

Preface

The 12th 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: “JESUS PRAYER, THE KERNEL OF THE ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN SPIRITUALITY”, by Fr. Prof. PhD Alexandru-Corneliu **ARION**, under the form: “Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on me, a sinner” shows that the practice of the heart prayer consists in giving way to the burning of the heart by grace and by practicing unceasingly the virtue of watchfulness (nepsis). Jesus prayer is becoming means for the union of the mind with the soul, and thus, with God, due to the frequent practice of it, that would divert the soul from sinful deeds and draw it to an essential self-knowledge. The Name of Jesus, present in the human heart, communicates to it the power of deification (theosis). The next paper belonging to Rev. Prof. PhD. Leontin **POPESCU** is “SUFFERING, AS A TESTIMONY OF FREEDOM”. Almost all thinkers in the history of mankind exhibited a real interest in the issue of evil and suffering that accompany man’s life from his birth to death. Many a thinker, from different perspectives, have tried to unravel the mystery of suffering, to reach a deep understanding of it or, even, to identify ways to remove it. Pain, suffering and fear for death are part and parcel of the most profound religious anthropology. Suffering, evaluated individually, may be considered as a paradigm for mankind and this is due to its inseparable link with existence and, consequently with freedom.

Assoc. Prof. PhD. Ion Marian **CROITORU** signs the paper: “MESSAGES OF THE THREE HOLY HIERARCHS – BASIL THE GREAT, GREGORY THE THEOLOGIAN, AND JOHN CHRYSOSTOM FOR THE CONTEMPORARY WORLD”. The author presents their contribution to the growth of the Church’ teaching, through the formulation of a theological Weltanschauung, that represented a radical change in the core thinking of man of their time. The three hierarchs highlight the fact that the Christian faith is founded on the holy-spiritual experience of the grace-based work of the Holy Trinity and is expressed by dogmas and concrete ascetic and liturgical forms, creating a manner of a totally new way of living.

The subsequent paper, signed by Rocco A. **ASTORE**, Lecturer of Philosophy, bears the title: “A SHORT REJECTION OF THE INNATE IDEAS OF DESCARTES THROUGH THE EPISTEMOLOGICAL SCOPE OF HUME”. Descartes asserts that the so-called inherent idea of God derives from God and that the mind can establish this notion as well as the surety of its supposed innate ideas of immortality and identity. But Hume’s Empiricist understanding of ideas challenge the Cartesian view that notions like God, and soul may be so innate.

The next article unfolded by Assist. Prof. PhD Florin **VÂRLAN**, is entitled: “FROM THE MEMORY OF HISTORY: EVAGRIUS PONTICUS AND HIS WRITINGS IN THE PREOCCUPATIONS OF PATRIARCH IUSTIN MOISESCU”. In fact, he presented his outstanding PhD thesis: “Evagrius Ponticus. Life, Writings and Teachings”, in 1937 in Athens, under the guidance of the distinguished Greek patrologist Dimitrios Balanos. Prof. PhD. Marian **BUGIULESCU** signs the paper: THE PRESENCE OF SAINT APOSTLE ANDREW IN SCITYA- A HISTORICAL REALITY OF THE ROMANIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH. Lastly, Lecturer Assist. Adrian **IGNAT** signs the paper SCIENCE AND RELIGION ON THE ENVIRONMENTAL CRISIS”.

The central idea present the scientific and religious community should cooperate for the benefit of society and the environment.

June 2020

Co-editor Prof. PhD Alexandru-Corneliu **ARION**