



International Association of
Orthodox Dogmatic Theologians
(I.A.O.D.T.)

Metianu Str, No. 16, Arad – 310099, Romania (EU)

www.orthodoxe-dogmatik.de/

The 2nd International Symposium
of
Orthodox Dogmatic Theology

ARAD (Ro) 11-13 June, 2009

FINAL DOCUMENT

The proceedings of the 2nd International Symposium of Dogmatic Theology, with the main title “**Tradition and Dogma: What kind of Dogmatic Theology do we propose for today,**” were carried out under the auspices of The Orthodox Theology Faculty of “Aurel Vlaicu” University of Arad, 11 – 13 June 2009.

Members of Orthodox Theology Faculties around the world participated in the debates of this Symposium.

At the opening of this academic event, the office of “Te Deum” was held on Thursday, 11th June at 9 AM in the Faculty Chapel, in which all guests invited to the Symposium participated, moderated by Our Most Reverend Bishop Timotei.

The inaugural session was presided by the President of the IAODT. Rev. Prof. Dr. Ioan Tulcan.

Messages were delivered on behalf of local authorities: Our Most Reverend Bishop Dr. Timotei Seviciu, Bishop of Arad, the City Hall and the County Council, the “Aurel Vlaicu” University Rectorship, Prof. D. Lizica Mihaș. Their presence and their words of welcome testified to the significance of this event.

Reverend Dr. Ioan Tulcan, President of the IAODT, encompassed in his speech the issue of Dogmatic Theology in the local and universal context, highlighting its exceptional importance in the modern ecclesiastical, cultural, social and historical context.

During the **first** work session, which took place in the Main Hall of the Theology Faculty and was moderated by **Dr. Peter Bouteneff & Rev. Dr. Stefan Buchiu**, the following papers were presented:

«Επομενοι τοις αγιοις Πατρσι». Μια πρόταση με διαχρονικό χαρακτήρα στη δογματική

διδασκαλία της Εκκλησίας. („Following the Holy Fathers:” A proposal for a diachronic understanding of the Church’s dogmatic teaching)

Dr. Dimitrios Tselengidis, (Theology Faculty of Thessaloniki/Greece)

À Réconcilier le dogme chrétien avec la vie

Dr. Michel Stavrou, (Theological Institute *Saint-Serge* Paris/France)

The Value of canonical definitions. Dogma or Witness?

Rev. Dr. Dumitru Popescu, (Theology Faculty of University Bucharest/Romania)

During the **second** work session, which took place in the Theology Faculty’s Aula and was moderated by **Dr. Michel Stavrou & Dr. Alexey Fokin**, the following papers were presented:

Contemporary Orthodox Exegesis of Genesis 1-3

Dr. Peter Bouteneff (St. Vladimir’s Orthodox Theological Seminary, New York/USA)

St. John Chrysostom’s Homily 50 on Matthew: Where dogma and tradition meet

Dr Despina Prassas, (Providence College, USA)

The Relationship Between Dogma and Theology in Father Staniloae’s thought

Rev. Dr Ștefan Buchiu (Theology Faculty of University Bucharest/ Romania)

Tradition or Identity Politics? The Role of the West in Contemporary Orthodox Theology

Dr Aristotle Papanikolaou (Fordham University/ USA)

Saint Gregory Palamas: An Essential Key to Teaching Dogmatics Today

Dr. Fadi Georgi (Theology Faculty of Balamand/ Lebanon)

During the **third** work session, which took place in the Theology Faculty’s Aula on the **12th of June** and was moderated by **Dr. Dimitrios Tselengidis & Dr. Aristotle Papanikolaou**, the following papers were presented:

Dogmatic Theology in Bulgaria during 20th Century

Dr. Svetoslav Ribolov, (Theology Faculty of Sofia/Bulgaria)

Revelation, Tradition, Dogma and their interrelation in Church life and mission

Rev. Dr. Valer Bel, (Theology Faculty of University „Babeș-Boylai” Cluj/Romania)

Revelation and Confessionalism

Rev. Dr. Adrian Niculcea, (Theology Faculty of University „Ovidius” Constanța/Romania)

Eucharistic Preaching Today

Dr. Pyotr Mikhailov, (St. Tikhon’s Orthodox Humanitarian University of Moscow/Russia)

During the **fourth** work session, which took place in the Theology Faculty’s Aula on the **12th of June** and was moderated by **Dr. Fadi Georgi & Dr. Svetoslav Ribolov**, the following papers were presented:

Different dogmatic approaches to the question of the origins of human soul,

Dr. Alexey Fokin, (The Philosophical Institute of Moscow)

Die pneumatologische Dimension der Heiligen Tradition in einem eklesiologischen Kontext

Rev. Dr. Dumitru Megheșan, (Theology Faculty of Oradea University/Romania)

Dogma and Culture. The Main Contribution of Orthodox Faith to Public Theology

Dr. Daniel Munteanu, (Theology Faculty of Bamberg University/Germany)

Orthodox Dogmatic Theology, expression of the ecclesial - liturgical experience

Rev. Dr. Vasile Citiriga, (Theology Faculty of University „Ovidius” Constanța/Romania)

During the **fifth** work session, which took place in the Theology Faculty’s Aula and was moderated by **Dr. Despina Prassas & Dr. Pyotr Mikhailov**, the following papers were presented:

Towards a deeper understanding of the Ordo of the Holy Mysterion of Baptism

Rev. Dr. Nicolae Mosoiu, (Theology Faculty of University „Lucian Blaga” Sibiu/Romania)

The relationship between doctrine and spirituality in Father Staniloae’s thought

Rev. Dr. Nicolae Răzvan Stan, (Theology Faculty of University Craiova/Romania)

The Ecclesiological-Soteriological Nature of Dogma in Orthodox Tradition

Rev. Dr. Ioan Tulcan, (Theology Faculty of University „Aurel Vlaicu” Arad/Romania)

The Interdisciplinarity of Dogma. The Testimony of the Church’s faith in Postmodern Context

Dr. Cristinel Ioja, (Theology Faculty of University „Aurel Vlaicu” Arad/Romania)

During the **sixth** work session which took place in the Theology Faculty’s Aula on the **13th of June** and was moderated by **Rev. Dr. Ioan Tulcan, Dr. Peter Bouteneff & Dr. Michel Stavrou**, the following issues were presented to the participants:

- 1). The election of the new board of IAODT
- 2). Admission of new members
- 3) The review (journal) of IAODT
- 4) Agreement on date, subject and location of the next IAODT meeting

The paper presentations were followed by open discussion. Further on, numerous proposals were formulated referring to the themes approached during the sessions.

Among the various issues approached during the debates the following observations, stresses, proposals and even general and special perspectives were emphasized:

1. The participants gathered at this conference affirm that Orthodox Dogmatic Theology must be acknowledged as part of the renewal of Orthodox Theology in general, efforts which call for both a fresh approach to theology, founded on the rediscovery of biblical and patristic sources and the interrelation of dogma, spirituality and worship. Orthodox Dogmatic Theology has to be approached and deepened in the indissoluble relationship with the worship and spirituality of the Church. We acknowledge however the need to discern further the proper role of human reason within the task of theology, while not denying its apophatic and mystical character. Therefore, the integration of all of these dimensions may become the fertile ground where Orthodox theology could grow roots and express itself both as a theology of and for the Church, and also around the world as a theology for the world in the name of The Holy Trinity: Father and Son and Holy Spirit.

2. Orthodox Dogmatic Theology must maintain and develop profound relations with biblical exegesis, constantly appealing to its Scriptural roots which should be interpreted from the perspective of the patristic and liturgical Tradition of the Church.
3. Orthodox Dogmatic Theology has to work for a continuous ecclesial and spiritual integration in an interdisciplinary openness. It must strive for an apologetic affirmation in a high-tech, computerized world which, at the same time, increasingly advances secularism and individualism, and which is in need of an ecclesial and sacramental consciousness.
4. Orthodox Dogmatic Theology can prove instrumental within the interconfessional dialogues, substantiating the universal value of Orthodoxy. In order for this witness to be effective, we must be cautious to avoid simplistic interpretations of the Christian West. The task of theology is to discern and preach the truth of God; we must reject the use of theology as a tool to denigrate the other, to deepen divisions, or to project an air of superiority.
5. Orthodox Dogmatic Theology must be ready to support an authentic public theology, in order to give dynamism to the Church's mission to the contemporary society, bringing the redeeming and healing message of Christ's Gospel into people's lives. Orthodox dogmatic theologians are therefore responsible for the analysis in their studies and research of the complex problem of secularization and globalization, of the postmodern context with its anthropological-cosmological and ecclesial-soteriological implications that the Orthodox Church faces.
6. The Association discussed the idea of inaugurating, within a period of 4 years, a periodical/ journal to which Orthodox theologians within and outside the Association could make their contribution. The journal would be published under the supervision of the International Association of Orthodox Dogmatic Theologians, and its provisional title would be *Journal of Orthodox Dogmatic Theological Studies*.
7. The following meeting of the International Association of Orthodox Dogmatists will be held in Thessalonica - Greece on 1 June 2011. The suggested theme is: ***The function and the limits of reason in Dogmatic Theology.***

The participants of this International Symposium appreciate the importance and usefulness of such meetings for the Orthodox theological teaching and research, and for the Church's life and mission.

President of IAODT

Rev. Prof. Dr. IOAN TULCAN

Vice-presidents

Prof. Dr. Michel Stavrou

Prof. Dr. Peter Bouteneff

Participants, in alphabetical order:**Bel, Rev. Dr. Valer**

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Fadi, Dr. Georgi

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Fokin, Dr. Alexey

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