

Editorial

Meetings between the theologies formulated within local sister churches component of the universal Orthodox Church occur most often in the context of international Pan-Orthodox or ecumenist events, where unity of faith, or mere discerning the return to it are in the spotlight. Direct way of mutual knowledge of these theologies, in their details and inherent diversities, is regrettably far less devoted. For this reason, *Revista Teologică* is pleased to contribute to the knowledge between the Russian Orthodox theology and Romanian Orthodox theology through the publication in the present issue of the papers presented at the bilateral symposium “The Most Common Distortions of Church Life. Their Contents and Ways to Overcome Them”, organized in Moscow, within the partnership between the University” Lucian Blaga “/ Faculty of Orthodox Theology in Sibiu, Romania (FTO) and the St Philaret Christian-Orthodox Institute from Moscow (SFI), a unit of higher education in theology belonging to the non-governmental organization for promoting spiritual development “Sreten”, accredited by both the Moscow Patriarchate and the Russian state. Signed in early 2014, the partnership was inaugurated by the participation of a delegation from the SFI, consisting of Vice-rector Prof. Dr. Dmitry Gasak, accompanied by Prof. Dr. Alexandr Kopirovsky at the international symposium “The Epoch of Constantin Brancoveanu in Southeast European context: Church, Society, Geopolitics“, held in Sibiu under the auspices of the Faculty of Theology and the Institute of South-East European Studies on 12-14 June 2014. This year, it was a delegation from Sibiu – consisting of Rev. Prof. Nicholae Chifăr, Rev. Prof. Vasile Grăjdian, Rev. Prof. Ioan-Mircea Ielciu, Rev. Prof. Vasile-Sorin Dobre, Hierom. Prof. Vasile Bîrzu, and Dr. Sebastian Moldovan – to visit in turn the partner institution in the Russian Federation.

On this occasion, on 5th and 6th of June, 2015, at the seat of the St. Philaret Institute was held the symposium mentioned above, that benefited from assistance made up of teachers, graduates and students of the Institute. The following reports were presented: David Gzgzyan (SFI), “Perennial Tradition in Orthodox Theology and Practice: The Norm and Distortions”; Nicolae Chifar (FTO),

“Observing or Transgressing? Facts of Modern Church Life Vs. Canonical and Liturgical Decrees of Ecumenical Councils”; Sebastian Moldovan (FTO), “The Imperative: Norm, Law, Commandment, Command, Order, Discipline, Authority. Onthotheological Perspective”; Vladimir Yakuntsev (SFI), “The Issue of Superstitions Among Parishioners and Liberation Strategies During Catechesis. Observations of a Catechist”. The speeches were followed by extensive comments from both the SFI members and FTO members and interesting discussions on the topics presented. St Philaret Institute’s Rector, Rev. Prof. Georgy Kocetkov concluded the symposium taking it as positive and hopeful for the successful continuation of the bilateral partnership for the benefit of deepening the relations between the Orthodox Christians of the two sister Orthodox churches, Russian and Romanian.

The reports, together with the most relevant comments are published here, bilingual. It deserves to warmly thank the persons who provided translations of the materials and discussions, both at the meeting itself and in the process of editing: Alina Patrakowa and Natalia Koltsova, from Moscow, Ana Monica Cojocărescu and Alexander Dădârlat, from Sibiu.

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