**ANNOTATIONS OF THE PUBLICATIONS**
submitted for participation in a конкурс for **Professor**
in
**2.4. Religion and Theology (Patrology and Dogmatic Theology)**
by **Archpriest Assoc. Prof. DTh Stoyan Chilikov**

## 1. Habilitation Thesis – Monograph

Chilikov, St. *The Eucharist and Asceticism in the Tradition of the Church*.
Sofia: Omophor Publishing House, 2025. ISBN 978-619-7802-01-6.

The monograph examines one of the most significant and timely themes in the life of the Body of Christ: the **synthesis of the Eucharist and ascetical struggle**. This central thesis of the study is consistently developed through several fundamental theological correlations that structure the overall argument of the work. These include: **dogma and ethos**, **image and likeness**, **grace and freedom**, **essence and energies**, and **salvation and deification (theosis)**.

These conceptual pairs function as structuring contexts for the proposed theological discourse on the Eucharist and asceticism. Through them, the internal logic of this discourse is revealed, in which the ascetical and the eucharistic dimensions are not opposed but united in the living experience of the Church.

The hermeneutical principle guiding the reading of the sources—Sacred Scripture, patristic writings, and liturgical and hymnographic texts—is grounded in the fundamental conviction that dogma cannot be separated from ethos, nor grace from freedom, nor essence from energies. Within this framework, asceticism and the Eucharist are not treated as two autonomous realities but as mutually interpenetrating dimensions existing in perfect **perichoresis**.

The synthesis of the Eucharist and ascetical struggle is inconceivable apart from the synthesis of dogma and ethos. For this reason, the monograph first examines the significance of the correlation between dogma and ethos and its place in the tradition and life of the Church. In the context of the disruption of this synthesis, the emergence of the so-called **Eucharistic** and **therapeutic ecclesiologies**, often set in opposition to one another, is analyzed. The first chapter presents both the conceptual strengths and the problematic aspects of these two perspectives on the “two ecclesiologies,” as well as their principal representatives and arguments.

The second part of the monograph develops further the discourse on the synthesis between the Eucharist and asceticism by addressing the themes of the **image and likeness of God**, **grace and freedom**, and the **Mystery and mysteries of the Church**. A central place is given to the major fourth-century theological debate concerning the relationship between grace and freedom, which serves as the foundation for the argument regarding the passage from image to likeness through the mysteries and ascetical struggle. Freedom is not understood as merely "complementing" grace but as the personal response to its initiative—an ontological movement toward likeness. The Eucharist is not interpreted as "one sacrament among others," but as their very heart—the central rhythm of ecclesial life that gives meaning to and seals every other mystery. It remains in profound synergy with ascetical struggle, together shaping the divine likeness within the human person.

The third part of the study offers an analytical and theologically grounded examination of human salvation through the mysteries and ascetical struggle in the perspective of the **Palamite doctrine of essence and energies**. Eucharistic life is interpreted as ontological participation in the very life of Christ—as a gift and communion in His theanthropic existence; ascetical life, in turn, is conceptualized as a gradual anthropological formation "according to the image of Christ," that is, an ascent into His uncreated energies. Within this framework, the study examines the possible dichotomies that arise from a rupture between the eucharistic and ascetical dimensions of Christian life, as well as the theological and ecclesiological consequences of such a division.

Particular emphasis is placed on the Church's teaching concerning the intrinsic relationship and inseparable unity between eucharistic and ascetical dynamics, traced through the significance of preparation before Holy Communion. Drawing on the patristic and liturgical tradition, the study addresses contemporary questions related to preparation for the reception of the Holy Mysteries, eucharistic fasting, and the role of asceticism as an integral component of eucharistic life.

## 2. Published Monograph Based on a Defended Dissertation for the Award of the Degree

**Doctor of Sciences**

Chilikov, St. *From Death to Life: The Dormition of the Theotokos*.
Sofia: Fatum Ltd., 2025. ISBN 978-619-93566-1-6.

The book examines the Church's tradition concerning the Dormition of the Most Holy Theotokos. It defends the thesis of the **Dormition and Resurrection of the Theotokos**. The study analyzes key manuscripts of the Byzantine tradition—Sin. 630 and Sin. 631 (11th century)—as well as the Slavic manuscript tradition, in particular manuscript **Ta** (11th century).

The research is based on a systematic analysis of hymnographic and patristic works dedicated to the feast. Liturgical feasts and services related to the Dormition of the Theotokos are examined in detail, with particular attention given to their theological content and development within the Church's tradition.

3.**The Joyful sorrow (ΧΑΡΜΟΛΥΠΗ) in the works of the Ascetic and the Hymnographer Fathers**. Ostkirchliche Studien 70 Band, 2021, Heft 2 echter, Würzburg, pp. 288-300. ISSN 0030-6487.

The text examines the state of joyful sorrow as belonging to the fullness of the Church, the foundations of which are found in the Scriptures and the teachings of Christ, contained in the New Testament. The writings of the ascetic fathers describe the experience of the ancient ascetics from St. Anthony the Great to the modern ones, such as St. Porphyrios the Kapsokalivite. The Church Fathers, who write about harmolipi, speak of it as a spiritual state based on contemplation, it is a step of the divine love towards spiritual ecstasy and divine intoxication. The hymnographic fathers, who write about the joyful sorrow, describe it without analyzing, supplementing and confirming with the laudatory theology in verse what the ascetic fathers have said. The text distinguishes joy as an emotional state of human nature from joyful sorrow as a spiritual state, which is embodied in the ethos of the Church, in its faith and life according to the Cross and the Resurrection of Christ.

## 4. Some Aspects of the Church's Teaching on Spiritual Warfare Based on the Work of St John Cassian the Roman, *Conferences with the Fathers*.

In: *Philosophy*, no. 3, 2019, pp. 317–327. ISSN 1314–8559 (Online); ISSN 0861–6302 (Print).

The study focuses on key dimensions of the Church's spiritual life as examined through the lens of the work of St John Cassian the Roman, *Conferences with the Fathers*. Drawing on Cassian's teaching and the broader ascetical tradition, the author seeks theological arguments concerning both the origins of and the ways to overcome the perceived opposition between the Eucharist and ascetical life.

The article raises the question of the supposed existence of **therapeutic** and **eucharistic** spiritualities of the Church as separate and autonomous realities, arguing that such a division is alien to Orthodox ecclesial spirituality.

## 5. The Soteriology of the Orthodox Ascetical Tradition in the Ancient Church and Today, Based on the Discourses of St Dorotheus of Gaza (†560) and St Porphyrios of Kavsokalyvia (†1991).

*Philosophy*, no. 2, 2021, pp. 168–179. ISSN 1314–8559 (Online); ISSN 0861–6302 (Print).

The article examines the soteriological dimension of the ascetical teachings of two of the most significant Fathers of the Orthodox ascetical tradition. Through a comparative analysis, it identifies both substantial parallels in their writings and notable differences that reflect the dynamism and development of Orthodox ascetical practice from antiquity to the present day.

Abba Dorotheus transmits the spiritual experience of the Egyptian ascetics of the sixth century, focusing on spiritual warfare, the cutting off of the passions, and the acquisition of virtues. St Porphyrios of Kavsokalyvia, by contrast, places love for God at the center of the Christian ascetical struggle—a love that transforms the passions, overturns evil, and leads the human person to deification (*theosis*). Here, the emphasis shifts from direct struggle against the passions to contemplative communion with Christ. Through the mysteries, prayer, and liturgical worship, the faithful are led toward doxology and the contemplation of God.

In the discourses of St Porphyrios, the correlation between soteriology and ecclesiology is articulated with particular clarity, underscoring the inseparable link between personal salvific effort and ecclesial life, which is constituted through participation in the mysteries and the liturgical community.

## 6. The Pedagogical Views of Metropolitan Methodius Kusev of Stara Zagora (1838–1922) and Metropolitan Boris Razumov of Nevrokop (1888–1948).

*Philosophy*, no. 2, 2020, pp. 162–173. ISSN 1314–8559 (Online); ISSN 0861–6302 (Print).

The article examines the pedagogical views of two prominent hierarchs from the modern history of the Church in Bulgaria—Metropolitan Methodius of Stara Zagora and Metropolitan Boris of Nevrokop. On the basis of a comparative analysis, key moments from their ecclesial ministry and life trajectories are traced against the background of the historical period in which they lived, as factors shaping their pedagogical perspectives.

Both hierarchs identify three principal factors in the process of education and formation: **faith, the family, and the school**. According to them, the influence of materialistic worldviews within the educational process leads to the deterioration of Bulgarian schooling and society, resulting in an educational system that imparts knowledge but fails to provide genuine moral and spiritual formation.

## 7.Anthropological Collisions in the Correlation between Dogma and Ethos in the Church.

*Christianity and Culture*, no. 8, 2021, pp. 76–89. ISSN 1311–9761.

The study analyzes the essence of the collision between **liberalism and fundamentalism** through the lens of the disruption of the correlation between dogma and ethos in the life of the Church. The arguments presented are supported by **biblical, patristic, and hymnographic evidence**. Particular emphasis is placed on the contemporary manifestations of the liberalism–fundamentalism collision.

The article provides a comparative analysis of this tension as it appears in the Church's witness over the centuries, and traces the transformations of the Christian ethos in the modern world as a result of **secularization** and the breakdown of the dogma–ethos correlation.

## 8.Soteriological Presuppositions in the Poetry of Archimandrite Seraphim Alexiev.

*Christianity and Culture*, no. 3, 2021. ISSN 1311–9761.

The article examines the life and theological works of the distinguished contemporary scholar, university professor, and cleric, **Archimandrite Associate Professor Dr. Seraphim Alexiev**. The primary source material is his poetry, but references are also made to his other doctrinal writings, which help to clarify and deepen the understanding of the theology expressed in the verses of this ecclesial poet.

## 9. **The Educational, Enlightening, and Soteriological Function of the Church: Metropolitan Clement of Tarnovo (Vasil Drumev) and His Educational Work for the Church in Bulgaria.**

In: *Religion and Education: History, Traditions, and Contemporary Trends*, Plovdiv, 2020, pp. 73–83. ISBN 978-619-7249-60-6.

The article examines the life and pedagogical-educational views of **Metropolitan Clement Drumev**, based on the broader soteriological function of the Church. Its purpose is to explore a previously unstudied aspect of the personality and work of Metropolitan Clement of Tarnovo (Vasil Drumev)—his **liturgical and educational activity**.

Drawing on documents related to his life and theological work, the study seeks to identify both the commonalities and distinctions between the liturgical-educational ministry of the holy Fathers of the Church and the sanctified heir of God's grace – **Metropolitan Clement of Tarnovo**.

## 10. **The Theology of the Fathers: Dilemmas, Perspectives, and Realities.**

In: *Christianity and Culture*, no. 83, 2012, pp. 93–105. ISSN 1311–9761.

The article examines the character and method of **patristic theology**, presenting it as a guiding model for Orthodox ecclesial theology. It traces both the contextual nature of patristic theological reflection and its prospects for development within the ongoing life of the Church.

## 11. **Some Features of the Image of St Paisius of Hilendar Based on Liturgical and Hagiographical Sources.**

In: *Scientific Works of Paisii Hilendarski University of Plovdiv*, vol. 50, no. 1, series A, University Press "Paisii Hilendarski – Plovdiv", 2012, pp. 167–179. ISSN 0861–0029.

Based on the hymnographic texts from the saint's service and his hagiography, the article provides a substantive analysis of the **life, educational spirit, and sanctity of St Paisius of Hilendar**. The study also addresses the theme of **nationalism within the Church**, exploring how the saint's teachings and example relate to the formation of ecclesial and national identity.

## 12.Salvation and Sanctification of the Human Person in the Hymnography of St John of Damascus.

In: *Proceedings of the International Scientific Conference*, Plovdiv, 2018, pp. 57–71. ISBN 978-619-7249-42-2.

The article presents the teaching of **St John of Damascus** on the **salvation and sanctification of the human person**. The hymnographic texts forming the basis of the analysis include primarily the **Resurrection Canons of the Eight Tones**, as well as the doctrinal canons composed by St John of Damascus for the principal feasts of Christ and the Theotokos.

The study portrays salvation and sanctification as the **result of the Incarnation of the Logos**, emphasizing the inseparable connection between Christ's divine-human nature and the transformative participation of the human person in God's grace.

## 13.The Upbringing of Children According to St John Chrysostom and St Porphyrios of Kavsokalyvia.

*Christianity and Culture*, no. 4, 2022, pp. 96–106.

The article draws a parallel between the pedagogical views of two Church Fathers from different eras-**St John Chrysostom** and **St Porphyrios of Kavsokalyvia**. St John Chrysostom presents a fourth-century approach to child upbringing, in which the foundation of education is the **spiritual life of the children**, rooted in faith and piety. This forms a

“school of piety,” in which faith is transmitted and Christ is reflected in the children, who are thus progressively **Christified and sanctified** through prayer.

St John Chrysostom emphasizes the responsibility of parents in the upbringing of their children, whereas St Porphyrios focuses on **love as the central formative principle**, teaching that children should be educated in love and through love. The emphasis is placed on the sanctification of the entire family—the holiness of the parents and the children—who from an early age live in the embrace of God and in communion with Him.

## 14.The Thracian Church in Bulgaria.

In: *The Defense of the Faith: Challenges and Problems Today*, Proceedings, Sofia, 2022, Holy Metropolis of Sofia, pp. 62–74.
Also in: *Proceedings of the XVI International Forum: Zadonsk St. Tikhon Educational Readings*, Lipetsk, 2021, pp. 280–285.

The study provides a **comprehensive dogmatic analysis** of the newest religious movement in Bulgaria. Its emergence, cult, and teachings are traced and examined from the perspective of **Orthodox ecclesial doctrine**, offering a critical assessment of its theological and ecclesiological implications.

## 15.The Conciliarity of the Church According to the Hymnography of the Service of St Paisius of Hilendar and Early Byzantine Hymnographic Texts.

*Christianity and Culture*, no. 7, 2022, pp. 90–100. ISBN 9771311976001.

The article examines the Church’s teaching on **conciliarity** through a comparative analysis of the hymnographic texts from the service of **St Paisius of Hilendar** and early Byzantine hymnographic sources. The study also addresses the issue of **nationalism**, highlighting how it undermines the conciliar nature of the Church.

## 16.Defense of the Faith or Witness to the Faith: Secularization of the Church.

In: *The Defense of the Faith: Challenges and Problems Today*, Proceedings, Sofia, 2022, Holy Metropolis of Sofia, pp. 98–107.

Also in: *Proceedings of the XVI International Forum: Zadonsk St. Tikhon Educational Readings*, Lipetsk, 2021.

The article analyzes the impact of **secularization processes** on the life of the Church, with particular emphasis on the secularization of theological discourse. It highlights how the **charismatic and experiential character of theology** gradually gives way to scholastic and rationalized forms of thought.

Within this framework, the study provides a classification and critical analysis of changes in the **Christian ethos**, understood as a direct consequence of secularization and the breakdown of the organic connection between theology, spiritual experience, and ecclesial life.

## 17.Christianity and War Based on the Biblical and Patristic Texts of the Church.

*Christianity and Culture*, no. 6(183), 2023, pp. 51–63. ISSN 1311–9761.
Also in: *The Media and War*, Sofia: Biffrim Publishing, 2024, pp. 67–82. ISBN 978-619-90757-7-7.

The article provides a systematic study of the **Christian perspective on war**, developed through biblical, patristic, and contemporary theological frameworks.

The first part analyzes **Old Testament teaching on war**, clarifying the theological foundations of military actions in Israel and their specific theocentric character. The methodological framework is guided by the **New Testament revelation**, where the teaching of the Lord Jesus Christ and the Apostles establishes the ultimate Christian paradigm concerning violence, peacemaking, and moral responsibility.

The second part addresses the development of Christian teaching on war during the first eight centuries, traced through patristic texts and canonical tradition. Key theological arguments are clarified, showing how the Fathers interpreted the relationship between the Church, state authority, and the use of coercive force, as well as the limits of permissible Christian participation in military actions.

The concluding section examines the Christian approach to war in the contemporary context. Concepts such as **“just war,” “holy war,” and “preventive war”** are critically assessed as theologically incompatible with the Gospel and the authentic Tradition of the Church. The

study summarizes the Christian position on war through a systematic review of the main biblical and early Christian texts that form the normative foundation of the Church's teaching on this topic.

## 18. Icon and Eucharist.

*Conciliarity*, New Series, Požarevac, no. 6, 2012, pp. 45–50. ISSN 1450–9148.

The article examines certain aspects of **Orthodox ecclesiology** in relation to the teaching on **icon veneration** and the **Eucharist**. It analyzes the **eucharistic and eschatological nature of the Orthodox icon**, while also illustrating the **eschatological character of the Eucharist**.

Icons were born and developed within the **eucharistic tradition of the Church** and, accordingly, reflect the Eucharistic life, experience, ascent, and decline of the Church. Icons depict praying saints or present them in paradise, in the **Heavenly Kingdom**. The Eucharist itself possesses an eschatological nature and character, occurring here and now as preparation for the **eschaton**, for the Heavenly Kingdom.

## 19. Suffering and Sin According to the Texts of Ancient and Contemporary Euchologia.

*Christianity and Culture*, no. 191, 2024, pp. 48–60. ISBN 9771311976001.

The article examines the themes of **sin and suffering** based on the **11th-century Constantinopolitan Euchologion** and contemporary prayers from the **Typikon**. It explores the theological connection between **sin and redemption**, as well as between **suffering and healing**, accomplished through the **Incarnate Word**.

Particular attention is given to **exorcistic and healing prayers** in early Church practice and their place in contemporary euchological editions. The analysis of prayers "against various illnesses" reveals the understanding of the **integral unity of spiritual and bodily healing** in Orthodox anthropology.

## 20. The Soteriological Dimension of the Paschal Canon and the Great Saturday Canon.

*Christianity and Culture*, no. 6(203), 2025, pp. 90–100. ISBN 9771311976001.

The article examines the main **dogmatic themes** in the **Paschal Canon** and the **Great Saturday Canon**. The analysis focuses on the presentation of **the death and Resurrection of Jesus Christ** and their theological significance for understanding **salvation**.

The study traces how the two canons articulate the connection between the **Paschal event of Christ** and the life of the believer—both in the liturgical reality "here and now" and in the perspective of the **Kingdom of Glory**. The research offers a **textual and dogmatic reading**, highlighting the **soteriological emphases** in the structure and content of the liturgical texts under consideration.

## 21. Chilikov, St. *Orthodox Faith and Life.* Sofia: Omophor Publishing, 2012, 195 pp. ISBN 978-954-2972-11-2.

This published work approaches the standards of a **monograph**, as it not only summarizes existing knowledge but also builds upon it and conducts a focused study on a specific subject. Its **interdisciplinary character** makes it suitable for use as a **textbook** in university and secondary education courses, particularly in the disciplines of **Introduction to Theology, Dogmatic Theology, and Ecclesiology.**

## 22. Chilikov, St., Alexiev, D. *A Didactic Manual on Dogmatics for Grade 11 of Theological Seminaries.* Sofia: Fatum OOD Publishing, 2025. ISBN 9786199356623.

This didactic manual has been developed as a **supporting resource** for teaching **Dogmatics** in the 11th grade of Theological Seminaries. The publication provides a **systematically selected collection of biblical, patristic, hymnographic, and liturgical texts**, organized according to the thematic units of the curriculum. The material is structured to **facilitate the**

**mastery of core dogmatic topics through engagement with primary sources** and to provide a **methodological framework** for developing theological skills in students.

### 23. Chilikov, St. *A Didactic Manual on Dogmatics for Grade 11 of Theological Seminaries.* Sofia: Fatum OOD Publishing, 2025. ISBN 9786199356630.

This didactic manual has been developed as a **supporting resource** for teaching **Dogmatics** in the 11th grade of Theological Seminaries. The publication provides a **systematically selected collection of biblical, patristic, hymnographic, and liturgical texts**, organized according to the thematic units of the curriculum. The material is structured to **facilitate the mastery of core dogmatic topics through engagement with primary sources** and to provide a **methodological framework** for developing theological skills in students.

### 24. Chilikov, St. *The Lord's Prayer (Our Father).* Electronic resource, June 2022. http://logos.uni-plovdiv.net/en/teologia

PDF version

### Chilikov, St. *The Lord's Prayer (Our Father).* In: *Thought, Word, Text,* vol. 13(19), 2023, Plovdiv University Publishing, pp. 160–171. ISSN 2815-2816.

The text presents a **concise theological analysis** of the Lord's Prayer, grounded in the **patristic interpretative tradition of the Church**. The methodological approach, relying on **classical exegetical testimonies**, ensures theoretical clarity and conceptual coherence, making the text particularly suitable for use in the **Introduction to Theology** course.

**05.01.2026** **Archpriest Assoc. Prof. DTh Stoyan Chilikov**