

Introductory note

This issue, the first of the journal *Theologia* 96th volume, covers a wide range of topics and includes articles of primarily theological –but, also, of broadly academic– interest.

More specifically, the issue opens with the publication of a speech by Charalampos Ventis, Associate Professor at the School of Theology of the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, titled: “*Δεικνύοναι*, but also *λέγειν*: Reflections on the Necessity of a Contemplative Witness to the God-Manhood, Inspired by the *Iconophilia* of Saint Photios” which was given during the joint meeting of the President and the members of the Holy Synod of the Church of Greece with the deans, presidents and professors of the Theological Schools of Athens and Thessaloniki and the Higher Ecclesiastical Academy of Athens, as part of the established annual events in honor of Saint Photios, at the Inter-Orthodox Center of the Church of Greece (Penteli, February 6, 2025).

Next, we have the study by Georgios Martzelos, Associate Professor at the School of Theology of Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, titled: “From the Ecumenical Authority and Exclusivity of the Nicene Creed to the Ecumenical Recognition and Reception of the Nicene-Constantinopolitan Creed”, to be followed by the article written by Sotirios Despotis, Professor at the School of Theology of the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, and Argyro Marinopoulou, PhD candidate at the School of Philosophy of the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, under the title: “Commentaries on Four Leading Words of Lord Jesus Christ on the Cross”.

The following article has been written by His Grace Bishop of Mesaoria Gregorios (Hadjouraniou) of Mesaoria, PhD in Byzantine Philology, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, bearing the title: “Overview of the Use of Apocryphal Sources by Epiphanius of Constantia, Cyprus, in his Work *Panarion*”. Then we have the article by Evangelos V. Glaros, PhD of the School of Theology at the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, on the topic: “Fear as a Learning Tool in *Ecclesiastes*: A Dialogue in the Light of Orthodox Patristic Theology”.

The issue's next article is by the Archimandrite Cherouvim Veletzas, who holds an MA both from Aristotle University of Thessaloniki and the University of Fribourg (Switzerland), on the topic: "Pastoral Care Concerning Death through the Funeral Service of the Orthodox Church". Then we have an article written by Protopr. Michael Voskos, Master's degree from the University of Munich, bearing the title: "*Extra Ecclesiam nulla salus*", and another one, written by Theodosios Ar. Kyriakidis, PhD in Modern History from the University of Western Macedonia and research associate at the Chair of Pontic Studies at Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, titled: "The Armenian Catholic Community in the Ottoman Empire During the Period of the First World War until its Destruction".

Then we have an article written by Antonios Bitsakis, PhD in Philosophy from the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, on the topic: "The Theological and Pedagogical Value of Prayer according to Apostle Paul", and another one, written by Mileša Stefanović-Banović, PhD in Literature from the University of Belgrade and research associate at the Ethnographic Institute of the Serbian Academy of Sciences and Arts, and Dragica Tadić-Papanikolaou, PhD candidate at the School of Theology of the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, with the title: "The Honor of Saint Paraskevi in Serbia: A Historical-Ethnological Study".

The issue's last article belong to Christos Nicolopoulos, PhD in Theology, National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, on the topic: "Is Irene of Athens a Saint?"

Following the aforementioned articles, the column "Idiomela" features a study by Antonis D. Vasilakis, PhD in Philosophy from the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, on the topic: "Hybris, History, Tragedy and Freedom: From the Sacrifice of Freedom to the Freedom of Sacrifice".

The next issue of *Theologia* [vol. 96, no. 2 (2025)] will feature a variety of topics.

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