Preface

The 24th issue (2026) of *Icoana Credinței. International Journal of Interdisciplinary Scientific Research (IFIJISR)* presents a collection of articles addressing diverse themes related to theology and Christian spiritual life.

The opening article, "*HERESIES OF THE APOSTOLIC AGE, OBSTACLES IN THE PATH OF FAITH UNITY: SIMON MAGUS (THE MAGICIAN)*," by Rev. Prof. PhD Adrian D. COVAN, examines Simon Magus, a historical figure from the first century who was an influential magician and the founder of Simonianism, an early Gnostic sect. The next article, "*IMAGO DEI AND THE ONTOLOGICAL CRISIS OF CONTEMPORARY MAN: A PATRISTIC PERSPECTIVE*," by Rev. Bogdan Mohor OBREJA and Rev. Prof. PhD George Daniel PETROV, explores how technological progress, transhumanism, and gender ideology have transformed the traditional conception of the human person, shifting the understanding of humanity from a being existing in communion to a self-referential project of self-constitution. In "*LIBERATION FROM THE PASSIONS, VIRTUE, SPIRITUAL KNOWLEDGE, AND THE VISION OF THE UNCREATED LIGHT*," Rev. Prof. PhD Marin BUGIULESCU examines the thought of Saint Gregory Palamas, who distinguishes between knowledge of God attained through the intellect, corresponding to affirmative theology derived from created things; knowledge beyond the intellect, attained through the negation of all things; and a third, superior form of knowledge, attained through union with God. In "*PHILANTHROPY AND SOCIAL COMMITMENT IN CHURCH HISTORY AND DOCTRINE: PATRISTIC LANDMARKS AND MODERN EVOLUTIONS*," Rev. Prof. PhD Petre-Octavian TUCĂ explores the enduring significance of active social commitment as a fundamental dimension of Christian ecclesiology since the formation of the earliest Christian communities. The foundation of this mission lies in the evangelical commandment of love. Throughout history, the Church has transformed charity from a simple charitable act into a lasting spiritual value. In "*THE FORMATION OF THE CONTEMPORARY PRAYERFUL ETHOS IN THE LIGHT OF THE LUKAN WRITINGS: FROM BIBLICAL EXEGESIS TO THE SPIRITUAL PEDAGOGY OF THE CHURCH*," Rev. Ciprian STANCA proposes a synthetic and practical reading of the Lukan theology of prayer. The article traces the trajectory from the exegetical conclusions drawn from the study of Luke–Acts to their reception in the patristic tradition and examines their implications for the spiritual pedagogy of the contemporary Church. In "*THE LOGOS AS THE FOUNDATION OF THE INTELLIGIBILITY OF CREATION*," Rev. Prof. PhD Alexandru-Corneliu ARION examines the theological significance of the Logos as the creative, intelligible, and unifying principle of creation within the biblical and patristic traditions, with particular emphasis on the theology of Saint Maximus the Confessor. The article "*THE CIVILISATION OF SECURITY OR THE CERTAINTY OF FEAR? A SOCIO-SPIRITUAL PERSPECTIVE*," by Rev. Prof. PhD Ioan-Tănase CHIȘ, offers an interdisciplinary analysis of social dynamics, arguing that such an approach provides significant opportunities for objectivity and establishes the conditions for an in-depth examination of contemporary realities.

Together, these studies provide valuable insights into contemporary epistemology and the challenges facing our society, while highlighting the enduring importance of faith in shaping our understanding of the world and the pursuit of knowledge.

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