

## Preface

The 16<sup>th</sup> issue year 2022 of *Icon of Faith (Icoana Credinței)*, *International Journal of Interdisciplinary Scientific Research (IFIJISR)* encompasses a group of articles on various themes, dedicated to the areas of Theology and Christian life.

The commencing paper: *TESTIMONIES OF THE HOLY FATHERS DURING THE FIRST THREE CENTURIES ON DEATH AND THE RESURRECTION OF THE DEAD*, by Fr. Prof. Ph.D. Leontin POPESCU, present the mystery of death. . The Christian proposition regarding the victory over the reign of death comes out of the Easter experience, when the God of life, and loving life, unites mankind to the point of vanquishing the reign of their mutual enemy, but exceeding it by Christ's resurrection, who becomes an archetype for the entire humanity. The faith in resurrection bestows meaning upon this great Sacrament of life: namely that death is not destruction, disappearance, but meeting again. The subsequent paper, signed by Prof. Ph.D. Gheorghe F. ANGHELESCU, bears the title: *TIME AS RESPITE FOR DISCERNING AND BEGINNING ETERNAL COMMUNION WITH GOD*. At the beginning of the Holy Apostles' mission, Greek philosophy was dominated by ideas of permanence and return. Despite the great variety of existing trends, a common model seemed to be accepted in all the systems: the vision of an eternal cosmos. The next paper belonging to Prof. Rodica Elena SOARE (GHEORGHIU) is *BYZANTINE PUBLIC POLICIES: CHARISTIKE*. The institutional strengthening of monasticism as derived from the iconoclastic period, increased the popular piety towards the monks through that of the upper Byzantine social classes, the civil and military aristocracy and the imperial circle. This led to a substantial increase in the number of monasteries from the ninth to the twelfth centuries.

Professor Ph.D. Peter. O. O. OTTUH, signs the paper: *AN EVALUATION OF RELIGIOUS SKEPTICISM IN RELATION TO HUMAN SUFFERING AND PAIN: TOWARDS A THEODICAL SYNTHESIS*. The issue of human suffering and pain might be seen as a variant of the basic problem of evil. The evidential question of evil has been a heated topic in the philosophy of religion. It concluded that suffering and pain are possible catalysts for a search for meaning in life and God, as well as a test of faith, hence, religious traditions should not restrict medical interventions. Fr. Prof. Ph.D. Dragoș Corneliu BĂLAN, propose the paper: *DIVINE FREEDOM – THE BASIS OF THE REGENERATION OF HUMAN FREEDOM*. Freedom is inscribed, in fact, in the human being. Lastly, Fr. Prof. Ph.D. Marin BUGIULESCU, signs the dogmatic paper: *THE THEOLOGICAL ANTHROPOLOGY OF SAINT GREGORY OF NYSSA*. The dilemma in which humanity finds itself when it tries to rationally discover what belongs to God and man can only be solved in the golden mystery given by divine revelation, therefore, no matter how advanced from a scientific point of view, it would human thinking, "face to face" with the divine-human indescribability, collapses into derisive reasonings and sophisms that do nothing but deceive through equivocal answers, deepening the mystery, even more, placing man and God in radically different frames.

Therefore, the content of the current issue is a good invitation to reading research on specific themes presented in the journal book. *Icon of Faith- International Journal of Interdisciplinary Scientific Research* lends expression to competent voices of researchers from different countries worldwide in order to promote an excellent scientific community interested in a dynamic Christian tradition and culture, open for a constructive dialogue.

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Editor Prof. Ph.D. Marian BUGIULESCU,