

**UNIVERSITATEA DIN BUCUREȘTI
FACULTATEA DE TEOLOGIE ORTODOXĂ
„JUSTINIAN PATRIARHUL”**

**PREDICATORI ȘI CATEHEȚI ROMÂNI – PROPOVĂDUITORI
AI EVANGHELIEI. RECEPTAREA MISIUNII LOR ÎN
ACTUALITATE**

REZUMAT

TEZĂ DE ABILITARE

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SUMMARY

The present paper, written with a view to the Habilitation examination, aims to describe *my lines of research and their academic relevance for the field of Homiletics and Catechetics* – my field of expertise, in which I conduct my academic teaching work – as well as the bibliographic sources investigated in the paper.

My academic activity began in 2002, during the doctoral studies conducted at the University of Bucharest, then continued and was extended mainly along very clearly-defined lines of research: *examining and assessing the homiletic and missionary contribution of the most prominent personalities of the Romanian Orthodox Church*, which entailed the focus on their language and homiletic technique, illustrated with examples, quotations and relevant academic arguments.

An essential characteristic of my research lies in its epistemological approach, informed by a detailed thematic analysis across the vast homiletic literature produced by the greatest personalities of our Church, in the context of the major changes that occurred in the Romanian social, cultural and missionary realms. The investigation of the impressive number of works, as well as the biographies of these personalities, offers a comprehensive, holistic outlook on the Orthodox preaching in Romania and also outlines a thematic area that is highly useful for today's priests.

GREAT HOMILISTS OF THE ROMANIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH, SINCE ITS BEGINNINGS TO THE 20TH CENTURY

My research into this topic has undertaken a bold project in terms of scope and depth: identifying, examining in the light of modern culture, and analyzing the major texts of the homiletic literature of the Romanian Orthodox Church. Essentially, my works follow this research direction: the dialectics of evangelic knowledge through the vistas opened by the homiletic culture. This is the theological ground on which is based my research, which *highlights the extensive homiletic activity conducted in the Romanian Orthodox Church by the hierarchs, Theology professors, or learned and diligent priests; beside presenting the bio-bibliographic*

data I have also carried out a thorough, objective analysis of their manner of preaching in order to reveal the topics, themes, genres, the compositional art, the oratorical technique, the evolution of their language and style. This has required a very attentively pursued synthesis and an interdisciplinary approach (from the perspectives of theology, linguistics, neo-rhetorics, communication art, pastoral sociology, etc.). Research, analysis, evaluation – these are the key terms that describe my efforts at documenting and eulogizing the great personalities' life and work.

THE HOMILETIC LEGACY OF METROPOLITAN FIRMILIAN MARIN: GENRES, THEMES, STYLISTIC DEVICES

My research work has especially aimed to retrieve the genuine preaching paradigm of Romania. I have published numerous synthesis works, centered on the history of Romanian sermon. In the present paper, I aimed to highlight a very important chapter in the recent history of preaching in the region of Oltenia.

My work focused on this homiletic enterprise undertakes an anamnestic and analytic pursuit: *my analysis of the contents and the structure of the speeches delivered by Metropolitan Firmilian reveals the principles underlying a successful sermon is based, based on the constant effort made by the preacher to live up to what he preaches, to reach through his personal life and his words towards the heights of the doctrinal teachings he puts forth.* I also present (and illustrate with examples) the homiletic genres, the preaching style, the stylistic devices, the specific features in the sermons of this great homilist of Oltenia. The attention he paid to writing his sermons is well-known, and is also revealed by an analysis of his preparatory notes, drafts, and his strategy in expounding ideas and arguments.

RELIGIOUS-MORAL EDUCATION IN THE HOMILETIC AND CATHECHETIC LITERATURE OF 20th CENTURY ROMANIA

The line of research I have followed pertains to the highly demanding domain of thematic analysis addressing the 20th-century homiletic and catechetical literature, approached from a pedagogical standpoint. Obviously, the homiletic activity of a priest always includes a didactic

and pedagogic component, since the logos has a spiritual load, but it equally has formative-educational attributes, and thus is an active universe able to generate human values and norms. Thus the sermon is to be considered in terms of the edifying interaction between its listeners (its audience) and God, between the human person and the divine Logos. Consequently, the aim of preaching can be followed not only in the perspective of linear progress of man from a moral or civic point of view, but in the perspective of the complete fulfillment of the human person, in relation to the divine-human Model.

DESIDERATA FOR PRESENT AND FUTURE PREACHING IN THE ROMANIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH

The realities of today's life, and the changes that can be foreseen for the near future, require all factors responsible for the Christian-Orthodox education to adjust their strategies, in all theological pursuits. In this sense, homiletic studies must relate to the practical, concrete aspects of Christian life, and their priority concern must be the soteriological aspirations of the Christians whom sermons address. Homiletics must propose topics and strategies that are relevant for the turn of the 21st century, and the homiletic discourse must answer the concerns of contemporary man.

My habilitation thesis also includes the envisaged directions for developing my academic career (research projects for the future, bibliographic sources associated to the contents of my lines of research), as well as a memorandum on the visibility and the reception of my contributions.

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Rev. Associated Prof. Nicușor Beldiman