MINH HO CHI MINH NATIONAL ACADEMY OF POLITICS

NGUYEN THI NGA

THE QUALITY OF IDEOLOGICAL WORK OF COMMUNE-LEVEL PARTY ORGANIZATIONS IN AREAS WITH LARGE CATHOLIC POPULATIONS IN THE SOUTHEAST REGION IN THE CURRENT PERIOD

SUMMARY OF THE DOCTORAL THESIS

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INTRODUCTION

1. The Urgency of the Research Topic

Ideological work is one of the most important leadership activities of the Communist Party of Vietnam. It contributes to establishing, disseminating, and developing the Party's ideological foundation; formulating, consolidating, thoroughly grasping, disseminating, and educating cadres and Party members and the people about the Party's ideological foundation, guidelines, and policies, as well as the State's policies and laws; fostering ideological unity within the Party and consensus throughout society; developing a scientific worldview, a revolutionary outlook on life, and scientific thinking among cadres, Party members, and the people; strengthening the people's confidence in the Party and the socialist regime; contributing to the development of a new culture and new socialist people; encouraging and motivating the revolutionary movements of the masses; safeguarding the Party's ideological foundation and combating and refuting erroneous and hostile viewpoints; and promoting the image of Vietnam, its people, and the achievements of the country's renewal process to the international community.

The Southeast Region is a key economic area in southern Vietnam, holding an important position within Southern Vietnam and the country as a whole. It is also a strategically important area in terms of national security and defence and is among the regions with one of the largest Catholic populations in the country.

In recent years, commune-level Party organizations in areas with large Catholic populations in the Southeast Region have focused on leading and conducting ideological work. The quality of ideological work has gradually improved, thereby fostering solidarity and unity within Party organizations and consensus among the people; contributing to the successful implementation of the Party's guidelines and policies and the State's policies and laws; and facilitating the successful fulfilment of political tasks at the grassroots level.

However, in the face of the requirements of national integration and development in the era of the nation's rise, the rapid advancement of the scientific and technological revolution, particularly artificial intelligence (AI), the Internet, and social media, as well as the subversive activities of hostile and reactionary forces, which constantly seek to exploit issues of "religion", "democracy", and "human rights" to distort policies, incite division, and undermine the great national unity bloc, increasingly high demands are being placed on the quality of ideological work conducted by commune-level Party organizations in areas with large Catholic populations in the Southeast Region in the new context. Nevertheless, the quality of ideological work conducted by these Party organizations still exhibits shortcomings and limitations and, in certain respects, has yet to meet the requirements and tasks.

The awareness of some Party committees and Party organizations, as well as a section of cadres and Party members, regarding the role of ideological work and the need to improve its quality remains limited and lacks the necessary acumen. The forms and methods of conducting ideological work remain monotonous and insufficiently persuasive, resulting in limited effectiveness. The dissemination and implementation of the Party's directives and resolutions have, at certain times and in certain localities, been untimely and, in some cases, merely formalistic. Some cadres and Party members demonstrate insufficient awareness and commitment in studying Party resolutions, with manifestations of perfunctory participation and a lack of activeness and self-discipline. The qualifications and capabilities of the contingent of rapporteurs and propagandists in some commune-level Party organizations have yet to fully meet the requirements and tasks. Some commune-level Party organizations in areas with large Catholic populations in the Southeast Region remain confused and passive and have encountered difficulties in concretizing and implementing the resolutions and directives issued by higher-level Party organizations. There has not been adequate coordination between ideological measures and organizational, economic, and policy measures. In some localities, the leadership and coordination of grassroots-level organizations within the political system in conducting ideological work remain formalistic and have yet to achieve high effectiveness. The mobilization and promotion of the role of forces participating in ideological work also remain limited. The work of safeguarding the Party's ideological foundation and combating and refuting erroneous and hostile viewpoints continues to face numerous shortcomings. The monitoring and assessment of ideological developments and public opinion have, at certain times and in certain localities, failed to be timely. Feelings of inferiority and self-consciousness persist among some members of the Catholic community. Their understanding of the Party's guidelines and policies and the State's policies and laws remains limited and insufficiently consistent. Some members of the Catholic community also lack vigilance against the schemes and tactics of hostile forces that exploit issues relating to ethnicity, religion, and human rights to undermine the great national unity bloc.

Resolution No. 25-NQ/TW dated August 22, 2026, of the Politburo on *the Strategy for Ideological Work in the New Context* sets out the guiding motto for conducting ideological work in the new context as follows: "Proactive - Sharp - Persuasive - Effective, with the people's trust serving as the measure of effectiveness." The Resolution emphasizes the need to "shift the focus of ideological work towards the grassroots level and individual residential areas, while closely integrating ideological work in the physical space with that in the digital space." These requirements underscore the urgent need to improve the quality of ideological work throughout the Party. In particular, improving the quality of

ideological work conducted by commune-level Party organizations in areas with large Catholic populations in the Southeast Region has become an urgent issue that must be addressed in the coming period.

2. Research Objectives and Tasks of the Thesis

2.1. Research Objectives

To clarify the theoretical and practical issues concerning the quality of ideological work conducted by commune-level Party organizations in areas with large Catholic populations in the Southeast Region; and to propose orientations and key solutions for improving the quality of ideological work conducted by these Party organizations by 2035.

2.2. Research Tasks

First, to review scientific studies related to the thesis topic; provide an overview of the research findings and theoretical contributions of the reviewed studies; identify the contents to be inherited from these studies and determine the issues that require further investigation in the thesis.

Second, to provide an in-depth analysis and clarification of the theoretical and practical foundations of the quality of ideological work conducted by commune-level Party organizations in areas with large Catholic populations in the Southeast Region in the current period.

Third, to conduct surveys and assess the current state of the quality of ideological work conducted by commune-level Party organizations in areas with large Catholic populations in the Southeast Region in the current period; identify their achievements, limitations, underlying causes, and issues arising from the current situation.

Fourth, to forecast the factors affecting the quality of ideological work and propose orientations and key feasible solutions for improving the quality of ideological work conducted by commune-level Party organizations in areas with large Catholic populations in the Southeast Region by 2035.

3. Research Subjects and Scope of the Thesis

3.1. Research Subject

The quality of ideological work conducted by commune-level Party organizations in areas with large Catholic populations in the Southeast Region in the current period.

3.2. Research Scope

Scope of Time: The thesis focuses on studying and surveying the quality of ideological work conducted by commune-level Party organizations in areas with large Catholic populations in the Southeast Region from 2015 to June 12, 2025, following the promulgation of Resolution No. 202/2025/QH15 dated June 12,

2025, of the National Assembly on the reorganization of provincial-level administrative units. The orientations and solutions proposed in the thesis are intended for implementation by 2035.

Scope of Space: The thesis focuses on studying and surveying commune-level areas with large Catholic populations in the Southeast Region. About the period before the implementation of Resolution No. 202/2025/QH15 dated June 12, 2025, of the National Assembly on the reorganization of provincial-level administrative units, the thesis concentrates its surveys on provinces with distinctive characteristics, particularly those containing communes, wards, and special administrative zones with large Catholic populations, namely Dong Nai, Binh Phuoc, Ba Ria-Vung Tau, and Binh Duong provinces.

4. Theoretical and Practical Foundations and Research Methodology of the Thesis

4.1. Theoretical Foundations

The thesis is grounded in the theoretical foundations of Marxism-Leninism, Ho Chi Minh Thought, and the viewpoints of the Communist Party of Vietnam on Party building, ideological work, and the quality of ideological work conducted by Party organizations.

4.2. Practical Foundations

The practical foundation of the thesis is the actual state of the quality of ideological work conducted by commune-level Party organizations in areas with large Catholic populations in the Southeast Region during the period from 2015 to 2025.

4.3. Research Methodology

The thesis employs the methodology of Marxism-Leninism, specifically dialectical materialism and historical materialism. In addition, the thesis employs various specific research methods, including: analysis and synthesis; the combination of historical and logical methods; statistical and comparative methods; the method of reviewing practical experience and developing theory; the systematization method; the evidence-based approach and triangulation; secondary data collection and analysis; sociological methods; qualitative research methods (in-depth interviews); and the expert method.

5. New Scientific Contributions of the Thesis

5.1. Về lý luận

The thesis clarifies the concepts of "commune-level areas with large Catholic populations" and "the quality of ideological work conducted by commune-level Party organizations in areas with large Catholic populations in the Southeast Region in the current period." It identifies the factors that directly affect the quality

of ideological work conducted by these Party organizations in the current period and establishes criteria for assessing the quality of such ideological work.

5.2. Về thực tiễn

The thesis proposes key solutions to improving the quality of ideological work conducted by commune-level Party organizations in areas with large Catholic populations in the Southeast Region by 2035. Among these, three solutions are new and breakthrough measures:

First, to strengthen leadership, direction, inspection, supervision, and coordination in conducting ideological work within commune-level Party organizations in areas with large Catholic populations in the Southeast Region.

Second, to increase investment in infrastructure, facilities, and equipment, while accelerating digital transformation in conducting ideological work within commune-level Party organizations in areas with large Catholic populations in the Southeast Region.

Third, to provide leadership in promoting the role of religious organizations, religious dignitaries, religious functionaries, and key Catholic personnel in participating in the conduct of ideological work.

6. Theoretical and Practical Significance of the Thesis

6.1. Theoretical Significance

The research findings of the thesis contribute to clarifying theoretical issues concerning the quality of ideological work conducted by commune-level Party organizations in areas with large Catholic populations in the Southeast Region in the current period.

6.2. Practical Significance

The research findings of the thesis can serve as reference materials for commune-level Party organizations in areas with large Catholic populations in the Southeast Region in improving the quality of their ideological work by 2035.

The research findings of the thesis can also serve as reference materials for research, teaching, and learning in the field of Party Building and State Government at the Ho Chi Minh National Academy of Politics, provincial and municipal political schools, and political training centers throughout the Southeast Region.

7. Structure of the thesis

Apart from the introduction, conclusion, list of references, and appendices, the thesis is structured into 4 chapters with a total of 9 sections.

Chapter 1
OVERVIEW OF RESEARCH RELATED TO THE THESIS TOPIC

1.1. STUDIES ON PARTY BUILDING, GRASSROOTS PARTY ORGANIZATIONS, COMMUNE-LEVEL PARTY ORGANIZATIONS, CATHOLICISM, AND CATHOLICISM IN THE SOUTHEAST REGION

The thesis reviews domestic and international studies conducted by various authors on Party building, grassroots Party organizations, commune-level Party organizations, Catholicism, and Catholicism in the Southeast Region. These studies are classified into two groups: *First,* studies on Party building, grassroots Party organizations, and commune-level Party organizations; *Second,* studies on Catholicism and Catholicism in the Southeast Region. These groups of studies, published in the form of scientific research projects, monographs, reference books, and scholarly journal articles related to the thesis topic, have raised numerous issues and provided valuable insights for research into the quality of ideological work conducted by commune-level Party organizations in areas with large Catholic populations in the Southeast Region in the current period.

1.2. STUDIES ON IDEOLOGICAL WORK AND THE QUALITY OF IDEOLOGICAL WORK CONDUCTED BY COMMUNE-LEVEL PARTY ORGANIZATIONS

The thesis reviews domestic and international studies related to ideological work and the quality of ideological work conducted by commune-level Party organizations. These studies, published in the form of scientific research projects, monographs, reference books, doctoral dissertations, and scholarly journal articles related to the thesis topic, have raised numerous issues and provided valuable insights for research into the quality of ideological work conducted by commune-level Party organizations in areas with large Catholic populations in the Southeast Region in the current period.

1.3. OVERVIEW OF THE RESEARCH FINDINGS OF SCIENTIFIC STUDIES RELATED TO THE THESIS TOPIC AND ISSUES REQUIRING FURTHER INVESTIGATION IN THE THESIS

1.3.1. Overview of the Research Findings of Scientific Studies Related to the Thesis Topic

Based on the review of research related to the thesis topic, the thesis draws the following general assessments:

First, several of the aforementioned studies have examined and clarified the role of religion in general and Catholicism in particular, as well as the role of grassroots Party organizations. Some studies have highlighted the role of commune-level Party organizations as the foundation of the Party and the political nucleus at the grassroots level. A number of scientific studies have presented

conceptualizations of and clarified the role of ideological work in general and ideological work conducted by commune-level Party organizations in particular. They have also identified the principles, guiding approaches, and tasks of ideological work undertaken by grassroots Party organizations. Some studies have emphasized that improving the quality of ideological work conducted by commune-level Party organizations requires due attention to building, training, and further developing the quality of the contingent of personnel engaged in ideological work. They have also highlighted the need to renew the contents, forms, and methods of conducting ideological work within commune-level Party organizations to meet the requirements of the new period.

Second, several scientific studies have assessed the situation and current state of ideological work conducted by Party organizations at different levels and in various localities, both domestically and internationally, identifying both achievements and limitations, as well as the difficulties and challenges involved. Some studies have focused on analyzing population characteristics; the ideological situation among cadres, Party members, and the people; and the characteristics of the contingent of personnel engaged in ideological work at the grassroots level.

Third, several scientific studies have analyzed and clarified the requirements of the new period for conducting ideological work within Party organizations in general and commune-level Party organizations in particular. Particular emphasis has been placed on the requirements concerning political mettle, political stance and viewpoints, organizational awareness and discipline, political theory qualifications, professional and occupational qualifications, propaganda and mobilization skills, the ability to organize mass movements, and the democratic and scientific working style of cadres and Party members engaged in ideological work at all levels, including the principle of matching words with actions.

Fourth, several scientific studies have proposed solutions to improving the quality of ideological work conducted by Party organizations in general and commune-level Party organizations in particular, including those in areas with large Catholic populations. These studies have emphasized the need to continue refining the strategy for building the contingent of personnel engaged in ideological work to meet the requirements and tasks. They have also stressed the importance of effectively implementing personnel rotation policies, particularly for cadres who have gained experience and developed through practical work; creating favorable conditions for personnel engaged in ideological work to undergo practical training and professional development; and implementing appropriate regimes and policies, especially for full-time personnel.

Fifth, several of the aforementioned scientific studies have made forecasts regarding both favorable conditions and difficulties and challenges affecting ideological work and efforts to improve the quality of ideological work conducted

by commune-level Party organizations. They have also proposed solutions to improve the quality and effectiveness of ideological work conducted by commune-level Party organizations in the coming period. These studies have identified key issues that need to be addressed in improving the quality of ideological work conducted by commune-level Party organizations in the new situation. In particular, they have emphasized the need to promote good traditions and effective practices in conducting ideological work and improving its quality within grassroots Party organizations; ensure that the Party's viewpoints, guidelines, and policies on ideological work are thoroughly grasped by cadres, Party members, and the people; attach importance to renewing the contents, forms, and methods of conducting ideological work; strengthen the monitoring of ideological developments and the orientation of public opinion; reinforce unity and solidarity within the Party and consensus throughout society; continuously explore and develop innovative forms and methods suited to the trends of globalization; and accelerate digital transformation and the application of science and technology in conducting ideological work.

Sixth, several studies have examined and clarified the distinctive characteristics of ideological work conducted by commune-level Party organizations in general and by commune-level Party organizations in the Southeast Region in particular. They have also clarified the characteristics and quality of the ideological work conducted.

1.3.2. Issues Requiring Further Investigation in the Thesis

Numerous scientific studies have examined grassroots Party organizations in general, commune-level Party organizations, ideological work conducted by commune-level Party organizations, and the quality of such ideological work. However, the aforementioned studies have not yet systematically focused on the issue of the quality of ideological work conducted by commune-level Party organizations in areas with large Catholic populations in the Southeast Region in the current period. The doctoral candidate will selectively inherit and draw upon the findings of previous studies while focusing on investigating and clarifying the following issues:

First, to investigate and clarify the theoretical and practical foundations of the quality of ideological work conducted by commune-level Party organizations in areas with large Catholic populations in the Southeast Region in the current period. This includes clarifying the position, role, functions, tasks, and characteristics of commune-level Party organizations in areas with large Catholic populations in the Southeast Region in the current period; identifying the concepts, contents, forms, and roles of ideological work conducted by these Party organizations; and clarifying the concept of the quality of ideological work, the factors affecting its quality, and the criteria for assessing the quality of ideological work conducted by

commune-level Party organizations in areas with large Catholic populations in the Southeast Region in the current period.

Second, to conduct surveys and assess the current state of the quality of ideological work conducted by commune-level Party organizations in areas with large Catholic populations in the Southeast Region in the current period, examining both achievements and limitations; and to identify the underlying causes and issues arising from the current situation.

Third, to forecast favorable and unfavorable factors affecting efforts to improve the quality of ideological work conducted by commune-level Party organizations in areas with large Catholic populations in the Southeast Region in the current period. On that basis, to propose orientations and key solutions for improving the quality of ideological work conducted by these Party organizations by 2035, with particular emphasis on renewing the contents, forms, and methods of conducting ideological work in ways that are appropriate to the target groups and practical circumstances, deliver tangible effectiveness, and remain compatible with the religious beliefs of Catholic communities in the current period.

Chapter 2
THE QUALITY OF IDEOLOGICAL WORK OF COMMUNE-LEVEL PARTY COMMITTEES IN AREAS WITH LARGE CATHOLIC POPULATIONS IN THE SOUTHEASTERN REGION - THEORETICAL AND PRACTICAL ISSUES

2.1. OVERVIEW OF COMMUNE-LEVEL ADMINISTRATIVE UNITS, COMMUNE-LEVEL PARTY COMMITTEES, AND THE IDEOLOGICAL WORK OF COMMUNE-LEVEL PARTY COMMITTEES IN AREAS WITH LARGE CATHOLIC POPULATIONS IN THE SOUTHEASTERN REGION TODAY

2.1.1. Khái quát về cấp xã và đảng bộ cấp xã có đông đồng bào Công giáo ở vùng Đông Nam Bộ hiện nay

2.1.1.1. Overview of commune-level administrative units and commune-level Party committees in areas with large Catholic populations in the Southeastern region today

** Overview of the Southeastern region today*

Pursuant to Resolution No. 202/2025/QH15 dated June 12, 2025, of the National Assembly on the reorganization of provincial-level administrative units, the Southeastern region currently comprises three provincial-level administrative units following the reorganization, namely Ho Chi Minh City, Dong Nai Province, and Tay Ninh Province.

The Southeastern region holds a strategically important position in terms of economic development, national defense, security, and international exchanges. It covers an area of more than 23,605 km², accounting for 7.2% of the country's total area. The region is home to six major religions, namely Buddhism, Catholicism, Protestantism, Caodaism, Hoa Hao Buddhism, and Islam. It ranks first nationwide in terms of the number of religious adherents, with Catholicism being the most extensively developed religion in the region.

** Overview of commune-level administrative units with large Catholic populations in the Southeastern region today*

Commune-level administrative units with large Catholic populations in the Southeastern region are those in which Catholics account for a substantial proportion of the population, representing 30% or more of the total population. These people hold religious beliefs and regularly practice religious doctrines, canon law, and religious rites in accordance with the regulations of the Church.

According to survey data, before July 1, 2025, there were 87 out of 449 communes, wards, and townships with large Catholic populations across the four provinces of Dong Nai, Binh Phuoc, Ba Ria-Vung Tau, and Binh Duong. Following the provincial-level administrative reorganization, from July 1, 2025, to the present, the newly established Dong Nai Province has 22 out of 95 communes and wards with large Catholic populations, while Ho Chi Minh City has 7 out of 168 communes, wards, and special administrative zones with large Catholic populations.

** Characteristics of commune-level administrative units with large Catholic populations in the Southeastern region*

First, the residential communities in general, and Catholic communities in particular, in commune-level administrative units with large Catholic populations in the Southeastern region were formed primarily through migration from Northern and Central Vietnam to the South during the periods of 1954 and 1975, as well as throughout the Doi Moi (Renewal) period.

Second, commune-level administrative units with large Catholic populations in the Southeastern region have a high proportion of Catholic adherents. They are characterized by solidarity between religious and non-religious communities, while strengthening and promoting the great national unity bloc and actively participating in the construction and defense of the Fatherland.

Third, the cultures, customs, practices, and beliefs of residents in commune-level administrative units with large Catholic populations in the Southeastern region are diverse and rich.

Fourth, the economies of communes, wards, and special administrative zones with large Catholic populations in the Southeastern region have traditionally been

based primarily on agricultural production, but are currently undergoing a strong transition towards industry and services.

Fifth, commune-level administrative areas with large Catholic populations in the Southeastern region are experiencing a rapid process of urbanization.

Sixth, a relatively large number of Catholic families and adherents in commune-level administrative units with large Catholic populations in the Southeastern region have relatives who are residing abroad.

** Overview of the Catholic population in the Southeastern region today*

First, Catholics in the Southeastern region originate predominantly from Northern and Central Vietnam, with major waves of migration occurring in 1954 and 1975 and during the Doi Moi period. Native Southern Catholics account for only a very small proportion of the Catholic population.

Second, the vast majority of Catholics in the Southeastern region are patriotic and demonstrate a strong spirit of national solidarity. They actively implement the Party's guidelines and policies and the State's policies and laws.

Third, the living standards of Catholics in the Southeastern region have continuously improved.

Fourth, Catholics in the Southeastern region generally live in harmony and solidarity with other members of the local population.

2.1.1.2. Overview of Commune-Level Party Committees in Areas with Large Catholic Populations in the Southeastern Region Today

** The concept of commune-level Party committees in areas with large Catholic populations in the Southeastern region*

Commune-level Party committees in areas with large Catholic populations in the Southeastern region are grassroots Party organizations directly affiliated with provincial-level Party committees and subject to the direct and regular leadership and direction of the Standing Committees of provincial-level Party committees. They are responsible for providing direct and comprehensive leadership and direction at the commune level, as well as leading and directing organizations within the commune-level political system and subordinate Party committees and Party organizations in accordance with the Party Charter and the regulations and guidelines issued by the Central Committee and provincial-level Party committees.

** Functions of commune-level Party committees in areas with large Catholic populations in the Southeastern region:* To provide direct and comprehensive leadership and direction at the commune level; to lead and direct agencies and organizations within the commune-level political system, as well as subordinate Party committees and Party organizations, in accordance with the Party Charter and the regulations and guidelines issued by the Central Committee and provincial-level Party committees.

** Tasks of commune-level Party committees in areas with large Catholic populations in the Southeastern region:* To perform their tasks in accordance with the Party Charter and the regulations and guidelines issued by the Central Committee and provincial-level Party committees.

** Characteristics of commune-level Party committees in areas with large Catholic populations in the Southeastern region*

First, commune-level Party committees in areas with large Catholic populations in the Southeastern region have a profound revolutionary tradition.

Second, commune-level Party committees in areas with large Catholic populations in the Southeastern region are organized according to the model of commune-level Party committees and their affiliated Party cells. They have a relatively small number of Party members, with Party members of Catholic origin accounting for only a small proportion. The qualifications and capabilities of their cadres and Party members remain limited, while their personnel structures are diverse.

Third, commune-level Party committees in areas with large Catholic populations in the Southeastern region operate across extensive geographical areas that hold important strategic positions in terms of economic development, national defense, security, and external relations.

Fourth, commune-level Party committees in areas with large Catholic populations in the Southeastern region perform their functions and tasks in a new context characterized by numerous difficulties and challenges.

2.1.2. Ideological Work of Commune-Level Party Committees in Areas with Large Catholic Populations in the Southeastern Region Today - Concept, Content, and Role

2.1.2.1. Concept of Ideological Work of Commune-Level Party Committees in Areas with Large Catholic Populations in the Southeastern Region

Ideological work of commune-level Party committees in areas with large Catholic populations in the Southeastern region in the current period encompasses all activities undertaken by Party committees and Party organizations at the commune level in areas with large Catholic populations in the Southeastern region to disseminate and thoroughly grasp the Party's ideological foundation, political line, guidelines, policies, and resolutions, as well as the State's policies and laws, among cadres, Party members, and the People; contribute to achieving ideological unity within Party committees and building consensus among the People; inspire and encourage the People to successfully implement the Party's political line, guidelines, and policies, the State's policies and laws, and resolutions of Party committees at all levels; contribute to building a new socialist culture and developing new socialist people; actively safeguard the Party's ideological foundation; and engage in ideological, theoretical, and cultural struggles to

combat and refute wrong and hostile viewpoints. These activities contribute to the successful fulfillment of the political tasks of commune-level Party committees in areas with large Catholic populations in the Southeastern region in the current period.

2.1.2.2. Contents of Ideological Work of Commune-Level Party Committees in Areas with Large Catholic Populations in the Southeastern Region

First, commune-level Party committees in areas with large Catholic populations in the Southeastern region promulgate resolutions, programs, and plans for conducting ideological work.

Second, commune-level Party committees in areas with large Catholic populations in the Southeastern region lead the implementation of resolutions, programs, and plans for conducting ideological work, as well as the fulfillment of the Party committees' political tasks.

Third, commune-level Party committees in areas with large Catholic populations in the Southeastern region lead organizations within the political system and relevant forces in conducting ideological work and developing resources for ideological work.

Fourth, commune-level Party committees in areas with large Catholic populations in the Southeastern region provide leadership and conduct inspection and supervision of the implementation of resolutions, programs, and plans for conducting ideological work, as well as the fulfillment of the Party committees' political tasks.

Fifth, commune-level Party committees in areas with large Catholic populations in the Southeastern region provide leadership and conduct preliminary reviews and comprehensive reviews of the implementation of resolutions, programs, and plans for conducting ideological work, as well as the fulfillment of the Party committees' political tasks.

2.1.2.3. Forms and Methods of Conducting Ideological Work of Commune-Level Party Committees in Areas with Large Catholic Populations in the Southeastern Region

* *Forms of ideological work include*: *First,* political and ideological education through Party meetings, thematic meetings, and activities organized by Party committees, Party organizations, local authorities, the Vietnam Fatherland Front (VFF), socio-political organizations, agencies, and units. *Second,* through various forms of conducting the Party's theoretical work, such as: activities involving the review of practical experience, theoretical research and development; scientific research activities conducted through scientific research projects, schemes, research programs, conferences, and academic seminars and discussions; research activities undertaken by academies, research institutes, research centers, schools, and other educational institutions; political and theoretical education activities at both the

central and local levels; and training and professional development activities organized by academies, universities, colleges, and the general education system. *Third*, through various forms of propaganda and mass mobilization. *Fourth*, through commemorative activities; cultural, artistic, literary, and performing arts activities; artistic performances, cinema, sports, tourism, event organization, and other related activities.

** Methods of conducting ideological work include:* (1) Verbal communication, visual methods, and practical methods; (2) Persuasion, suggestion, and exemplary role-model methods; (3) Individual-based methods and mass-based methods.

2.1.2.4. The Role of Ideological Work of Commune-Level Party Committees in Areas with Large Catholic Populations in the Southeastern Region

First, the ideological work of commune-level Party committees in areas with large Catholic populations in the Southeastern region contributes to achieving ideological unity within Party committees and building consensus among the People, thereby ensuring the successful fulfillment of political tasks.

Second, it contributes to promoting political and social activism in commune-level administrative areas with large Catholic populations in the Southeastern region in the current period.

Third, it contributes to educating people about and promoting the traditional cultural values of the nation, localities, and grassroots communities.

Fourth, it contributes to strengthening the political steadfastness, qualifications, and capabilities of cadres and Party members, as well as raising public awareness.

Fifth, it contributes to addressing political and ideological hotspots in commune-level administrative areas with large Catholic populations in the Southeastern region.

2.2. THE QUALITY OF IDEOLOGICAL WORK OF COMMUNE-LEVEL PARTY COMMITTEES IN AREAS WITH LARGE CATHOLIC POPULATIONS IN THE SOUTHEASTERN REGION - CONCEPT, INFLUENCING FACTORS, AND EVALUATION CRITERIA

2.2.1. Concept of the Quality of Ideological Work of Commune-Level Party Committees in Areas with Large Catholic Populations in the Southeastern Region

The quality of ideological work of commune-level Party committees in areas with large Catholic populations in the Southeastern region refers to the degree to which the activities undertaken by commune-level Party committees meet the established requirements in the process of influencing the awareness, thoughts, sentiments, and feelings of cadres, Party members, and the People. Such activities contribute to enhancing the political steadfastness, awareness, sense of responsibility, qualifications, and capabilities of cadres and Party members;

fostering solidarity and unity within Party committees and building consensus among the People; and ensuring the successful implementation of the Party's political line and guidelines, the State's policies and laws, the resolutions and directives of higher-level Party committees, and the political tasks of commune-level Party committees.

2.2.2. Factors Affecting the Quality of Ideological Work of Commune-Level Party Committees in Areas with Large Catholic Populations in the Southeastern Region

First, the attention, close guidance, and leadership exercised by commune-level Party committees and their Standing Committees in directing and conducting ideological work in areas with large Catholic populations in the Southeastern region.

Second, close and effective coordination among organizations within the commune-level political system and relevant forces in conducting ideological work.

Third, the quality of the contingent of cadres responsible for ideological work in commune-level administrative areas with large Catholic populations in the Southeastern region.

Fourth, rapid urbanization, the acceleration of industrialization and modernization, international integration, and the educational level of the population in the Southeastern region.

Fifth, the subversive activities of hostile forces on the ideological, cultural, ethnic, and religious fronts in the Southeastern region.

Sixth, digital transformation and the application of modern technologies in conducting ideological work by commune-level Party committees in areas with large Catholic populations in the Southeastern region.

2.2.3. Criteria for Evaluating the Quality of Ideological Work of Commune-Level Party Committees in Areas with Large Catholic Populations in the Southeastern Region

To accurately evaluate the quality of ideological work of commune-level Party committees in areas with large Catholic populations in the Southeastern region, the following criteria should be given particular attention:

First, the extent to which the Party's guidelines and resolutions, the State's policies and laws, and resolutions issued by Party committees and Party organizations at all levels are thoroughly grasped and implemented.

Second, the extent and effectiveness of leadership and direction in conducting political and ideological education, propaganda and mass mobilization, and cultural and artistic activities by commune-level Party committees in areas with large Catholic populations in the Southeastern region.

Third, the effectiveness of political theory education and political ideological training for cadres, Party members, and the People in areas under the jurisdiction of

commune-level Party committees with large Catholic populations in the Southeastern region.

Fourth, the degree of ideological unity within commune-level Party committees, consensus among the People, and solidarity between religious and non-religious communities in the Southeastern region.

Fifth, the capacity and effectiveness of cadres, Party members, and the People, including Catholics in the Southeastern region, in refuting and combating wrong and hostile viewpoints and firmly safeguarding the Party's ideological foundation.

Sixth, the effectiveness of the impact of ideological work conducted by commune-level Party committees in areas with large Catholic populations in the Southeastern region on local socio-economic development.

Chapter 3
THE IDEOLOGICAL SITUATION AMONG CADRES, PARTY MEMBERS, AND THE PEOPLE, AND THE QUALITY OF IDEOLOGICAL WORK OF COMMUNE-LEVEL PARTY COMMITTEES IN AREAS WITH LARGE CATHOLIC POPULATIONS IN THE SOUTHEASTERN REGION - CURRENT SITUATION, CAUSES, AND ISSUES ARISING

3.1. THE IDEOLOGICAL SITUATION AMONG CADRES, PARTY MEMBERS, AND THE PEOPLE IN COMMUNE-LEVEL ADMINISTRATIVE AREAS WITH CATHOLIC POPULATIONS IN THE SOUTHEASTERN REGION TODAY

3.1.1. The Ideological Situation among Cadres and Party Members

3.1.1.1. Positive Aspects

First, the majority of cadres and Party members in commune-level Party committees in areas with large Catholic populations in the Southeastern region consistently maintain their confidence in the Party's Renewal (Doi Moi) policy and actively implement the Party's guidelines and resolutions, as well as the State's policies and laws.

Second, the majority of cadres and Party members in commune-level administrative areas with large Catholic populations in the Southeastern region demonstrate strong dedication and a high sense of responsibility, and successfully fulfill their assigned tasks.

Third, the majority of cadres and Party members in commune-level Party committees in areas with large Catholic populations in the Southeastern region actively engage in disseminating the Party's guidelines and resolutions and the State's policies and laws, while mobilizing the masses to put them into practice.

Fourth, a number of cadres and Party members demonstrate dynamism and creativity, dare to think, dare to act, dare to assume responsibility, dare to break new ground, and dare to make sacrifices for the common good.

3.1.1.2. Limitations

First, some cadres and Party members of commune-level Party committees in areas with large Catholic populations in the Southeastern region have yet to develop a sufficiently profound understanding of the Party's ideological foundation, political line, guidelines, and resolutions, as well as the State's policies and laws; ethnic and religious issues; and political, economic, cultural, social, national defense, security, and external relations issues.

Second, some cadres and Party members have not been sufficiently proactive in studying, training, and improving their qualifications and capabilities to meet the requirements of their assigned tasks.

Third, corruption and other forms of misconduct, particularly among grassroots-level cadres, have shown an increasing trend.

Fourth, some cadres and Party members of commune-level Party committees in areas with large Catholic populations in the Southeastern region have exhibited signs of concern and a lack of proactiveness in implementing the current two-tier local government model.

3.1.2. The Ideological Situation among Various Social Groups in Commune-Level Administrative Areas with Large Catholic Populations in the Southeastern Region Today

3.1.2.1. Positive Aspects

First, the majority of the People in commune-level administrative areas with large Catholic populations in the Southeastern region consistently maintain their confidence in the Party's Renewal policy and actively implement the Party's political line, guidelines, and resolutions, as well as the State's policies and laws. They also actively participate in revolutionary movements at the local and grassroots levels.

Second, Catholic religious activities in the Southeastern region are generally stable, with few occurrences of religious hotspots.

Third, the majority of religious dignitaries, religious functionaries, clergy, Catholics, and followers of other religions maintain their confidence in the leadership of the Party and the governance of the State. They actively disseminate and promote the implementation of the Party's political line, guidelines, and resolutions, as well as the State's policies and laws, among Catholic parishioners.

Fourth, the People in commune-level administrative areas with large Catholic populations in the Southeastern region in general, and Catholics in particular,

consistently demonstrate proactiveness, dynamism, and creativity in economic development, production, business activities, and the pursuit of legitimate prosperity.

3.1.2.2. Limitations

First, a segment of the Catholic population has yet to develop a profound understanding of the Party's ideological foundation and the Party's guidelines and resolutions, as well as the State's policies and laws.

Second, a segment of the population in commune-level administrative areas with large Catholic populations in the Southeastern region, including some Catholics, exhibits signs of indifference and apathy towards socio-political affairs.

Third, a segment of the population in commune-level administrative areas with large Catholic populations in the Southeastern region exhibits signs of anxiety and insecurity regarding social evils in their localities.

Fourth, a segment of the population and the workforce in commune-level administrative areas with large Catholic populations in the Southeastern region expresses concern that the streamlining and reorganization of organizational structures and administrative apparatuses may adversely affect people's employment and income.

3.2. THE QUALITY OF IDEOLOGICAL WORK OF COMMUNE-LEVEL PARTY COMMITTEES IN AREAS WITH LARGE CATHOLIC POPULATIONS IN THE SOUTHEASTERN REGION - CURRENT SITUATION, CAUSES, AND ISSUES ARISING

3.2.1. Current Situation

3.2.1.1. Advantages

First, Party committees and Party organizations at all levels have paid attention to thoroughly grasping and implementing the Party's guidelines and resolutions, the State's policies and laws, and resolutions issued by Party committees and Party organizations at all levels in general, and those concerning ethnic and religious affairs in particular, thereby achieving many important results.

Second, Party committees and Party organizations of commune-level Party committees in areas with large Catholic populations in the Southeastern region have paid due attention to leading and directing political and ideological education, propaganda and mass mobilization, and cultural and artistic activities, achieving many important results.

Third, the effectiveness of political theory education and ideological training for cadres, Party members, and the People in areas under the jurisdiction of commune-level Party committees with large Catholic populations in the Southeastern region has become increasingly substantive.

Fourth, the degree of ideological unity within Party committees, consensus among the People, and solidarity between religious and non-religious communities in these localities have gradually improved.

Fifth, the capacity and effectiveness of cadres, Party members, and the People, including Catholics in the Southeastern region, in refuting and combating wrong and hostile viewpoints and firmly safeguarding the Party's ideological foundation have become increasingly effective and proactive.

Sixth, the impact of ideological work conducted by commune-level Party committees in areas with large Catholic populations in the Southeastern region on local socio-economic development has increased significantly.

3.2.1.2. Limitations

Alongside the advantages and achievements, the quality of ideological work of commune-level Party committees in areas with large Catholic populations in the Southeastern region still has the following major limitations:

First, some leadership and directive documents issued by commune-level Party committees and Party organizations in areas with large Catholic populations in the Southeastern region concerning ideological work remain untimely and slow to adapt to changing circumstances.

Second, the quality of political and ideological education, propaganda and mass mobilization, and cultural and artistic activities conducted by commune-level Party committees in areas with large Catholic populations in the Southeastern region has, at certain times and in certain localities, failed to keep pace with practical developments.

Third, the effectiveness of political theory education and ideological training for cadres, Party members, and the People in areas under the jurisdiction of commune-level Party committees with large Catholic populations in the Southeastern region still has certain limitations and inadequacies.

Fourth, some cadres, Party members, and members of the public have yet to demonstrate a high degree of consensus in implementing socio-economic development tasks, particularly those relating to the development of new-style rural areas.

Fifth, some cadres, Party members, and members of the public have not yet demonstrated sufficient proactiveness and persuasiveness in independently explaining issues, distinguishing right from wrong, and combating wrongful and hostile allegations.

Sixth, the impact of ideological work conducted by commune-level Party committees in areas with large Catholic populations in the Southeastern region on

actual socio-economic development has not been sufficiently evident in certain localities and at certain times.

3.2.2. Causes and Issues Arising

3.2.2.1. Causes

**** Causes of the Advantages***

Objective causes:

First, the Party's resolutions and the State's policies and laws have been promulgated promptly and in line with actual circumstances.

Second, the national Renewal process has achieved historically significant accomplishments over the past 40 years.

Third, the Catholic population in these areas has a tradition of patriotism and a strong sense of national solidarity.

Subjective causes:

First, the Standing Committees and commune-level Party committees have developed a profound understanding of the position, role, and particularly important significance of ideological work in areas with large Catholic populations.

Second, Party committees at all levels, local authorities, the Vietnam Fatherland Front, socio-political organizations, and relevant forces have closely coordinated in carrying out ideological work.

Third, the contingent of cadres directly responsible for ideological work possesses firm political steadfastness, as well as the professional qualifications, competence, and skills required to meet assigned tasks and responsibilities.

**** Causes of the Limitations***

Objective causes:

First, the world situation has witnessed numerous complex and unpredictable developments.

Second, the Southeastern region has experienced rapid urbanization and industrialization, attracting large numbers of migrant workers and Catholic migrants from other regions to settle there.

Third, hostile forces have intensified their efforts to undermine the Vietnamese revolution, particularly in the ideological, cultural, ethnic, and religious fields.

Subjective causes:

First, some Party committees, Party organizations, cadres, Party members, civil servants, and public employees have a limited understanding of the role of ideological work in areas with large Catholic populations.

Second, political and ideological education conducted by some Party committees and Party organizations within commune-level Party committees in

areas with large Catholic populations in the Southeastern region has, at times, been formalistic and rigid, overly theoretical, lacking in depth, and insufficiently responsive to the specific psychological characteristics and cultural and religious life of the Catholic population.

Third, the capacity to grasp the ideological situation, public opinion, and the legitimate thoughts, concerns, and aspirations of the Catholic population has, at times, been slow and insufficiently timely.

Fourth, the identification, cultivation, and admission of reputable individuals, religious dignitaries, religious functionaries, and people of Catholic origin in Catholic communities into the Party remain fraught with difficulties and obstacles, while fundamental and comprehensive solutions have yet to be developed. Coordination between grassroots Party organizations and local authorities, the Vietnam Fatherland Front, and socio-political organizations in mass mobilization and in grasping the ideological situation has, at times, lacked synchronization and close connectivity.

3.2.2.2. Issues Arising

First, ideological work conducted by commune-level Party committees in areas with large Catholic populations in the Southeastern region faces increasingly demanding requirements in the current period, while the qualifications, competence, and qualities of cadres responsible for ideological work at the grassroots level remain limited and inadequate.

Second, there exists a contradiction between the content and methods of influence employed in ideological work by commune-level Party committees in areas with large Catholic populations in the Southeastern region and the cultural and religious characteristics of the target groups.

Third, there exists a contradiction between the content of ideological work and the needs of its target groups in commune-level Party committees in areas with large Catholic populations in the Southeastern region.

Fourth, ideological work conducted by commune-level Party committees in areas with large Catholic populations in the Southeastern region in the current period must contend with hostile forces exploiting issues of democracy, human rights, ethnicity, and religion to undermine national unity, sow division, and oppose the Party and the State.

Fifth, the subjects, groups, and forces participating in ideological work are becoming increasingly diverse, while coordination, connectivity, and mutual support among them remain subject to numerous limitations and inadequacies.

Chapter 4
ORIENTATIONS AND KEY SOLUTIONS FOR IMPROVING THE QUALITY OF IDEOLOGICAL WORK OF COMMUNE-LEVEL PARTY COMMITTEES IN AREAS WITH LARGE CATHOLIC POPULATIONS IN THE SOUTHEASTERN REGION TOWARDS 2035

4.1. FORECAST OF FACTORS AFFECTING AND ORIENTATIONS FOR IMPROVING THE QUALITY OF IDEOLOGICAL WORK OF COMMUNE-LEVEL PARTY COMMITTEES IN AREAS WITH LARGE CATHOLIC POPULATIONS IN THE SOUTHEASTERN REGION TOWARDS 2035

4.1.1. Forecast of Factors Affecting the Quality of Ideological Work of Commune-Level Party Committees in Areas with Large Catholic Populations in the Southeastern Region towards 2035

First, impacts arising from the development of the scientific and technological revolution and digital transformation.

Second, impacts arising from socio-economic development following 40 years of Renewal.

Third, impacts arising from the requirements of building a clean and strong Party and political system, particularly in the context of the operation of the two-tier local government model.

Fourth, impacts arising from the historical and social characteristics of the Southeastern region and the current context.

Fifth, impacts arising from the subversive activities of hostile forces.

4.1.2. Orientations for Improving the Quality of Ideological Work of Commune-Level Party Committees in Areas with Large Catholic Populations in the Southeastern Region towards 2035

First, steadfastly adhering to and creatively applying Marxism-Leninism, Ho Chi Minh Thought, and the theoretical foundations of the Party's Renewal policy.

Second, strengthening Party building and rectification and building a clean and strong political system.

Third, enhancing the capacity of the entities responsible for ideological work and promoting the pioneering and exemplary role of cadres and Party members.

Fourth, attaching importance to training and professional development to improve the qualifications and competence of the contingent of full-time cadres responsible for ideological work.

Fifth, strengthening the protection of the Party's ideological foundation and combating and refuting wrong and hostile viewpoints.

Sixth, effectively addressing the practical needs of the People, including the Catholic population.

4.2. KEY SOLUTIONS FOR IMPROVING THE QUALITY OF IDEOLOGICAL WORK OF COMMUNE-LEVEL PARTY COMMITTEES IN AREAS WITH LARGE CATHOLIC POPULATIONS IN THE SOUTHEASTERN REGION TOWARDS 2035

4.2.1. Enhancing the Awareness and Sense of Responsibility of Party Committees, Party Organizations, Cadres, and Party Members in Commune-Level Party Committees in Areas with Large Catholic Populations in the Southeastern Region Regarding the Role of Ideological Work and the Improvement of Its Quality

4.2.2. Renewing the Content, Forms, and Methods of Conducting Ideological Work of Commune-Level Party Committees in Areas with Large Catholic Populations in the Southeastern Region

4.2.3. Improving the Quality of the Contingent of Party Committee Members, Full-Time Cadres Responsible for Ideological Work, and Reporters and Propagandists at the Commune Level

4.2.4. Strengthening Leadership and Direction, Inspection and Supervision, and Coordination in Conducting Ideological Work of Commune-Level Party Committees in Areas with Large Catholic Populations in the Southeastern Region

4.2.5. Increasing Investment in Physical Facilities and Equipment and Promoting Digital Transformation in Ideological Work of Commune-Level Party Committees in Areas with Large Catholic Populations in the Southeastern Region

4.2.6. Leading and Promoting the Role of Religious Organizations, Religious Dignitaries, Religious Functionaries, and Core Catholic Forces in Participating in Ideological Work

CONCLUSION

Ideological work is one of the Party's foremost leadership activities and an integral component of all aspects of the Party's work. It plays a crucial role in building a strong Party politically, ideologically, ethically, organizationally, and in terms of its cadre contingent. It is also a key field in building and consolidating the ideological foundation of the political system, serving as a pioneering force that leads the way in the cause of constructing and defending the socialist Vietnamese Fatherland.

Ideological work conducted by commune-level Party committees in areas with large Catholic populations in the Southeastern region comprises a range of activities undertaken by commune-level Party committees to influence the thoughts, sentiments, perceptions, and ideological awareness of cadres, Party members, and the People. These activities aim to bring about positive changes in their awareness and actions in implementing the Party's political line and guidelines, the State's policies and laws, as well as the local and grassroots-level guidelines, resolutions, and political tasks. They also seek to enhance intellectual capacity, foster solidarity and unity within Party committees, and build consensus among the People, thereby ensuring the successful implementation of the Party's political line and guidelines, the State's policies and laws, particularly those concerning religious affairs, directives and resolutions issued by higher-level Party committees, and the political tasks of commune-level Party committees. Therefore, improving the quality of ideological work conducted by commune-level Party committees in areas with large Catholic populations in the Southeastern region plays an exceptionally important role in translating the Party's political line, guidelines, and resolutions, as well as the State's policies and laws, into practice; promoting the People's voluntary and conscious actions; encouraging their active participation in revolutionary movements; and ensuring the successful implementation of the Party's political line and guidelines, the State's policies and laws, and the local and grassroots-level guidelines, resolutions, and political tasks.

In recent years, commune-level Party committees in areas with large Catholic populations in the Southeastern region have actively carried out ideological work and introduced measures and solutions to improve its quality in response to the requirements and tasks of the new period. These efforts have encouraged and motivated cadres, Party members, and the People to successfully implement the Party's political line and guidelines and the State's policies and laws, while strengthening national and religious solidarity. Nevertheless, the quality of ideological work conducted by these commune-level Party committees still exhibits certain shortcomings and limitations, and in some respects and localities, it has yet to meet the requirements and tasks. In the coming years, improving the quality of ideological work conducted by commune-level Party committees in areas with large Catholic populations in the Southeastern region requires the coordinated and comprehensive implementation of the solutions proposed in this dissertation, thereby helping meet the requirements of the new period.

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