees: the Party Committee of Bac Ninh Province, the Party Committee of Hung Yen Province, the Party Committee of Ninh Binh Province, and the Party Committee of Quang Ninh Province.

The Party Committee of Bac Ninh Province: The Provincial Party Committee of Bac Ninh currently oversees 103 subordinate party committees with more than 153,400 party members. Its strategic objective is to promote rapid and sustainable development; by 2030, the province aims for an average annual GRDP growth rate of 11-12%, transforming Bac Ninh into a centrally governed city, and toward 2045, developing it into a green, civilized urban area that preserves the cultural identity of Kinh Bac.

The Party Committee of Hung Yen Province: The Provincial Party Committee consists of 601 grassroots party organizations with nearly 65,000 party members. For the 2025-2030 tenure, Hung Yen aims to follow a development pathway centered on “green agriculture - green industry - green services,” with a focus on digital transformation and urbanization. By 2030, the province strives to become a centrally governed city with modern industry, high-quality services, and one of the highest income levels in the Red River Delta, serving as a key driver of regional connectivity.

The Party Committee of Ninh Binh Province: The Provincial Party Committee currently oversees 134 grassroots party organizations with nearly 239,000 party members. It has set the objective that by 2030, Ninh Binh will become a

centrally governed city characterized by modern industry, high-quality tourism services, and green urban development associated with heritage preservation, placing the province among the national leaders in growth rate and per-capita income.

The Party Committee of Quang Ninh Province:The Provincial Party Committee currently includes approximately 600 grassroots party organizations with more than 104,000 party members. Its long-term objective is to develop the province into a centrally governed city before 2030, progressing toward a major metropolitan area of regional and international significance by 2045, featuring an advanced economy, high-quality tourism services, green urban development, and innovation-driven growth.

Institutional Change from 1 July 2025:Beginning on 1 July 2025, with the abolition of the district level and the implementation of a two-tier local government structure, provincial Party Committees in the Red River Delta no longer maintain district-level party committees.

2.1.2. Catholicism and the Contingent of Party Members Who Are Catholics in the Red River Delta Provinces

2.1.2.1. Catholicism in the Red River Delta and Characteristics of the Catholic Population

❖ *The Introduction and Development of Catholicism in the Red River Delta*

Catholicism was introduced into the Red River Delta in the mid-16th century and has undergone four major developmental phases:

- (1) 1553-1884: its initial formation in Ninh Cuong, Quan Anh, and Tra Lu (Nam Dinh);
- (2) 1885-1945: expansion under French colonial rule, marked by the appointment of the first Vietnamese bishop;
- (3) 1945-1975: accompanying the nation during the resistance wars;
- (4) 1975-present: strong revival, integration, and active participation in national construction and defense.

From an imported religion, Catholicism has become an important component of the spiritual life of the people and has contributed significantly to national development and defense.

❖ *Characteristics of Catholicism in the Red River Delta Provinces*

First, Catholicism in the Red River Delta has a long-standing history and represents the earliest point of introduction of the religion into Vietnam. Although Catholicism entered Vietnam relatively late, it exerted profound influence. Beginning in 1553 in Nam Dinh (Tra Lu, Quan Anh, Ninh Cuong), it later spread to Ninh Binh, Ha Nam, and Thai Binh. Through a process of adaptation and acculturation, Catholicism established its role in society and has consistently accompanied the nation in its struggles for independence as well as in national construction and defense.

Second, Catholicism in the Red River Delta has a large number of adherents and a highly structured organizational system.

The Red River Delta is home to the largest Catholic population in the country, accounting for a significant proportion of the regional population. The Catholic organizational structure is tight and unified, based on a three-tier ecclesiastical hierarchy, with positions ranging from the Pope to parish priests.

Third, Catholics in the Red River Delta exhibit a high level of religious devotion.

Catholics in the region are characterized by profound faith and strong sense of trust in God, expressed through orderly religious practice, cohesive community life, and strict adherence to canon law.

2.1.2.2. The Contingent of Party Members Who Are Catholics in the Red River Delta Provinces

• Definition of the Contingent of Party Members Who Are Catholics in the Red River Delta

The contingent of Party members who are Catholics in the Red River Delta refers to all Catholic individuals who are members of the Communist Party of Vietnam in these provinces. As Party members, they are expected to set exemplary standards, take the lead in implementing the Party's guidelines and viewpoints, and strictly adhere to the policies, laws, and regulations of the State. Their role is to contribute to consolidating, maintaining, strengthening, and building the great national unity bloc toward the goals of a prosperous people, a strong country, and a democratic, equitable, and civilized society.

• Characteristics of the Contingent of Party Members Who Are Catholics in the Red River Delta

First, Party members who are Catholics in the Red River Delta live in areas with long-standing Catholic traditions, numerous large parishes and sub-parishes, and vibrant religious activities that exert wide and deep influence on community life.

Second, these Party members possess a sound understanding of Catholic doctrine, canon law, and religious customs, while also being well-versed in the Party's guidelines and the State's policies and laws-an important advantage in mass mobilization and persuasion work.

Third, most Party members who are Catholics in the region have strong political steadfastness. They undergo a rigorous process of cultivation and training to fulfill the dual identity of both devout believers and loyal members committed to the Party's revolutionary goals and ideals.

• Roles of the Contingent of Party Members Who Are Catholics in the Red River Delta

First, Party members who are Catholics contribute to enhancing the leadership capacity and combat strength of grassroots Party organizations.

Second, they constitute an important force in implementing the core political tasks of Party organizations, including building solidarity within Catholic communities and strengthening the great national unity bloc.

Third, they serve as key actors in religious affairs, particularly in mobilizing, propagating, and organizing Catholic laypeople, fostering

revolutionary vigilance, and preventing hostile forces and reactionary elements from exploiting religion to sow division between Catholics and non-Catholics.

Fourth, Party members who are Catholics help preserve and promote the cultural and moral values of the Catholic community.

2.2. BUILDING THE CONTINGENT OF PARTY MEMBERS WHO ARE CATHOLICS IN THE RED RIVER DELTA PROVINCES: CONCEPT, COMPONENTS, METHODS, AND ROLES

2.2.1. Concept of Building the Contingent of Party Members Who Are Catholics in the Red River Delta Provinces

Building the contingent of Party members who are Catholics in the Red River Delta refers to the comprehensive activities undertaken by Party committees and Party organizations at all levels, with the participation of organizations within the political system and the people. These activities involve educating, training, managing, and promoting the roles of Catholic Party members, while simultaneously developing new Party members. The goal is to form a contingent of Catholic Party members with an appropriate size and rational structure, possessing the political qualities, ethics, lifestyle, qualifications, and capabilities required to meet the demands of their political tasks.

2.2.2. Components of Building the Contingent of Party Members Who Are Catholics in the Red River Delta Provinces

First, building the contingent of Party members who are Catholics in terms of quantity and structure.

Second, building the contingent in terms of political qualities, ethics, and lifestyle.

Third, building the contingent in terms of qualifications and practical competence.

Fourth, building the contingent in terms of working style, lifestyle, organizational consciousness, discipline, and close relations with the people.

2.2.3. Methods of Building the Contingent of Party Members Who Are Catholics in the Red River Delta Provinces

First, building the contingent of Catholic Party members in the Red River Delta through resolutions, guidelines, programs, and plans issued by Party committees and Party organizations at all levels.

Second, building the contingent through propaganda, dissemination, and mass mobilization efforts.

Third, building the contingent by strengthening the admission of new Party members who are Catholics.

Fourth, building the contingent through promoting the self-improvement, self-cultivation, and self-training efforts of Catholic Party members in the Red River Delta.

Fifth, building the contingent by enhancing the participation of organizations within the political system, sectors, levels, agencies, units, and the people in Party building.

Sixth, building the contingent through inspection and supervision work.

2.2.4. Roles of Building the Contingent of Party Members Who Are Catholics in the Red River Delta Provinces

First, building the contingent of Party members who are Catholics contributes to forming a high-quality contingent of Party members within provincial Party Committees—a decisive factor in successfully implementing the Party’s guidelines, the State’s policies, and the resolutions of local Party committees on socio-economic development, national defense, and security. This work plays an essential role in ensuring the fulfillment of the political tasks of provincial Party Committees.

Second, building the contingent of Catholic Party members is an important component of Party membership work, contributing to building the Party’s overall contingent of members and improving its quality to meet the requirements of the renewal process.

Third, building the contingent of Catholic Party members helps develop the core component of the political forces within Catholic areas. This contingent serves as a key factor in strengthening the leadership of Party committees and Party organizations at all levels over religious affairs and the Catholic community in the locality.

Fourth, building the contingent of Catholic Party members is a vital factor in enhancing close relations between the Party and Catholics, and in consolidating and strengthening solidarity among religious communities as well as the unity of the entire population in the locality.

Chapter 3

THE CONTINGENT OF CATHOLIC PARTY MEMBERS IN THE RED RIVER DELTA PROVINCES - CURRENT SITUATION, CAUSES, AND EXPERIENCES

3.1. CURRENT SITUATION OF BUILDING THE CONTINGENT OF CATHOLIC PARTY MEMBERS IN THE RED RIVER DELTA PROVINCES

3.1.1. Strengths

3.1.1.1. Implementation of the Components of Building the Contingent of Catholic Party Members in the Red River Delta Provinces

First, Party committees, Party organizations at all levels, and socio-political organizations in the Red River Delta provinces have paid attention to increasing the number and improving the structure of Catholic Party members. By the end of 2024, the Red River Delta had 13,460 Catholic Party members. In Nam Dinh Province alone, 391 new Party members were admitted, with Truc Ninh District accounting for 5.56% of the total. Survey results show that 56.4% of respondents assessed propaganda and mobilization work as being conducted regularly, while 86.7% of cadres and 71.4% of the masses acknowledged the effectiveness of source development for Party membership.

Second, Party committees and Party organizations at all levels in the Red River Delta provinces have emphasized building Catholic Party members in terms of political qualities, ethics, and lifestyle. By the end of 2024, the region recorded 13,460 Catholic

Party members, including 4,630 in Nam Dinh, 1,836 in Ninh Binh, and 774 in Thai Binh (of whom 240 were under 40 years of age). In Truc Ninh District, Catholic Party members accounted for 559 out of 10,000 Party members (5.56%). Survey data indicate that 86.7% of cadres and 71.4% of Catholic laypeople highly appreciated efforts to cultivate political qualities, moral standards, and Party discipline among Catholic Party members.

Third, Party committees and Party organizations at all levels in the Red River Delta provinces have focused on building Catholic Party members in terms of qualifications and practical capacity. As of December 2024, the region had 13,460 Catholic Party members, 96% of whom were active at the commune and township levels. During the period 2016-2024, 2,366 Catholic individuals were admitted to the Party, with 38.2% aged between 18 and 30. Educational attainment has steadily improved, with 4,568 university graduates and 495 master's degree holders. Notably, 39.76% of Catholic Party members participated in commune-level People's Councils, demonstrating their practical competence and effective role as bridges between the Party and the people.

Fourth, Party committees and Party organizations in the Red River Delta provinces have consistently emphasized building Catholic Party members in terms of working style and close ties with the people. The working style characterized by "*being close to the people and respecting practical realities*" has been widely promoted. Survey results indicate that 64.3% of respondents believed Catholic Party members maintained close relations with the people, while 61.9% recognized their active participation in mass movements. Across the region, 13,460 Catholic Party members, 96% of whom are active at the commune and township levels-4,630 in Nam Dinh, 1,836 in Ninh Binh, and 774 in Thai Binh-have demonstrated effectiveness in leadership and in addressing issues of concern to local communities.

3.1.1.2. Implementation of the Methods for Building the Contingent of Catholic Party Members in the Red River Delta Provinces

First, most Party committees and Party organizations at all levels in the Red River Delta provinces have promptly issued resolutions and identified guidelines, plans, and measures for building the contingent of Catholic Party members in line with assigned requirements and tasks. In the Red River Delta, building the contingent of Party members-particularly Catholic Party members-has been identified as a key task. By the end of 2024, the region had 13,460 Catholic Party members. In Ninh Binh Province, 1,207 new Party members were admitted, of whom 62% held college-level or higher qualifications and 16.3% were Catholics; Nam Dinh recorded 4,630 Catholic Party members, while Thai Binh had 774 (including 240 under the age of 40). These figures demonstrate the effectiveness of implementing resolutions issued by Party committees.

Second, Party committees and grassroots Party organizations in the Red River Delta provinces have intensified propaganda and mobilization efforts to encourage Catholic laypeople to participate in building the contingent of Catholic Party members. Survey results indicate that 58.3% of respondents assessed propaganda and

dissemination activities as being conducted regularly, while 41.7% acknowledged the attention paid by Party committees. Diverse approaches have been adopted, ranging from communication and mass mobilization to the launching of emulation movements. As a result, Nam Dinh admitted 391 new Party members, and Thai Binh recorded 774 Catholic Party members, confirming the practical effectiveness of these efforts.

Third, the contingent of Catholic Party members has been strengthened through intensified Party membership development. The development of Catholic Party members in the Red River Delta has been implemented in a persistent and systematic manner, yielding clear results. In Ninh Binh Province (2015-2020), 1,207 new Party members were admitted, of whom 16.3% were Catholics; in Nam Dinh (2018-2024), 391 new Party members were admitted; and prior to 1 July 2025, Thai Binh had 774 Catholic Party members. By the end of 2024, the region recorded 13,460 Catholic Party members, reflecting trends toward rejuvenation and improved quality, and reaffirming their important role in Party building.

Fourth, Party committees and Party organizations at all levels in the Red River Delta provinces have attached importance to and promoted the building of the contingent of Catholic Party members by fostering self-improvement and self-cultivation among each Catholic Party member. Party committees and Party organizations in the Red River Delta have identified education and training of Catholic Party members as a strategic task to enhance the quality of the contingent. During the period 2016-2024, 2,366 Party members were admitted across the region, all of whom demonstrated good moral qualities, thereby attesting to their competence, ethical standards, and effective self-discipline.

Fifth, Party committees and Party organizations in the Red River Delta provinces have emphasized building the contingent of Catholic Party members by promoting the participation of organizations within the political system, sectors, agencies, units, and the people in Party building at the local level.

Party committees and Party organizations in the Red River Delta attach great importance to the role of Catholic Party members in mobilizing Catholic laypeople and strengthening Party building and the grassroots political system. By the beginning of the 2021-2026 term, 1,485 Catholic Party members participated in commune-level People's Councils (39.76%), and 1,143 were involved in the Vietnam Fatherland Front (32.85%). Across the region, there are 13,460 Catholic Party members, of whom 38.2% are aged 18-30, including 495 master's degree holders and 4,568 university graduates, ensuring a young, reputable, and capable contingent with effective mobilization capacity.

Sixth, building the contingent of Catholic Party members is implemented through inspection and supervision work. Inspection, supervision, and screening of Catholic Party members in the Red River Delta are conducted to ensure Party discipline as well as political and moral integrity. During the period **2016-2023**, thousands of organizations and Party members were inspected. Survey results indicate that **51.1%** of respondents rated this work as "very good," while **48.9%** assessed it as "good," thereby contributing to the consolidation of a strong grassroots political system.

3.1.2. Limitations

3.1.2.1. Limitations in Implementing the Components of Building the Contingent of Catholic Party Members in the Red River Delta Provinces

First, some Party committees and grassroots Party organizations in the Red River Delta have not attached due importance to developing the contingent of Catholic Party members in terms of quantity and structure. In recent years, although the building of the contingent of Catholic Party members in the Red River Delta has achieved positive results, limitations remain regarding both size and structure. In many localities, the rate of Party admission is low, and in some cases there is even a complete absence of Catholic Party members. Data from Nam Dinh and Ha Nam indicate that Party membership development has not been commensurate with existing potential, necessitating more comprehensive, innovative, and substantive solutions.

Second, some Party committees and Party organizations in the Red River Delta have not consistently paid adequate attention to education and training aimed at improving the political qualities, ethics, and lifestyle of Catholic Party members. A segment of Party members has shown signs of declining political confidence and behavioral deviation. In certain cases, Party committees have lacked sufficient attention, while educational activities have remained overly theoretical and insufficiently connected to practical realities. Survey results show that 18.9% of respondents believed that Party committees had not invested adequate effort in this work.

Third, some Party committees and Party organizations in the Red River Delta have not given sufficient attention to building the contingent of Catholic Party members in terms of qualifications and practical capacity. Catholic Party members in the Red River Delta play a core role in propaganda, education, and mass mobilization; however, limitations persist in their practical competence and professional qualifications. Among the 13,460 Catholic Party members in the region, only 495 hold master's degrees (3.67%), 4,568 possess university degrees (33.93%), while 4,513 have not received formal professional training (33.53%). These shortcomings adversely affect leadership effectiveness and the capacity to disseminate and sustain mass movements.

Fourth, a small number of Party committees and Party organizations in the Red River Delta have not paid sufficient attention to building the contingent of Catholic Party members in terms of lifestyle and working style, the cultivation of organizational consciousness and discipline, and maintaining close ties with the people. Within the contingent of 13,460 Catholic Party members in the Red River Delta, shortcomings remain related to working style, discipline, and ethical standards. Specifically, 4,513 Party members have not undergone professional training (33.53%), and 10,761 lack formal political theory education (79.93%). Sociological survey results indicate that 27.1-30.4% of respondents assessed education and training efforts as ineffective, thereby undermining the credibility and exemplary role of grassroots Party organizations.

3.1.2.2. Methods of Building the Contingent of Catholic Party Members in the Red River Delta Provinces

First, some Party committees and Party organizations in the Red River Delta have at times lacked close and consistent engagement in grasping and concretizing resolutions, directives, and plans issued by higher-level Party committees on building the contingent of Catholic Party members. Among the 13,460 Catholic Party members in the region, Nam Dinh admitted only 151 new Party members during the 2020-2025 period (accounting for 1.34% of newly admitted Party members), while Ha Nam admitted 26 in 2023. Approximately 21.8% of survey respondents indicated that Party membership development remained formalistic, insufficiently in-depth, and inadequately translated resolutions into concrete actions.

Second, some Party committees and Party organizations in the Red River Delta have not paid sufficient attention to innovating forms of propaganda and mobilization, resulting in limited persuasiveness in building the contingent of Catholic Party members.

Third, in some localities, Party committees and Party organizations have not truly prioritized the admission of new Party members who are Catholics. In the Red River Delta provinces, the development of Catholic Party members has not met requirements. In Nam Dinh Province, which has approximately 640,000 Catholic laypeople, only 151 Catholic Party members were admitted during the 2020-2025 term (1.34%), while Ha Nam admitted 26 Catholic Party members with college or university qualifications in 2023. Among the 13,460 Catholic Party members in the region, 33.53% have not received professional training and 79.93% lack political theory education, reflecting limitations in both quantity and quality.

Fourth, a segment of Catholic Party members has not fully promoted their sense of self-discipline, self-cultivation, and self-improvement. By 2024, 79.93% of Catholic Party members in the Red River Delta (10,761 individuals) had not attained political theory qualifications, and many had not proactively engaged in study and training. Only 48.9% were assessed as having good moral qualities, indicating shortcomings in self-discipline, alignment with political tasks, and exemplary roles within local communities.

Fifth, some Party committees and Party organizations in the Red River Delta have not effectively promoted the participation of organizations within the political system, sectors, agencies, units, and the people in Party building and in building the contingent of Catholic Party members. During the 2018-2024 period, Nam Dinh admitted only 391 new Catholic Party members, while the province had 4,630 Catholic Party members in total (4.13%). Survey results indicate that 41.7% of respondents believed that mass mobilization work in Catholic areas had not received sufficient attention, reflecting limitations in the pioneering role of Party members.

Sixth, some Party committees and Party organizations in the Red River Delta have not paid adequate attention to inspection and supervision in building the contingent of Catholic Party members. Among the 13,460 Catholic Party members in the region, 10,761 (79.93%) lack political theory education and 4,513 (33.53%) have not undergone professional training. Survey findings show that 15% of respondents assessed inspection and supervision as insufficiently prioritized, formalistic, and lacking decisiveness.

3.2. CAUSES OF THE STRENGTHS AND LIMITATIONS, AND EXPERIENCES IN BUILDING THE CONTINGENT OF CATHOLIC PARTY MEMBERS IN THE RED RIVER DELTA PROVINCES

3.2.1. Causes

3.2.1.1. *Causes of strengths*

First, the achievements attained by the country after nearly 40 years of Renovation Policy under the leadership of the Party have provided an important foundation and prerequisite for building the contingent of Catholic Party members in the Red River Delta provinces.

Second, Party resolutions and directives related to building the contingent of Catholic Party members have been issued in a timely manner, together with the close leadership and direction of Party committees and Party organizations at all levels in the Red River Delta.

Third, cadres, Party members, and organizations within the political system in the Red River Delta have developed a correct awareness of the importance of this work, actively sought appropriate solutions, and achieved positive results in building the contingent of Catholic Party members in their localities.

Fourth, the consensus, support, and facilitation provided by Catholic laypeople, as well as religious dignitaries and lay leaders, have contributed significantly to building the contingent of Catholic Party members.

Fifth, the determination to overcome difficulties, the continuous self-cultivation and strengthening of political steadfastness among Catholic Party members, and the active efforts of outstanding Catholic laypeople to strive for excellence and fulfill assigned tasks have played an important role.

3.2.1.2. *Causes of the Limitations and Shortcomings*

First, some Party committees and Party organizations in the Red River Delta have not fully or deeply recognized the importance of, and Party regulations on, building the contingent of Catholic Party members; as a result, implementation and organization have remained hesitant and inconsistent.

Second, a small number of Party committees and Party organizations have not been sufficiently proactive or active in implementing plans for building the contingent of Catholic Party members.

Third, some grassroots Party committees in the Red River Delta have not regularly directed socio-political mass organizations to coordinate in mobilizing and propagating among Catholic dignitaries and lay leaders to actively participate in building the contingent of Catholic Party members; meanwhile, education and training for Catholic membership sources have been underestimated.

Fourth, the negative impacts of the market economy, along with distortions and sabotage by hostile forces targeting religious policies, have adversely affected and exerted influence on the building of the contingent of Catholic Party members in the Red River Delta provinces.

Fifth, propaganda and educational work has been slow to innovate, lacking flexibility and not truly suited to the specific characteristics of Catholic areas.

Sixth, the Vietnam Fatherland Front at the provincial level and socio-political organizations have not fully brought into play their roles.

Seventh, some Party committees and Party organizations have not effectively implemented inspection and supervision work.

Eighth, inadequate awareness among a segment of Catholic laypeople regarding the leadership role of Party organizations and the importance of building the contingent of Catholic Party members has also contributed to existing limitations.

3.2.2. Experiences

First, building the contingent of Catholic Party members in the Red River Delta provinces requires thoroughly grasping and strictly implementing the Party's guidelines and regulations, fulfilling local political tasks, and enhancing the awareness and sense of responsibility of cadres and Party members-especially Party committee members and key officials within the political system.

Second, building the contingent of Catholic Party members must always be closely linked with consolidating and enhancing the leadership capacity and combat strength of Party committees and Party organizations, as well as promoting the role of socio-political mass organizations in the locality.

Third, building the contingent of Catholic Party members in the Red River Delta provinces should be associated with promoting the role of various forces in the locality, while effectively organizing propaganda and mobilization activities to encourage Catholic dignitaries and lay leaders to actively participate.

Fourth, it is necessary to actively innovate the forms and methods of mass mobilization and propaganda in building the contingent of Catholic Party members, and to resolutely eliminate attitudes that underestimate the pioneering and exemplary role of Catholic Party members among cadres and Party members.

Fifth, it is essential to promote the activeness, creativity, pioneering spirit, and exemplary role of Party members in building the contingent of Catholic Party members in the Red River Delta provinces.

Sixth, greater emphasis should be placed on education to raise awareness and on encouraging and supporting outstanding Catholic laypeople to form proper motivation for joining the Party, thereby contributing to the building of the contingent of Catholic Party members in the Red River Delta provinces in the current period.

Chapter 4

ACTION PLANS AND KEY SOLUTIONS TO STRENGTHEN THE CONTINGENT OF CATHOLIC PARTY MEMBERS IN THE RED RIVER DELTA PROVINCES TOWARD 2035

4.1. FORECAST OF INFLUENCING FACTORS AND ACTION PLANS TO STRENGTHEN THE BUILDING OF THE CONTINGENT OF CATHOLIC PARTY MEMBERS IN THE RED RIVER DELTA PROVINCES TOWARD 2035

4.1.1 Forecast of Influencing Factors

4.1.1.1. Favorable Factors

First, the major achievements of great historical significance gained through more than forty years of the Renewal (Đổi mới) process have laid a solid political, economic,

and social foundation for strengthening the development of Party members who are Catholics in the provinces of the Red River Delta.

Second, the process of deep international integration, in conjunction with the promotion and effective utilization of the substantial resources of the Catholic community, has created favorable conditions for enhancing Party member development among Catholics in the Red River Delta provinces.

Third, the sound guidelines and viewpoints of the Communist Party of Vietnam, together with the increasingly comprehensive system of State policies and laws, constitute a firm political and legal basis for strengthening the development of Party members who are Catholics in the Red River Delta.

Fourth, the proactive activities of religious organizations represent one of the influential factors affecting Party member development among Catholics in the Red River Delta provinces.

4.1.1.2. Difficulties and Challenges

First, the complex international context, the rapid development of communication technologies, and emerging issues in religious activities have posed numerous difficulties and challenges to the work of developing Party members who are Catholics in the Red River Delta provinces.

Second, the negative aspects of the market economy have exerted adverse impacts on Party member development among Catholics.

Third, the adverse effects of the market economy, together with the situation in which many Catholic Party members and outstanding masses migrate to other localities for employment, have caused considerable difficulties for Party member development in the Red River Delta provinces.

Fourth, the process of streamlining the organizational apparatus and implementing the two-tier local government model, along with the moral and ideological degradation of a segment of cadres and Party members, has reduced grassroots responsiveness in leadership and direction, thereby affecting the trust of Catholic believers in the Communist Party of Vietnam.

Fifth, the activities of hostile forces and reactionary elements that exploit religious issues continue to pose significant challenges to Party member development among Catholics.

4.1.2. Action Plan

The Party and the State of Vietnam consistently affirm the viewpoint of respecting and guaranteeing the right to freedom of belief and religion, while at the same time promoting the positive values of religion in building the great national unity bloc. This constitutes an important political and legal basis for orienting the development of Party members who are Catholics in the Red River Delta.

The orientation toward 2035 focuses on several major directions as follows:

The general orientation in developing Party members who are Catholics in the provinces of the Red River Delta emphasizes the consistent and coordinated implementation of solutions aimed at improving both the quality and quantity of Party

members in religious communities, while consolidating trust and strengthening the bond between the Communist Party of Vietnam and Catholic believers.

The development of Party members who are Catholics should be placed within the overall framework of Party building and mass mobilization as well as religious affairs work, with the participation of the entire political system, ensuring that quality goes hand in hand with quantity, and that grassroots Party cells are built to truly serve as leadership nuclei at the local level.

It is necessary to strengthen the leadership of Party committees by formulating thematic resolutions or specific action programs on Party member development in Catholic communities, with clearly assigned responsibilities for each organization and individual. Regular inspection and evaluation should be conducted to review experience and to commend and replicate effective models and advanced examples of Party member development among Catholics.

Persistence, flexibility, and innovation in communication methods are required. Communication and advocacy work should be carried out in a thorough, persistent, and flexible manner, following the principle of “gradual and sustained influence,” with a focus on clearly explaining the Party’s and the State’s policies on religion, and on removing prejudices and psychological barriers related to concerns about becoming “*less religiously observant*” or “*spiritually distant from God*” upon joining the Party.

Priority should be given to mobilizing the support of religious dignitaries, and to building close and trust-based relationships between Party committees, local authorities, and Catholic dignitaries and religious functionaries. Their social prestige and influence should be effectively utilized in communication and advocacy efforts to encourage Catholic believers to actively participate in mass organizations and patriotic emulation movements.

Emphasis should be placed on economic development and livelihood stabilization, and on improving living standards in Catholic communities. Support should be provided for household economic development, helping local people secure stable employment within their localities, thereby creating solid material foundations and firm confidence for them to engage wholeheartedly in social activities and strive for Party membership.

The role of the Vietnam Fatherland Front and mass organizations should be further strengthened. This requires substantial innovation in the content and forms of activities of mass organizations-such as the Ho Chi Minh Communist Youth Union, the Women’s Union, and the Farmers’ Union-so as to make them more attractive, practical, and closely aligned with the legitimate interests of Catholic members. Efforts should be intensified to mobilize Catholic youth through local movements, particularly those working away from home when they return to their hometowns. Individuals who demonstrate exemplary performance in economic activities and patriotic emulation movements should be identified, selected, and included in the pool for cultivation and training as prospective Party members.

4.2. MAJOR SOLUTIONS FOR EFFECTIVELY DEVELOPING CATHOLIC PARTY MEMBERS IN THE PROVINCES OF THE RED RIVER DELTA TOWARD 2035

4.2.1. Enhancing the awareness, responsibility, and operational quality of Party committees and Party organizations in the building the contingent of Catholic Party members in the Red River Delta provinces

First, it is necessary to raise political awareness and strengthen the sense of responsibility of Party committees and Party organizations regarding the strategic significance of developing Catholic Party members.

Second, leadership methods should be renewed and the quality of operations of Party committees at the commune and ward levels, as well as grassroots Party cells in villages, hamlets, and residential quarters, should be improved.

Third, priority should be given to building, training, and fostering a contingent of Party committee cadres who possess firm political integrity, strong practical capacity, and a thorough understanding of the specific characteristics of religious affairs work.

Fourth, the pioneering and exemplary role, as well as the responsibility of heads of Party committees, should be promoted and clearly emphasized.

4.2.2. Providing more training and education of political qualities; assigning tasks to Party members; and providing regular support and enabling conditions for Catholic Party members to effectively fulfill their duties

An important solution for developing Catholic Party members in the Red River Delta at present is to intensify the training and education of political qualities, moral integrity, and revolutionary steadfastness. Priority should be given to education in Marxism-Leninism, Ho Chi Minh Thought, and the Party's viewpoints on religion, as well as to the enhancement of political and religious knowledge and the improvement of leadership competence and skills.

At the same time, greater emphasis should be placed on strengthening discipline and regularity in grassroots Party cell activities; creating practical environments through mass movements; promoting the role of mass media; and encouraging self-cultivation and self-improvement. In particular, Catholic Party members should be regularly assigned concrete tasks and provided with support and assistance so that they can effectively fulfill their responsibilities and play a core role in Party building.

4.2.3. Intensifying efforts to support Catholic Party members, while strictly implementing the Party's regulations concerning Catholic Party members' participation in religious activities.

The development of outstanding Catholic Party members in the Red River Delta should be regarded as a strategic and pivotal solution in Party building. Priority should be given to raising the awareness of Party committees, emphasizing that Party member development is not merely an increase in numbers but the formation of "political nuclei" within Catholic communities. Greater attention should be paid to identifying potential candidates from mass movements, particularly among youth; intensifying communication, education, and training to eliminate feelings of inferiority and social prejudices; strictly implementing Party membership admission procedures with a

strong emphasis on quality; and assigning, training, and appropriately utilizing Party members after admission.

At the same time, this work should be closely linked with the consolidation of grassroots Party organizations, the enhancement of their combativeness and leadership capacity, and the reaffirmation of the leadership role of the Communist Party of Vietnam in Catholic communities.

4.2.4. Promoting the role of the Vietnam Fatherland Front and socio-political organizations, while attaching importance to mobilizing Catholic dignitaries and religious functionaries to participate in the contingent of Catholic Party members

To promote the role of the Vietnam Fatherland Front, socio-political organizations, and the People in the development of Catholic Party members, it is necessary to improve the legal framework and create favorable conditions for these organizations to participate in supervision, social criticism, and contributions to the building of grassroots Party organizations. At the same time, the capacity and sense of responsibility of cadres in mass organizations should be enhanced, and coordination with Party committees should be strengthened in supervising morality and working style, particularly that of heads of organizations.

It is also essential to renew the content and methods of operation and to diversify forms of supervision. The role of the People should be promoted in detecting and combating negative phenomena; concurrently, efforts should be made to mobilize, build trust with, and bring into play the positive influence of Catholic dignitaries and religious functionaries in the contingent of Catholic Party members.

4.2.5. Promoting the spirit of self-discipline and striving among Catholic Party members

Building a strong contingent of Catholic Party members must begin with the awareness of self-discipline and personal striving of each individual. The key solutions include:

(1) strengthening political steadfastness, maintaining vigilance against distortions, and firmly upholding ideological conviction; (2) cultivating moral integrity and exemplary lifestyles by harmonizing revolutionary values with Catholic humanistic values; (3) enhancing organizational awareness and discipline, and overcoming difficulties in participating in grassroots Party cell activities; (4) promoting the spirit of labor, learning, and dedication, and taking the lead in economic development; and (5) maintaining close ties with Catholic believers, building prestige and trust, and becoming nuclei of solidarity within the community.

4.2.6. Creating favorable conditions for Catholic Party members to participate in patriotic emulation movements, socio-economic development, the maintenance of security and public order, and new rural development

An effective solution for developing Catholic Party members in the Red River Delta is to create favorable conditions for their participation in patriotic emulation movements, new rural development programs, socio-economic development, and the maintenance of security and public order. Through such participation, Party members

can enhance their political steadfastness, moral qualities, and discipline, while strengthening their close ties with the People.

Party committees should assign specific tasks, encourage and support household economic development, integrate mass movements with religious activities, and commend exemplary models in a timely manner in order to create spillover effects and consolidate the prestige and credibility of the Communist Party of Vietnam within Catholic communities.

4.2.7. Strengthening leadership, direction, inspection, and supervision by Party committees over the contingent of Catholic Party members

To strengthen leadership, direction, inspection, and supervision in the development of Catholic Party members in the Red River Delta, Party committees at all levels should focus on the following measures: 1) enhancing the political awareness and sense of responsibility of Party organizations and Party members, strictly handling violations, and commending exemplary role models in a timely manner; (2) combining regular supervision, planned supervision, and ad hoc supervision when signs of violations emerge, closely linked with tasks related to Party member development; (3) promoting self-inspection and self-supervision within grassroots Party cells; and (4) intensifying thematic supervision, particularly with regard to studying and following Ho Chi Minh's ideology, thereby strengthening internal unity and improving the quality of Party members.

CONCLUSION

The Red River Delta is a region of significant political and socio-economic importance, characterized by a large and early-established Catholic community with well-organized religious practices. In this context, the contingent of Party members who are Catholics plays an important role in strengthening the great national unity bloc and fostering cohesion between religious and non-religious populations. The process of building this contingent is comprehensive in terms of political, ideological, and organizational aspects, while also requiring continuous efforts in self-cultivation and self-improvement from each Party member. The objective is to ensure appropriate size, structure, and quality—especially political steadfastness, moral qualities, professional competence, and credibility within the community.

In recent years, practical implementation has achieved many positive outcomes; however, limitations remain, including insufficient awareness among certain Party committees, difficulties arising from the Catholic community itself, and negative impacts of the market economy. To improve quality, a synchronized set of measures is required: enhancing the awareness and responsibility of Party committees; strengthening education and assigning practical tasks; promoting the role of the Vietnam Fatherland Front, mass organizations, and religious dignitaries; paying greater attention to inspection and supervision; and encouraging self-discipline, active participation in emulation movements, and contributions to socio-economic development. These efforts are essential to building strong Party organizations in Catholic areas.

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