

**THE RESSURECTION OPENED THE HEAVENS FOR HER
AND SHE LEFT FOR THE ONE WHO RESSURECTED
(CONFESSION ABOUT A NOBLE SOUL:
LECT. UNIV. DR. PAULA PARASCHIVA BUD –
AT HER PASSING TO ETERNAL LIFE)**

The days of separation and departure are tough, hope is the only one that can raise you above shadows. Such a day will remain for us the 4th of may 2017 when we lead the way of a soul who loved Christ and passed for the dwelling where the day of resurrection and eternal joy commences. More than three years ago, we chanted anastasic hymns at the passing away to the eternal dwelling of our colleague dr. Paula Paraschiva Bud at the shading of the Mother of God monastery, in Floresti. Therefore, I now bring forth a confession about the one who grew and served with us and dedicated herself to searching Christ without cessation.

She saw the light of day in 14 october 1983 in the old town of Brasov, that is radiated by the spirituality and culture of the Schei's, but she grew up in the effervescent cultural setting of Bucharest, being in search of plastic harmonies and studying at the Tonitza High School which she graduated and where she had a national award at the picture Olympiad (the first place). From this period, her parents Olimpiu and Stefania Bud, a family of distinguished intellectuals who peregrined throughout Romania from their hometown Lapus, were left the image of their daughter's painting, *The Chalice Woman*, which was a genuine omen of her searches. She did not seek only for harmony, nor just for the joy brought by stylistic lines, but she ultimately sought for the healing Chalice that could spring abundace of healing. We could also recall the pastel or aquarelle as strong points, but it seemed like a white veil was covering everything, so that it was difficult to see beyond. At Dej, where her grandparents found their place of rest and tranquility, she found out about the Sacred Art department of Cluj and in 2002 she became student at the Faculty of Orthodox Theology. I couldn't help but notice her perseverance, her will to hear and listen and how she prepared for the Sacrament of confession, so I offered her the an Erasmus training stage at the Catholic Institute of



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Paris, that also had a Sacred Art department. She handled English and French very good, she gained from the maternal love of language, but it wasn't easy for her, however she came back victorious, enriched and ready to search for higher goals. She graduated the Faculty with admirable scores, then continued with Masteral studies, and finally she became a PhD Student which she graduated in 2011 with the subject *Shabbat – history and eschatology*, with the mark ***Summa Cum Laudae***. The doctoral research was an opportunity to fall in love with the writings of the Holy Fathers, especially of those belonging to Saint Maximus the Confessor and Saint Simon the New Theologian. It was then that she began to protrude in the thinking of the Holy Fathers and long to gain the mind of Christ. Not little was her amazement when she found out that Saint Maximus wrote about Christ's shabbatization of the tomb, but she was overwhelmed by the overflow of grace and light Saint Simon talked about. Thus, she came to confess as we are told in the book of Acts: „And Philip said, If thou believest with all thine heart, thou mayest. And he answered and said, I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God” (Acts 8,37), and after she came to this confession, she began searching secretly the sight of Christ by doing the acts of self-sacrifice, service, obey, humblement and frequent Communion.

From this period I observe a profound aspect of self-giving: when two crosses stagger, if they meet, they support each other to keep their peak thrust in heaven. Lady Paula Parascheva was offered a friendship without change. She found Teodora and took her as the gift of God for her and helped her when she went through harsh times, then despite her burden, Teodora proved to be a candle that lit Paula's path in times of hardship. An exemplary friendship, a friendship of sacrifice. Teodora felt the heaviness of today as no other did and I hope that she takes power from the love Paula declared to Jesus above everything.

Paula Parascheva Bud was a patient and tenacious researcher. Besides her PhD research and thesis: *Shabbat – history and eschatology*, our colleague coordinated two collective books (*The Cross – sign, symbol and power* and *Science, spirituality, society*), she also was a co-author of the bibliographic guide that systemized the researches of Romanian Orthodox bible scholars on biblical theology of the Old Testament, the published over 22 researches in biblical journals, in collective volumes, three articles and four reviews. We have worked together for the past six years and surely much has left undone. We attempted to finish the practice books for Hebrew, Biblical archeology and rediscover various manuscripts, but she has hidden from us in the light of resurrection of Christ that our eyes can not yet perceive. She took part in nine national and

international conferences and was affiliated to the Ecumenical Association Romania (a subsidiary of the International Ecumenical Fellowship), and the to the Association for Dialogue between Science and Theology in Romania, the Union of Romanian Biblists, the Centre of Biblical Researches of Cluj-Napoca and to the Society of Romanian Orthodox Biblical Scholars.

She also initiated a project that reveals her devotion for pedagogy – as one who educated people. She got the project for the preparation of Religion school teachers in which thousands of professors could learn new techniques; she poured her soul in the attempt to digitalize ancient literature, she contributed to the writing of a Religion handbook, and like an older sister she has drawn many into the field of research. We were working on the Technological transfer project in the world of art and restoration and even in difficult days she chose to get rest through research. She was a tenacious researcher who really inspired and held initiative. For her great talent and work she received the *Juventute* award from our university in 2011 and the award for excellence in didactics in 2016.

Beyond all of these, she was a figure animated by love for others: some she advised and counselled, others she helped structuring their works and projects, other she gave bibliographical references, but she inspired everyone to gather and settle the path of good for every human being. Both a friend of youths and exigent, stranger from small talks and a suppor for everyone. I cannot forget how she suffered when she was facing her thoughtest moments, she was someone who helped raising the Cross high, how wonderful!

She was known both in our country and abroad, as the secretary of the IEF organisation and president of the Cluj subsidiary. An active member said that in her eyes one could seize the light of joy in brotherly meeting, that's why I said: she has hidden in light, and she can't be seen for she is light. The messages from everyone tell how much she was loved.

Now she wen in the light of Ressurrection to see Christ and calm her sould in the eternal chanting of His angels.

We sowed her under clay so she will spring in eternity telling us that she *found plenty of peace for she moved from death to life*, and here in Life I came for *I have chosen the Virgin, Mother of God, who gave birth to the Redemptor of everyone, Lord we praise Thee!* (chant from the Ritual of children funeral)

We will keep her an eternal and blessed memory!