

Preface

The 11th issue of *Pro Edu. International Journal of Educational Sciences* (June 2024) tries to call the readers' attention to interesting perspectives on attractive educational and spiritual issues.

The first paper, *WHEN WAS ASEMUS (MOESIA SECUNDA) ELEVATED TO THE STATUS OF POLIS/CIVITAS AND ESTABLISHED AS AN EPISCOPAL SEE?*, having Ionuț HOLUBEANU as author, analyzes the information provided by the Byzantine historians and examines data from the Notitiae episcopate of the Church of Constantinople and Hierocles's Synecdemus. The elevation of Asemus to a *polis/civitas* created the necessary social and organizational framework for structured educational activities.

The second paper - *THE THEOLOGICAL SIGNIFICANCE OF GOOD AS A MEASURE OF HUMAN FULFILLMENT IN CONTEMPORARY SOCIETY* -, written by Petre-Octavian TUCĂ, Dragoș BĂLAN and Nicușor TUCĂ, has in its core the idea that apart from *God*, nothing can be "better", and material prosperity cannot bring happiness. In this sense, education can empower individuals to make informed choices about what they believe constitutes a truly good and fulfilling life, potentially integrating theological insights with their engagement in the contemporary world.

The next paper, *THE IMPORTANCE OF THE HOLINESS OF PRIEST'S LIFE - A MORAL AND SPIRITUAL APPROACH*, was proposed by PhD. Ionuț MÎLCOMETE, and underlined the priest's duty to put into practice the sanctifying divine commandments in his own life, and then, through the example of his sanctified life, to help the faithful to walk on the peace-bringing path of holiness. In the vision of Saint John Chrysostom, the sanctity of the priest's life is a *sine qua non* condition for a successful spiritual ministry. The moral and spiritual integrity of the priest is a living pedagogy, demonstrating the transformative power of faith and the importance of striving for sanctity.

The fourth paper, *ACADEMIC ASSESSMENT - THE STUDENTS' VOICE*, proposed by Luminița Mihaela DRĂGHICESCU and Ioana STĂNCESCU, presents an investigative approach having the aim of identifying students' perceptions on the assessment system experienced in the Psycho-pedagogical training programs. Improving assessment practices used in higher education requires the commitment of teachers and students, especially if the latter category aspire to a teaching profession and want to implement an assessment system that supports motivation for learning.

The next paper, signed by Vincentas LAMANAUSKAS, addresses actual issues related to *POSITION OF PRESERVICE PRESCHOOL AND PRIMARY SCHOOL TEACHERS ON THE USE OF AI IN THE STUDY PROCESS: STRENGTHS, OPPORTUNITIES, WEAKNESSES AND THREATS*, and presents one research that concludes the necessity to integrate the AI teaching/learning components into study programs, able to develop students' competencies for effectively using of AI tools. AI can be an effective tool for improving educational processes, but there is a need for clear ethical guidelines to ensure the responsible use of AI.

The last paper - *EXPLORING THE ADVANTAGES AND DISADVANTAGES OF ONLINE CONTINUOUS PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT FOR TEACHERS* - written by Roxana Constanța ENACHE, Laura Monica GORGHIU, Ana Maria Aurelia PETRESCU, and Gabriel GORGHIU, tries to identify the advantages and disadvantages of the online format of continuing professional training for teachers, concluding with several recommendations designed to improve the efficiency and long-term viability of in-service teacher training initiatives. In the end of this number, Ionel PAPUC introduces a book - *THE ROLE OF DIDACTIC GAMES IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF COMMUNICATION IN PRESCHOOL CHILDREN* - written by Ionuț VLĂDESCU, in which there are addressed issues concerning the child's development at preschool age, the role of playing in the development of communication, and the importance of using didactic games in the development of communication in preschool children. At the same time, aspects related to the importance of language education, communication in preschool children, and the role of playing games as basic activities in preschool education are underlined.

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