

IN HONOREM REV. PROF. IOAN CHIRILĂ, PhD (III)

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Stelian Pașca-Tușa și Bogdan ȘOPTEREAȘ, eds.,
In honorem Pr. prof. univ. dr. Ioan Chirilă.
Volum aniversar la împlinirea vârstei de 60 de ani
– mesaje de binecuvântare, evocări și studii
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This volume concludes the series of studies dedicated to Rev. Prof. Ioan Chirilă. The first volume brought together the studies that the fifty PhD students dedicated to the father professor, the second the studies of Romanian professors of biblical studies in the country and abroad, and this final volume contains messages of blessing and evocation of some personalities, as well as the studies of the colleagues from the Faculty of Orthodox Theology in Cluj-Napoca. Together, this volume presents a sum of thoughts, wishes and feelings of many people who love and appreciate Prof. Chirilă. Therefore, their segmentation into three volumes is practical.

In previous issues, we looked at the first two volumes of the homage. Now it's time to focus on the final one. It differs technically from the other two. The volume comprises four distinct sections. The inaugural section presents his biography, work, and research, as well as books, articles, and specialised studies. A notable aspect of this section is how it emphasises the balance Rev. Ioan Chirilă maintained between his academic work and pastoral commitments.

In the next section, we find the messages of blessing and congratulations from twelve Romanian Orthodox Bishops. It is worth noting that these include messages from two bishops who have since passed away, namely Gurie Georgiu, Bishop of Deva and Hunedoara, and Vasile Flueraș, Vice Bishop of the Archdiocese of Vad, Feleac and Cluj. The messages in this section go beyond simple birthday greetings, they are a recognition of the essential role that Rev. Chirilă has played in Church and academic life.

The next section, entitled *Evocations*, brings together the contributions of university professors, clergy and former students, each of whom pays a unique trib-

ute based on their personal experiences and their relationship with Rev. Ioan Chirilă. Each evocation outlines distinct aspects of his personality, from his profound erudition and remarkable pedagogical ability to his kindness, sense of humour and openness to dialogue. This is perhaps the most personal section of the volume, providing readers with an intimate insight into the man behind the personality honoured.

The last section of the volume is dedicated to specialised studies and academic contributions that address a variety of topics relevant to contemporary Orthodox theology. These studies are a continuation of the theological dialogue that Rev. Ioan Chirilă cultivated throughout his career. A particularly important aspect of this section is the thematic diversity of the studies, which reflect Rev. Ioan Chirilă's varied academic interests. From biblical exegesis to dogmatics or philology, the studies included are representative of the broad spectrum of Orthodox theology. The studies in this section are not only rigorous theological analyses but also reflections of how theology can respond to the current challenges of society. They also bear witness to the fact that Rev. Ioan Chirilă has brought a particular vitality to contemporary theology and has contributed to the formation of a new generation of theologians capable of addressing the complex problems of today's world.

This volume is a document which recognises the merits of Rev. Ioan Chirilă and provides a detailed view of his life and theological contributions. This book also strikes the perfect balance between academic and spiritual content, reflecting the duality of the roles that Rev. Ioan Chirilă played in his life. This holistic approach makes the volume a valuable resource not only for theologians but also for those interested in the spiritual dimension of education and academic formation.

Taken as a whole, the volume is a comprehensive homage to a remarkable personality in Romanian Orthodox theology, Rev. Prof. Ioan Chirilă. Each section of the book contributes to the construction of a complex and nuanced portrait of him, revealing not only his academic and pastoral achievements but especially the profound influence he had on those around him. This final volume in the *in honorem* series successfully blends the academic and spiritual dimensions, providing readers with a deeper understanding of Rev. Ioan Chirilă's life and work. In this sense, the book is not simply a collection of studies and evocations, but a true testimony of a life dedicated to faith, knowledge and education.