

Preface

The 19th issue year 2024 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: *THE ART OF ICON IN THE CONSTANTINIAN ERA – PATRISTIC FOUNDATION OF THE ICON*, by Rev. Prof. PhD. Cristian GAGU, present the evolution of the older iconographic themes, to identify and shed light on the new iconographic themes, their sources and also their concordance with the teaching of faith synthesized and systematized by the Church during the ecumenical councils from Nicaea (325), Constantinople (381), Ephesus (431) and Chalcedon (451), whose teaching is transmitted through these iconographic themes.

The subsequent paper, *DOGMA AND DOXOLOGY. THE ROLE AND IMPORTANCE OF HYMNOLOGY IN ORTHODOX SPIRITUALITY* is signed by Rev. Assoc. Prof. PhD. MIHAI HIMCINSCHI. The study present a complementary relationship between theology and doxology in the Orthodox Church, which, as complex as it is, is at the same time subtle because the translation of the dogmatic content into poetic hymns, or worship songs, took shape following a direct charismatic experience between their authors and the work of the Holy Spirit. Prof. Giovanni FAZIO, Dr. Francesca RIOTTO, signs the paper: *CAN THE SHROUD OF TURIN IMPROVE THE UNDERSTANDING OF THE SACRED TEXTS?* The quantity of aromas brought by Nicodemus to the Sepulcher, also using research results on the Shroud of Turin. In the Gospel of John we read about 100 pounds. Nicodemus, a member of the Sanhedrin and a secret follower of Jesus, would have brought that quantity with the intention of using it. Authors investigated the Gospels, the presence of aromas and the one of pollens and concluded that the above mixture of aloe and myrrh were absent on the Shroud. The next paper belonging to Fr. Prof. PhD. MIHAI HIMCINSCHI, PhD Candidate Claudiu-Daniel POPA, is: *THE CULTURAL-MISSIONARY ACTIVITY OF THE ROMANIAN ORTHODOX BROTHERHOOD AND THE CHOIR OF THE ORTHODOX PARISH IN AIUD AT THE BEGINNING OF THE 20TH CENTURY*. After that PhD. Candidate Fr. Gabriel V. CIOFU signs the paper *THE ANCIENT OF DAYS – ICONIC CIRCUMSCRIPTION OF THE FATHER OR THE SON? Who is the Ancient of Days? Most of the Eastern Church Fathers who comment on the passage in Daniel (7.9-14) interpreted (in the light of Revelation 1.10-18) the elderly figure as a prophetic revelation of the Son before His physical incarnation*. PhD. Candidate Fr. Andrei Alexandru GRIGORESCU signs the paper: *THE SOCIO-CULTURAL CONTEMPORANEITY AND ITS INTERACTION WITH CHRISTIAN MORALITY*. In the midst of a secularized ethos, the rejection of moral reference points often results in a misguided sense of liberation. This article delves into the conflict between Christian Orthodox morality and secular ethics, emphasizing the detrimental consequences of sidelining the Church's guidance. Lastly, Fr. Prof. Ph.D. Anton SAVELOVICI, signs the paper: *FAITH IN GOD – AN ESSENTIAL COMPONENT OF TODAY'S YOUTH EDUCATION*. Religious education is not in conflict with science and scientific knowledge, but responds to the inner needs of young people, which are particularly concerned with the heavenly and eternal dimension.

Therefore, the 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 a constructive dialogue between Sciences, Religion & Education.

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Editor Rev. Marian BUGIULESCU