

Romanian University Theological learning, at an insight watch

The Orthodox Theology Faculty “Ilarion V. Felea” from the “Aurel Vlaicu” University from Arad is honoured and pleased to adress a happy, brotherly and friendly greeting of welcome to all the participants from this six Congress of Orthodox Romanian Theology, under the generic: *Mission and Theology. The role of theology universities in the context of parish mission*. We see in this meeting a new chance which we all have, to short on the way of theological reflection and Christian responsibility what the faith Spirit wants to inspire in these prophetic times.

A Congress of Theology is a truly important event in the life of Romanian theology, but even in the thought and the conscience of the Church, because theology is a gift and a mission. The Church itself cannot be separated from the theology, which is in a way her thinking conscience. Through theology, the Church always deepens her inexhaustible treasury of the living and saving faith, articulating this in the every century context, asking to the time interrogations, but even activating with the wishes of the believers from the place and time where the mission of theology is materializing.

Through his theology, the Church confesses the fact that she is a place of salvation of people, alive and coherent, always actual and involved in people's life. Nevertheless, the Church, through theology catches in his reflection, always alive and new, the existing connections between the needs and aspirations of people everywhere and fundamental truths of the Gospel of our Saviour Jesus Christ. The activity of theological reflection of the Church on herself and on her connections with the world is a necessity of all times. In this way, the Church puts in the light the fact that she is always identical with herself, but, nevertheless, she has the capacity and the instruments to resist the challenges that rise against her from a world increasingly secularized. She performs such a mission but not with

an irrelevant and unimportant role, but with a supreme one: that one of salvation of the people.

Theology makes relevant the mission of the Church at all the levels and in every historical and cultural context. The fact that Romanian orthodox theology managed to institutionalize the Congress of the Faculties of Theology from the Romania Patriarchy is a proof of maturity, the sense of responsibility of which she is animated, and the wish of making known his potential of thinking, reflection, feeling and spiritual experience.

The starting point of such events of Romanian theology had the year of 2003 (September 8-10) when, for the first time, the representing of orthodox theological schools of university level met at the place of Durău of the Moldova and Bucovina Metropolitan, shepheress then of our Patriarch Daniel, and having the theme: *The heritage of the Father Dumitru Stăniloae and his valuation today*, which can be noticed as a starting year of foundation of the institution of congresses of the faculties of theology from the Romanian Patriarchy. This first Congress was organized by the Faculty of Theology from Iasi with the help of the Moldova and Bucovina Metropolitan. Then, in general, from two in two years followed other congresses, as it follows:

Brâncoveanu – Sâmbăta de Sus Monastery, September 22-25, 2005, with the theme: *Faculty of theology in the life and mission of the Church*, organized by the Orthodox Theology Faculty of Sibiu and the Metropolitan of Ardeal.

Tismana Monastery, November 10-13, 2008, under the generic: *Holy Bible and Holy Liturgy, sources of the orthodox theology*. Congress organized by the Faculty of Theology of Craiova and the Metropolitan of Oltenia

Bucharest, September 27-28, 2010, with the theme: *The theological research today*, organized by the Faculty of Theology from Bucharest, with the help of Patriarchy.

Nicula Monastery, September 24-26, 2012, with the theme: *Formation, quality, competitiveness in today theological university learning*.

We can observe a rise of theological approaches, retaining every time essential themes for the existence and development of the Romanian superior theological learning.

The Congress of the Faculties of Theology from Arad, from September 21-23, 2014 has his works under the next auspices:

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The date where this Congress takes place is the passing in another decade from the first Congress of orthodox theology from Romania. So, there is a year which gave us a certain retrospective of what we done until now, which means an encouragement for our today theological activity.

The time in which we are today is a time of certain international tensions, which requires again to Christian thinking and the mission of Church a reevaluation and deepen of the historical sense and the Christian responsibility in today's world.

The Romanian university theological learning from 1989 until today had some significant stages in his development, which allows her to watch with maturity and responsibility at today requirements and challenges, to find ways and modes to increase the quality of his quality and to be a ferment of quality and creativity for the Romanian learning, in general.

In the same time, I don't think we should thought with twitch at the necessity of reconfiguration and replacing of Romanian theological learning, but to see always the help which this learning can have for the mission of the Church in today's world. At the require of Metropolitan Synod and Metropolitan of Banat the theological schools from his place passed through a process of evaluation and analyse, asked from the actual tendencies of dilution and decrease of the quality of theological learning. The Faculty of Arad took in serious this calling from the Metropolitan Synod and prepared an institutional exam, and the result was one according to the efforts which were done during the years, obtaining a remarkable score: 2560 points.

The theme of the Congress of the Faculties of Theology from this year anticipate or previews, in a way, the thematic of the reverential year: *The reverential year of the parish and monastery*.

Thank you all who made possible this Congress from Arad, on behalf the organizers, we wish you all a great success, health and joy.

Rev. Ioan Tulcan