

Preface

The 7 issue of *Icoana Credintei/ Icon of Faith* (IFIJISR) contains a group of articles with various themes, dedicated to the areas of Theology, Education, Science and Religion. The committee of authors present in the issue Number 7, Year IV (2018) of *Icoana Credinței* proposes to provide interaction within the community of thinkers, engaging in the dialog between religion and all type of science.

Thus, 1-st section: **THEOLOGY STUDIES** starts with the keynote lecture “*The Missionary Nature of the Church in the Book of Acts. An Exegetical and Theological Study*”, delivered by Professor PhD. Daniel AYUCH, at the International Conference: *Theology, Iconography, Confession: Resistance of the Church by Culture and Spirituality*, Târgoviște, 2017. In that atmosphere, the study of Fr. PhD. Marin BUGIULESCU called: “*Holy Icon – the Reality of Knowledge and Vision of God*” states the theological reflection about the icon. Holy Icon is an embodiment of the love of God, thus the central theological ground of the veneration of icons being a Christological one. Fr. PhD. Nicolae PREDA signs the paper, entitled: “*The Nominal Remembrance of Believers (Living and Dead) during the Evening Services*”, discusses the Byzantine rite of the remembrance of the living and the dead during the evening service that has “survived” only in the rule of the Lity, which was “included” in the Vespers structure but also in the Compline’s. The next paper belongs to Fr. PhD. Cosmin SANTI and brings new clues in understanding “*The passage into eternal life and the separation of the soul from the body in the Christian hymnographers’ thinking*”. This first section ends with the paper of PhD. Traian-Alexandru MIU and bears the title: “*Hesychasm– the return to the peace of the Spirit*”. The article highlights the theological doctrine about the Hesychasm, a spiritual form of recovering the peace of the Spirit, a spiritual way finding its attainment in the intimate communion with God.

The 2-nd section: **EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND RELIGION STUDIES** includes firstly Fr. PhD. Alexandru-Corneliu ARION paper: “*Relationship between Faith and Science in the Major World Religions*”, whose subject is an essential understanding of the main religions through the paradigm of their dialogue with science. The following issue, unfolded by PhD. David K. GOODIN is the “*Orthodox Theology and Empirical Science: Kant as a Bridge to the Apophatic Revelation of the Orthodox East*”. He demonstrates that the common ground for discursive exchange through exploring the apophysis aspects of Kantian transcendental theology can become a bridge to the Orthodox negative theology. Next article belongs to PhD. Ion Marian CROITORU, in which he exposes the theme: “*Father Arsenie Papacioc and the proper arrangement of spiritual life. Glimpses of his experiences in the communist prisons*”. The following paper bears the signature of PhD. Nicușor BELDIMAN, and is dedicated to a remarkable Romanian personality, the archimandrite Father Sofian Boghiu, wherein is presented the *Homiletic Profile of Father Sofian Boghiu (1912-2002)*. The section ends with PhD. candidate Iakovos MENELAOU’ paper: “*Alexios I Komnenos and his Church Policy*”. The author stresses out the great activity of Emperor Alexios I, considered an authentic protector of Orthodoxy, since he helped monasticism, fought heresies and supported the building or renovation of churches.

Therefore, the content of the current issue is a good invitation to reading theological, philosophical and moral-educational researches, and to stating the scientific aim of *Icoana Credinței*, the Journal published by Faculty of Orthodox Theology, of “Valahia” University, from Târgoviște, promoted at international level by “*Icon of Faith International Academic and Scientific Areal*” (IFIASA).

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