

## Preface

The 14th issue of *Icoana Credinței* (*Icon of Faith*), *International Journal of Interdisciplinary Scientific Research* (IFIJISR) encompasses a group of articles on various themes, dedicated to the areas of Theology, Philosophy, and Religion.

The commencing paper: “THE FALL FROM THE EDENIC STATE OR THE EPOS OF AN UNFILLED LONGING.”, by Fr. Prof. PhD Adrian D. COVAN, underscores the probably most coveted, at an inner level, revelation of mankind, namely the image of the (lost) paradise. Heaven has not ceased to be the object of the deepest ponderings and analyses of man. The amazing arborescence of the interpretations is based upon the first verses of the initial book of the Bible, that portray the splendor of the Garden of Eden in vivid colors. Those texts have become, one by one, sources of inspiration for Judaism, Christianity, and Islam alike.

The next paper belonging to Fr. Prof. PhD Nicușor TUCĂ is “KENOTIC THEOLOGY IN THE EASTERN CHURCH HYMNS”. The consequences of the hypostatic union form the object of most of the hymns of the divine cult of the Eastern Church. The Orthodox teaching is against a radical kenosis that would nullify the sense of Jesus’ Embodiment as overflowing of the divine energies in the world and in mankind.

Fr. PhD Charles NDHLOVU, FROM Pontifical University of Salesianum in Rome, signs the paper: “PREACHING OF JESUS VIS-À-VIS LASSWELIAN THEORY”. The author presents the idea that in the present life God reveal himself to humankind in a mediated way. He has done this through different means which we call medium of God’s communication to the human person. And this mediation happens in the context of the world, in the existential categories of life.

The subsequent paper, signed by Assoc. Prof. PhD Dragoș Corneliu BĂLAN, bears the title: “DESCRIPTION AND EVALUATION REGARDING THE HOLY MYSTERY OF PRIESTHOOD IN ROMAN CATHOLICISM”. The author stresses out that Eastern theology makes no abstraction of jurisdiction and canon law, yet, jurisdiction depends on grace, not grace on jurisdiction, contrary to what some Western Church theologians would suggest in certain works.

The next article, by Assoc. Prof. PhD. Ion Marian CROITORU: “DEACON CORESI AND HIS ACTIVITY AS A PRINTER IN THE CONTEXT OF THE 16TH CENTURY PROTESTANT PROPAGANDA” outlined that the protestant propaganda was expecting, through the nationalization of the cult of the Orthodox Church and the printing activity of deacon Coresi, to discover, in the Romanians’ conscience, elements able to awaken in them a certain spiritual crisis, which, fortunately, did not happen.

Rev. Prof. PhD Alexandru-Corneliu ARION signs the interdisciplinary paper: A FASCINATING SYNTHESIS OF SCIENCE, THEOLOGY, AND SPIRITUALITY: ST. GREGORY PALAMAS. The holy Father has realized a «Summa Theologica» of his age, a synthesis of philosophical and theological knowledge, at least for the Eastern Christianity. Thus, *science* explores the world and leads to technological inventions, *theology* interprets reality within the Christian framework, evidencing the glory of God as reflected throughout his creation, and *spirituality* is the privileged path toward personal transformation.

Lastly, PhD Student Edvica POPA signs the paper ”MAN AND HIS QUALITY AS AN IMAGE OF GOD IN PATRISTIC THINKING”, whose central idea is the notion of divine image, described by the patristic literature, each of the authors trying to identify the content of this peculiar trait of human being.

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