

## Preface

The 23rd issue (2026) of Icoana Credinței. International Journal of Interdisciplinary Scientific Research (IFIJISR) presents a collection of articles on diverse themes related to Theology and Christian spiritual life.

The inaugural paper, “Our Lady of Lourdes and some spontaneous healing: a transdisciplinary perspective,” by Paulo Nuno MARTINS, analyzes the Marian apparitions at Lourdes in relation to those of Fátima and Guadalupe and examines the phenomenon of spontaneous healings at Lourdes, including medically unexplained cases, from a transdisciplinary perspective. The next paper, “Artificial intelligence – a new era of humanity or its end? An orthodox theological perspective,” by Alin PLEȘA and Florea ȘTEFAN, examines artificial intelligence from an Orthodox theological perspective, exploring its anthropological and ethical implications in light of patristic teaching on the human person, dignity, and communion.

Marius BALABAN and George D. PETROV, in “The Eucharistic Theology of Communion and Deification: the mystical, ecclesiological and soteriological dimensions of the Holy Eucharist within the Orthodox Tradition” examines the Holy Eucharist as the center of the Church’s life, emphasizing its theological, mystical, and ecclesiological significance as the sacrament of communion with Christ and the anticipation of the Kingdom of God. Adrian COVAN, in “Η εις άδου κάθοδος – The Icon of the Transfiguration of the existential state (Καθάσταση)” explores the theological significance of Christ’s Descent into Hades, highlighting its biblical foundations and its central role in Christian soteriology as the victory over death and the liberation of the righteous. In “Preaching as Communion. Orthodox Homiletics and the renewal of Christian witness today,” Anton SAVELOVICI examines Orthodox homiletics through the paradigm of communion, emphasizing preaching as a liturgical and ecclesial act that unites patristic tradition with contemporary pastoral challenges to foster spiritual renewal and communion in the Church.

Alexandru-Corneliu ARION, in “Neagoe Basarab: Shaping the soul of Romanian culture and spirituality” explores the life and legacy of Neagoe Basarab, highlighting his cultural, spiritual, and political contributions through The Teachings to His Son Theodosius and the Curtea de Argeș Monastery, which established him as a model Christian ruler and led to his canonization by the Romanian Orthodox Church.

The article “Cremation in Christian moral evaluation”, by Leontin POPESCU, examines the theological and anthropological significance of funeral rites, presenting them as an expression of human dignity, respect for the deceased, and humanity’s enduring response to the mystery of death. Lastly, Cristian GAGU, in “The Icon and the Dogma.

Deviations from the Orthodox Faith of western iconography and influences on eastern iconography”, examines the influence of post-schism Western theological doctrines on Orthodox iconography, analyzing the adoption of Western iconographic themes despite their rejection by Orthodox theology.

Together, these studies offer a coherent Christian perspective on both the challenges of contemporary society and the perennial truths of the Church’s faith and tradition.

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