

## Preface

The 18th issue year 2023 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 PRACTICE OF PRAYER IN THE JERUSALEM CHURCH ACCORDING TO THE BOOK OF ACTS*, by Prof. Ph.D. Daniel AYUCH, present the different aspects of prayer in the Early Church that sojourned in Jerusalem as we read it mainly in the first eight chapters of Acts. *With prayer, the Church is omnipotent because it allows the power of God to reside among the brothers and sisters, for whom everything becomes possible (Lk 1,37)*. The subsequent paper, *THE MOTHER OF THE LORD JESUS CHRIST IN THE ORTHODOX HYMNOGRAPHY* is signed by Prof. Ph.D. Petre Octavian TUCĂ & Nicușor TUCĂ. *The person of the Mother of the Lord is put in strict connection to her Son, the second Person of the Holy Trinity, highlighting her participation to His redeeming work. She is so glorified in the liturgical hymns of the Orthodox rite, that the stichera to her glorification adorn each page of our ritual books*. Fr. Phd. Ioan-Tănase CHIȘ signs the paper: *IS CHRISTIANITY STILL UP-TO-DATE? AN ANTHROPOLOGICAL ARGUMENT*. *In a world dominated by newness, the question we start with is inevitable: is Christianity still relevant today? For believers and religious affiliates, the question is superfluous; but it falls to them to deliver valid answers, even to such rhetoric. Man is the immediate reality, impossible to neglect, which is the concern of both believers (a being destined to fulfilment through deification, legitimised as a person by God) and non-believers (a being legitimised by itself)*. The next paper belonging to Fr. Phd. Cristian Florin BUTE, have the title *MOVEMENT AND ITS STABILITY AS AN ARGUMENT FOR CREATION, IN THE CAPPADOCIAN FATHERS*. *The Cappadocian Fathers consider that the orderly movement of creatures and, especially, the stability of heavenly bodies is an indication of the existence of the Creator and divine providence*. Vasile CĂPÎLNEAN signs the paper *CONFESSIONAL INTERFERENCES IN TRANSYLVANIA. AN OVERVIEW OF THE SCIENTIFIC LITERATURE ON THE PHENOMENON OF LITURGICAL INTERCHANGES IN THE 16TH AND 17TH CENTURIES*. *The Transylvanian Orthodox Church seems to have borrowed a lot of non-Orthodox practices from the confessions it lived with during the 16th-17th centuries, influences that can still be identified today*. Ph.D. Student Cosmin Iulian CÎRSTEA, signs the paper: *THE UNION OF MAN AND CREATION WITH GOD, REFLECTED IN THE "MEDITATIONS" OF SAINT MAXIM THE CONFESSOR*. *The union of man and creation with God, reflected in the "meditations" of St Maximus Confessor. God created all that exists out of love, wishing to share His eternally good existence with all creation*. Prof. Ph.D. George Daniel PETROV, signs the paper *THE HUMAN BEING – A BEING OF GRACE AND A DIALOGICAL STRUCTURE*. *Today the definition of the human being as a being of grace with a dialogical structure is imperative, because of contemporary challenges that threaten the person with desacralization, reducing him or her from the crown of creation to a simple egocentric individual heading towards nowhere*. Lastly, Ph.D. Ionuț MÎLCOMETE sign the paper: *ORTHODOX GNOSEOLOGY REFLECTED IN THE HOLY GOSPEL OF SAINT JOHN THE APOSTLE AND EVANGELIST*.

Therefore, the content of the current issue is a good and interesting opportunity to reading research on specific themes presented in the journal book, exhibited in a dynamic Christian tradition, Sciences, Religion & Education.

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Fr. Phd. Marian BUGIULESCU