

Mihai Himcinschi

## Editorial

Under the title *Eucharist and martyrdom. From the ancient catacombs to the communist prisons*, between 6<sup>th</sup> of May and 8<sup>th</sup> of May 2014, in the academic town Alba-Iulia, the heart of Romania, took place the debates of an important international symposium, already renowned for the international theology research as *The International Symposium on Science, Theology and Arts – ISSTA 2014*, the 13<sup>th</sup> edition.

The reasons of this conference are multiple. First, there is a necessity of exploring contemporary problems resulted from the interdisciplinarity of theological and other human sciences research. Second, there is a need of attracting research specialists and original studies in theology and applications. Third, there is a need of disseminating at an international level the results of the Romanian research school.

The presented papers came from large human sciences as political sciences, theology, sociology and social assistance. Beside the



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development of the existing research directions and a follow-up of the international cooperation between Romanian and abroad specialists, there was also intended the development of a new research direction dedicated to the possibility of applying the theoretical results from theology and political philosophy to other sciences using the principles of transdisciplinarity.

We also intended to stimulate the participation of PhD students so they may benefit of the immediate dissemination of the newest results in their fields of research, as the first beneficiaries of the conference. Last, but not least, another reason of the conference are to preserve the continuity of this scientific manifestation and propagate its results. Thus, the conference aimed to contribute to the encouragement of research, development and innovation activities, reaching the objectives mentioned above: the presentation, the dissemination and the promotion of the scientific results; the recognition of the theological research and its development degree; the integration of the Romanian scientific community inside the international one; the growth of the Romanian contribution to the international scientific patrimony; the intensification of the Romanian participation to the programmes of the European Union; the integration of the Romanian Research Area into the European Research Area; the growth of social acknowledgement upon the importance of international scientific research, the contribution of academic theology to it and the growth of originality in our own contributions.

Hence the open-access and peer-review *International Journal of Orthodox Theology* is a wonderful way to make this research visible and accessible from everywhere over the world.

The Conference, at its 13<sup>th</sup> edition, aims to ensure the continuity of this type of manifestations, the support of competitiveness and the academic cooperation between Romanian and abroad education and research institutions. This is the way to grow the visibility of the Romanian research and especially the visibility of the research performed inside the University of Alba Iulia. It also helps integrating the MA and PhD programmes in the

primary flux of the international research, attracting well-known personalities into the scientific committees: *H. Tristram Engelhardt jr.*, Price University, SUA; *Ioan Emil Jurcan*, "1 Decembrie 1918" University of Alba Iulia, Romania; *Corinna Delkeskamp-Hayes*, European Programs, International Studies in Philosophy and Medicine, Freigericht, Germany; *Nikolaos Koios*, University Ecclesiastical Academy of Thessaloniki, Chief Editor of "Pemptousia"; *Mark Cherry*, Saint Edward's University; *Nikolaus Wyrwoll*, Ostkirchliches Institut von Regensburg; *Ludwig Tavernier*, Universität Koblenz-Landau; *Thobias Nickolas*, Universität Regensburg; *Ana Iltis*, Director of the Center for Bioethics, Health and Society and Associate Professor of Philosophy at Wake Forest University; Saint Louis University; *Ryan Nash*, Department of Medicine University of Chicago; *Pascal Hämmerli*, University of Fribourg, Fribourg, Switzerland and other researchers from Romania.

In this issue of the *International Journal of Orthodox Theology* (IJOT) we publish the first part of the international results of the conference mentioned above. I would like to mention the name of the authors and the titles of the articles, just in order to underline the academical richness of this volume:

His Eminence Irineu Pop, Archbishop of Alba Iulia, Professor of Ethics at the Orthodox Theological Faculty of "December 1<sup>st</sup> 1918" University of Alba Iulia, Romania: *The Holy Eucharist – Source of Sanctifying Power and Sacrificial Love for God*; Ana S. Iltis: *Christian Martyrs of the 20th Century: Missing Links in the Golden Chain*; Mark J. Cherry, *Saints, Martyrs, and the Communist Prisons*; Mihai Himcinschi: *The Christian Martyria inside a Postmodern Society*; Marian Vilciu, Ion I. Croitoru: *The Receiving of the Divine Communion - Spiritual Need, Habit or Personal Choice*; Ciprian Streza: *The Holy Eucharist - Nourishment for the Eternal Life, and the Power to surrender one's entire Life to God*; Emil Jurcan: *A comparative Study on Eucharist and the Sacred Foods of the Major Religions*; Oliviu Petru Botoi: *The Qur'anic Image of "the Table Descended from Heaven" - an Apocryphal Reproduction of the Biblical Eucharist*;

Leontin Popescu: *The Eucharist as "Hermeneutical" Centre of the Sacramental Life of the Church*; Elena Dulgheru: *Serge Parajanov and Tengiz Abuladze: two Models of Anticommunist Testimony through Cinema in Soviet Georgia*; Gavril Trifa: *The Holy Eucharist as Fulfillment of the Human Person*; Dorin Corneliu Opris: *The Religious Experience Issues of the Members of Church Choirs. A Gender Analysis*, and Petr Balcárek: *Martyrdom of Orthodox Christians in Czechoslovakia (1945-1990) Some Preliminary Remarks, Typology and Ideas for Further Research*.

We wish all readers of the *Internatinal Journal of Orthodox Theology* a pleasant lecture.