

Preface

The 22nd issue (2025) of *Icon of Faith (Icoana Crediței)*, *International Journal of Interdisciplinary Scientific Research (IFIJISR)*, presents a collection of articles on diverse themes related to Theology and Christian life.

The inaugural paper, “The Mystery of Deification and the Flame of Prayer in the Vision of Saint Symeon the New Theologian,” by Alexandru-C. Arion, analyzes the personality of St. Symeon, who lived around the time of the Great Schism and developed a profound mysticism centered on divine light, love, and prayer as the path to union with God. For him, true Christian life requires the experience of illumination and deification, an inner transfiguration by grace, where personal mystical encounters are inseparably woven into the life of the Church.

The next paper, “The Holy Scripture or the ‘Incorporation’ of the Divine Logos (Word of God) within the Word,” by Adrian D. Covan, examines the Bible, long challenged by skeptics and modern critics. Despite attacks from science, psychology, and politics, it continues to inspire and guide humanity with the same relevance it held from the day it was written. Antonino Drago, in “Science as an Essentially Pluralist Enterprise: The Need for a Choice by a Theology Scholar,” explores two fundamental dichotomies underlying science, demonstrated through the history of classical mechanics, particularly in the works of Lazare Carnot and Leibniz. By tracing their impact on Western philosophy and modern physics, the paper highlights their lasting significance and draws insights into the ethical dimensions of science.

In “1700 Years since the Formulation of the Nicene Creed,” Petre-O. Tucă and Nicușor Tucă stress that this enduring Symbol of Faith embodies a profound unity of Scripture, Tradition, and Church, expressing the Orthodox understanding of the Holy Trinity for over seventeen centuries. Cristian Gagu, in “Did the Bishop of Tomis Participate in the First Ecumenical Council?” examines the debated participation of the bishop of Scythia Minor at the First Ecumenical Council. By analyzing council signatory lists, Byzantine chronicles, and key studies, the paper offers hypotheses and conclusions without claiming definitive answers.

Rafael Stanciu, in “The Dogmatic, Patristic and Liturgical Value of the First Ecumenical Council of Nicaea: The Foundation of Orthodoxy in the Face of the Arian Heresy,” explores the council’s historical and theological context, its integration into liturgy and iconography, and its enduring relevance against modern challenges such as secularization, relativism, and interfaith dialogue. Anton Savelovici, in “Spiritual Rhetoric: Ethics and Aesthetics of Orthodox Preaching,” examines the inseparable link between ethics and aesthetics in Orthodox preaching, showing how the preacher’s spiritual integrity and harmonious expression of truth transform both the message and the community, revealing divine beauty through word and life.

Lastly, Mihai-Viorel Hirt, in “Islam and Its Influence on Europe Today,” explores Islam’s complex role in shaping contemporary Europe, challenging stereotypes of conflict by highlighting its impact on identity, secularism, and multiculturalism.

Content of the current issue is a good and interesting opportunity to reading research on specific themes presented in the journal book, which is open for constructive ideas for Christian view point.