

## Preface

The 21<sup>st</sup> issue year 2025 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 PERFECTION OR MYSTICAL UNION AT THE CAPPADOCIAN SAINTS BASIL THE GREAT AND GREGORY THE THEOLOGIAN*, by Rev. Prof. PhD. Alexandru-Corneliu ARION, present the development of the Christian teaching on perfection or deification. *The Holy Three Hierarchs, Basil the Great, Gregory of Nazianzus and John Chrysostom, have remained in the consciousness of posterity as teachers and luminaries of the entire Christian Church, especially thanks to the essential contribution they had to the elaboration of the doctrine of the Holy Trinity, the true theognosy.*

The subsequent paper, *THE DEATH AND RESURRECTION OF THE SON OF GOD, PREMISES FOR THE DEIFICATION OF THE HUMAN PERSON THROUGH UNCREATED DIVINE GRACE* is signed by Rev. Prof. PhD. George Daniel PETROV. *The dichotomous structure of the human person defines her as a being who transcends time and space towards deification through grace. Nothing of the materiality of the created world could rest the soul of man, who is permanently in movement, incomprehensible to rationality, towards the Absolute.* Rev. Prof. PhD. Adrian D. COVAN, signs the paper: *HELL IS WRITTEN WITH CAPITAL LETTERS! Hell – the most terrifying place in creation! At the thought of his existence, all mankind is horrified by the prospect of eternal torments that this fearful realm promises. Most of the world's religions also contain in their doctrinal register the teaching about a certain place/state of eternal punishment.* The next paper belonging to Rev. Prof. PhD. Sorin BUTE, is: *THE CHRISTOCENTRISM OF ORTHODOX ETHICS.* *This article examines the foundational principles of Orthodox ethics, highlighting its emphasis on divinization and salvation through Christ. Unlike natural ethics, which prioritize human effort and rationality, Orthodox ethics is deeply rooted in theological concepts where the progression toward divine likeness is facilitated through God's grace and the believer's personal relationship with Christ.* After that Ph.D. Prof. Miltiade VANȚOS, signs the paper *THE FREEDOM IN CHRIST ACCORDING TO SAINT PAUL THE APOSTLE.* *This study briefly presents the Apostle Paul's concept of freedom in Christ, which is not identical with the modern understanding, which focuses primarily on its political and social dimension.* Lastly, Fr. Prof. Ph.D. Anton SAVELOVICI, signs the paper: *THE HOMILETICAL DIMENSION OF THE TEACHINGS OF ROMANIAN CONFESSOR PRIESTS OF THE 20TH CENTURY.* *The paper analyses the homiletical dimension of the teachings of Romanian confessor priests of the 20th century, highlighting the fundamental themes and specific methods used in their sermons. The historical context of the oppressive communist regime profoundly influenced the message and homiletical approaches of the servants of the Church, transforming their sermons into acts of spiritual resistance.*

*Icon of Faith. International Journal of Interdisciplinary Scientific Research*, a journal of Faculty of Orthodox Theology and Education Sciences, “Valahia” University, allows access to all readers and promotes scientific research into various fields. 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. Prof. PhD. Marian BUGIULESCU