

REVIEW

by Prof. Dr. Ludmil Martinov Malev

member of the scientific jury (registered RD 38-224/28.04.2023)

under competition for PROFESSOR (SG No. 35 of 18.04.2023)

professional direction 2.4 Religion and theology

(Liturgy)

announced by Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski"

Faculty of Theology

Contest details

The first meeting of the scientific jury was held on 26.06.2023. The candidacy of Assoc. Dr. Prot. Ivan Ivanov as a professor. He is the only participant in the competition. The scientific production presented by him, as well as his teaching employment, correspond to the requirements of the current regulations for holding the academic position of "professor". Based on this, as well as the remaining set of documents for participation in the competition, I find that the procedure has been followed.

Applicant data

Assoc. Dr. Prot. Ivan Ivanov was born in Lom. He is a teacher at the Faculty of Theology of the SU "St. Kliment Ohridski" by 2003 г. as part-time, and from 2004 г. as a regular assistant. In 2009 г. was elected "docent". He graduated in Theology at the same faculty in 1996 г. and through 1999 г. Opera singing at the "Pancho Vladigerov" NMA. In the period 2000- 2004 г. studied at the Pontifical Institute for the East and at the Higher Pontifical College of Capranica.

In 2005 г. defends a doctoral dissertation and obtains the title of doctor, in the scientific specialty 05.01.17 "Theology" (Diploma from VAK with No. 30273/27.02.2006) His dissertation is on the topic: "The liturgical tradition of Hesychasm in musical and hymnographic monuments in the 11th , 15th and 15th centuries ."

In 2009 г. after a successful competition, he was appointed as an "associate professor" at the Theological Faculty of the SU. His teaching work is closely related to his scientific interests and competencies, which are mostly in the field of Liturgy, liturgical theology, church music and hymnography, church diplomacy, etc. At the moment, he leads numerous lecture courses in the bachelor's and master's programs of the Faculty of Theology of the SU. He appears as a teacher and guest lecturer in a number of European educational institutions, especially in Italy. Apart from the academic community, Associate Professor Ivan Ivanov is also known among the clergy of the BOC, as well as outside its borders. His scientific creativity, active participation in church life and his participation in a number of inter-church forums, commissions and personal contacts contribute to this. For the Bulgarian society, he is known for his numerous public events and above all for the services broadcast on the national media on the days of the most revered Christian holidays.

From 2021 г. Fr. Ivan is the ecclesiastical and diplomatic representative of the BOC in Rome and head of the Bulgarian Orthodox Community "St. Seven-digit numbers" in the Italian capital. He has been awarded many national and international awards and honorary degrees. This makes him a recognizable person with authority and high appreciation, which every holder of the academic title "professor" should undoubtedly possess.

Scientific output and scientific contributions

The candidate participates in the competition with the following scientific production: one monograph, 21 studies and 5 articles, Chapter of a collective monograph.

The monograph Ivanov, I., *The Eucharist – Mysterium fidei – Misterium vitae* (liturgical study of the sacrament of the Eucharist), UI "St. Kliment Ohridski", Sofia, 2020, 609 p., ISBN 978-954-07-4888-7, COBISS.BG-ID 40405256, reviewed, is the largest scientific work of Fr. Prof. I. Ivanov in his attached list of publications submitted for participation in the competition. It is dedicated, as

the author himself defines, to problems fundamental to liturgical theology, examined through the prism of world scientific research on the issues of the Eucharist, sacraments and rites, in accordance with Bulgarian research in this area, the scientific research heritage of scientists and teachers who left their contribution to liturgical theology in Bulgaria. A driving motive for the author is the opportunity he had during his entire period of dealing with this subject, to follow the effect of its teaching, as well as its presentation, consultation and good reviews in our and foreign theological circles. From this comes the self-assessment of the value and necessity of writing the present work.

The introductory part answers the possible analogies that can be made regarding the title. It presents the main scientific characteristics of the work of writing the monograph: basic parameters, methodology, goals, object and scientific research principles. A short but comprehensive review of the works of Bulgarian ecclesiastical and scientific figures, who have in their heritage and research in the field of liturgy and in particular of St. Eucharist.

Chapter One: Characteristics in the study of the Eucharist - methodological, symbolic, liturgical, patristic, dogmatic, interpretive - is also introductory and preparatory in nature with regard to the specific and fundamental questions laid down in the following chapters and analyzed and presented with sufficient precision and volume.

Chapter Two: The Holy Liturgy - history, development, parts and features follows the established and proven plan for the overall presentation of the central service, in the spirit of liturgical theology. Of course, here the author, using and referring to the sources, refracts the known and his own achievements through his prism or his way of narration. The result is a complete, well-systematized and readable picture of the problems set out in the bullet points.

Chapter Three: The teaching of the Church on the Holy Eucharist - a basic study of liturgical and eucharistic phenomena also occupies a central place in the overall problematic. In my opinion, it is very well separated, because the

presentation in a separate part allows it to be studied and presented in detail and in depth without burdening and complicating the other parts. And this is especially important in view of the readers, some of whom are undoubtedly not highly trained specialists in Liturgy, and probably also in Theology in general.

Chapter Four: Eucharistic Angelology is devoted to the union of the earthly and heavenly Church in the Eucharist and the participation of incorporeal forces. Followed by: Summary, Concluding Remarks, Appendix and Bibliography.

The volume of the appendix is impressive, which includes: liturgical families and subfamilies, orders and eucharistic prayers, as well as their editions and translations. It is worth noting the use of numerous sources, which are correctly reflected at the end of the monograph and occupy 26 pages - in Cyrillic, Latin and Internet sources.

Among all the merits of this work, I would highlight the author's ability to write in a distinctly scientific style and language, and at the same time the narrative is easy to read and highly impactful.

The rest of the works submitted for participation in the competition (21 studies, 5 articles, a chapter from a collective work) have been published in authoritative scientific collections and magazines, some of which are peer-reviewed. This proves their value, contribution nature and high evaluation in scientific circles. The clearly delineated field of his scientific interest is striking, which is why they could be thematically united in the issue of St. Eucharist. All this testifies to the preparation and skills of Prof. Ivanov. Undoubtedly, we are talking about an extremely erudite and prepared learned theological liturgist, who feels equally comfortable both in the periods of the early church and in its medieval period to this day. All this once again convinces that the candidate is fully ready and worthy to be titled with the title "professor".

In the references for the competition, the candidate indicated participation in research projects. He took part in authoritative scientific conferences and

seminars (most of them with international participation). On the face of it, editorial and translation work is significant in terms of volume and quality.

Another important point proving his level of maturity and the effectiveness of his work is the presence of an impressive number of master's and doctoral students who have successfully completed their training and defended their theses and dissertations under his scientific supervision.

At the end of this part of the review, I will point out the presence of dozens more scientific publications and activities listed in references, but not included (for obvious reasons – over-productivity) in the competition list.

The entire scientific output of Assoc. Prot. Ivanov is known and appreciated in specialized circles, which is evident from the citation report.

Contributions

In the report on the contributions, Assoc. Prot. Ivanov formulated the contributions by giving them a general characteristic and specific dimensions. As a reviewer, I fully accept the reference and its content. First of all, I would point out that the impressive scientific output itself, the bachelors, masters and doctoral students trained, the important projects carried out, etc., together constitute the most significant contribution. Specifically, from the scientific publications presented for the competition, scientific contributions can be indicated in the following five thematic areas, as defined by the author himself:

I. Contribution in the field of liturgical, liturgical, eucharistic and sacramental theology: characteristics and testimonies. In support, Father Ivanov provides a full bibliographic description of 21 of his publications. They analyze topics traditional to liturgical science, scientific research debates on important liturgical, canonical, dogmatic and confessional aspects of the liturgical life of the Church in the East and in the West.

II. The second contribution is in the field of interfaith dialogue, liturgical mission and interdisciplinary studies. Here, an analysis is made of the modern teaching on Christian unity, with the main questions relating to the congregation

of the Church and the eucharistic ecumenism - the communion of Christians in the Holy Eucharist. A list of 11 publications is attached.

III. A third contribution is highlighted in the field of liturgical-exegetical, Cyril-Methodological, musical-medieval, Byzantological and Slavic studies. Here are presented the theoretical positions in the studies in the field of liturgy and medieval studies, the basis of which is faith and reason in the field of theology. There are 15 publications listed.

IV. Contribution in the field of ecclesiastical, social and spiritual-moral, dogmatic-canonical and pastoral dimensions in the contemporary liturgical life of Orthodox Christians. In this group, the character of Bulgarian liturgical theology and the most vivid studies related to the Holy Eucharist are revealed. And this contribution section is supported by 11 author publications.

V. Contribution to the analysis and interpretation of liturgical sources. According to Assoc. Prot. Ivanov, in the research proposed for the first time in Bulgaria, a detailed liturgical, theological, systematic, text-critical and exegetical analysis of the prayer texts (according to the standard of their Byzantine and Slavic editions) from the Eucharistic canons of the Liturgy of St. Basil the Great (BAS) and of the liturgy of St. John Chrysostom (CHR) , as well as many other emblematic Eucharistic prayers used in the liturgical tradition of the Church in the East and in the West. A list of 15 publications has been placed.

In conclusion: Overall, there is a serious and thorough contribution. All the contributions formulated above find their focus in the habilitation monograph.

Teaching job

In the Faculty of Theology of the SU, the candidate teaches and, accordingly, is the author of the lecture courses on a wide range of disciplines in the field of liturgical theology. Participates in the development of study plans and curricula. He was the scientific supervisor of graduates and doctoral students

It is evident from the attached reference that he has the required horarium.

With Assoc. Dr. Prot. Ivan Ivanov, we have no co-authored publications and do not jointly participate in scientific projects.

Based on the above, I support the candidacy of Assoc. Dr. Prot. Ivan Ivanov, I will vote YES and recommend to the Faculty Council of the Faculty of Theology of SU "St. Kliment Ohridski" that he be elected as a PROFESSOR in professional direction 2.4. Religion and Theology (Liturgical).

Prof. Dr. Ludmil Malev