

Preface

With special joy I have taken note of the good news about the foundation of the *International Journal of Orthodox Theology*. This journal embodies a welcome novelty in the area of the orthodox theology.

1. Internationality

Contemporary Orthodox theology needs a point of entry and a presence in the international dialogue, a possibility to express its insights in this sphere. Without being split in any way, Orthodox theology reflects its national cultures and its linguistic variety. The *International Journal of Orthodox Theology* will strengthen the public consciousness of this unity of Orthodoxy, and will contribute to the academic and international shaping of Orthodoxy today.

2. Bilingualism

It is not possible to pursue Orthodox theology today at an academic level without overcoming linguistic barriers. In this sense, the *International Journal of Orthodox Theology* promotes ecumenical and inter-Orthodox dialogue, and thereby offers the possibility for cooperation not only between universities but also across national borders.

3. Online Publication

The *International Journal of Orthodox Theology* is the first international and bilingual journal of Orthodox theology at an academic level to be freely available on the internet. The internet

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counts as one of the new forms of communication which must not be neglected by the church and theology. The Gospel of Jesus Christ should be announced to all the people of the world (Mt 28.19), and all means available in our age should be used.

Assistant Professor Dr. habil. Daniel Munteanu, the young theologian and editor in chief of the *International Journal of Orthodox Theology*, has succeeded in responding adequately to the needs of our time. Indeed, contemporary society displays a rising interest in Orthodox theology and spirituality. Today we have the possibility and the chance to communicate with each other, and at the same time also the responsibility to promote the values of Orthodox spirituality.

The *International Journal of Orthodox Theology* is especially topical because it also contributes, among other things, to the ecumenical dialogue. The advisory board consists not only of recognized Orthodox theologians from America, Bulgaria, England, France, Greece, Romania, Russia, Serbia and Switzerland, but also Protestant and Catholic theologians with a special openness for the values of Orthodoxy: Prof. Dr. Dr. h.c. mult. Jürgen Moltmann, Prof. Dr. Heinrich Bedford-Strohm, Prof. Dr. Theresia Hainthaler and Prof. Dr. Dr. Dr. h.c. Michael Welker.

As Metropolitan of the Romanian Orthodox Church of Germany, Central and Northern Europe, I welcome the initiative and the publication of this international journal under the leadership of the Romanian-Orthodox theologian Assist. Prof. Dr. Daniel Munteanu. I wish the *International Journal of Orthodox Theology*, its editor-in-chief, as well as its advisory board creative strength, inspiration, and God's blessing in their task of passing on the authentic treasures of Orthodox spirituality.

With God's blessing,

+ Dr. Serafim

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