

SU "St. Kliment Ohridski"

Faculty of Theology

Department of "Practical Theology"

R E V I E W E D

by Prof. Dr. Ludmil Martinov Malev

(appointed as a member of a scientific jury by Order RD 38-67 of 05.02.2024)

of a dissertation on:

"The intercession of the saints in the prayer sequences of the Liturgy from the Byzantine ritual (according to Slavic sources from the XV to XIX centuries)"

author: **Miloslav Danov Bonov**

for awarding the scientific and educational degree "doctor"

by field of higher education 2. Humanities, professional direction 2.4, scientific specialty Religion and Theology (Liturgical)

Sofia

2024

Data for the Ph.D

Doctoral student Miloslav Bonov originally had an art education and realized as a practicing artist and teacher. From 2015 to 2020, he completed various degrees of theological education - the parallel course of the Sofia Theological Seminary and two master's degrees (Faith and Life and Liturgy) at the Faculty of Theology of SU "St. Kliment Ohridski". Seminary education, his two master's degrees, as well as pilgrimages and stays on the Holy Mount and in Jerusalem, as well as his subdeacon ministry are important prerequisites for the positive end result achieved.

Miloslav Danov Bonov has been enrolled as a doctoral student (regular training) for the period 2020-2023 by order of the rector of SU "St. Kliment Ohridski". The entire preparation, including the writing of the dissertation, was carried out in the Department of "Practical Theology" in the Faculty of Arts of the SU. His academic supervisor is Prof. Dr. Ivan Ivanov

During the period of doctoral studies, the dissertation student has completed his study plan in full. He successfully passed the scheduled exams. He managed to prepare and implement the required number of scientific publications. He always responded and diligently handled the activities assigned to him by the department. He was involved in additional forms of doctoral training at the faculty level. He participated in doctoral readings organized by BF. In the current control carried out through the provided attestations, it has always received good marks.

All this has led to the completion and integrity of his doctoral studies and to the most important result – a well-written dissertation.

He was dismissed by a rector's order from 2023 based on the law and regulations, as well as a decision of the FS of BF.

In my opinion, Miloslav Bonov meets the requirements and meets the criteria of the RSARB and the Regulations for its implementation.

What has been pointed out so far gives me reason to accept. that all procedural rules have been followed and no violations have been committed.

The first meeting of the scientific jury approved by order of the rector of SU was held on 09.02.2024 and is reflected in the protocol attached to the documents.

Dissertation data

Miloslav Bonov's dissertation work, proposed for defense, has a volume of 237 pages and is structurally organized in the following parts: Preface, Introduction, three chapters, Conclusion, Contributions, Appendices and Sources and used literature. Placing a list of used abbreviations at the very beginning of the text is appropriate. With a view to faster and more comprehensive orientation of the reader.

There is a balance between the individual parts, in terms of volume.

In the Preface, the author, after the initial introductory thoughts, shares the reason why he turned to the topic and its development in the light of liturgical theology, in a historical and liturgical -canonical aspect.

The introduction contains all the attributes specific to this part. Actuality and practical orientation - here it is very clearly stated not only what the importance and modern sound derives from, but also the applicability of this work. Object and subject matter - these important aspects of the research work are formulated with the necessary precision. The goals and tasks that the author sets for their achievement are formulated. The methodology is indicated. It stands out with the necessary complexity and comprehensiveness. The limits of the study are outlined. A short review of the foreign works known to the dissertation was made.

The content of the Three Chapters corresponds to their wording.

Chapter one "Holiness as the main goal of God's house-building after the fall" has an introductory and foundational character. It clarified the issues concerning: The biblical grounds for holiness; Holiness in Time to IV century sl . R. Hr .; The Church and hers dogmatic answer for the saints in front of God .

Head second " The place on the saints in Orthodoxy worship service after the 4th century' examines: The development of the Byzantine ritual to the 9th century; Degrees on holiness by rank on Proskomidia ; Summoning on the saints in both Byzantine liturgies .”

Head third " The cult to the saints in the Byzantine a ritual by Slavic springs from the XV-XIX century " covers the problematic related to questions as : Continuity on the Byzantine tradition in Slavic languages nations ; Kinds Slavic editions in the XV-XIX century period ; Worship and Continuum on the cult to the saints .

In order to arrive at a complete clarification of the mentioned questions, the dissertation student has separated them into relevant subdivisions of the chapters. This is a technique that also serves for better visualization and easier orientation in the content. It should be noted that the author did not engage in mechanical fragmentation and fragmentation of the text, and each of the substructures seems appropriate.

The conclusion outlines the results of the research, highlights the contributions and gives recommendations to those who are related in a different way to the field of this work and, more specifically, to the issues involved in it.

The parts indicating the sources and the literature (author's and reference) are particularly impressive. A solid number of titles in different languages are indicated, which shows a deep interest and hard work.

Placed applications are strictly tailored to the topic and contribute to its visualization. I will allow myself a note about them at the end of the review.

Also helpful is the section after the Appendix, titled and indicating places in the Old and New Testaments that indicate (or call for) intercession.

The abstract presented by Miloslav Bonov meets the requirements and enables a clear and accurate introduction to the text of the dissertation in a synthesized form.

The dissertation's publications are sufficient in number and depth and have been published in authoritative journals. The same could be said about his participation in scientific forums.

Scientific contributions

Miloslav Bonov's dissertation work, although it is dedicated to an element of daily liturgical worship, has a marked contribution character. For researchers in this field, it is clear from the title itself that the contributions are contained in the extensive and thorough analysis down to the smallest detail. It is not to be overlooked that the dissertationer has taken up the development of such a current topic in our liturgical daily life, which quite a few ecclesiastics master as a practice, without making any effort or having any pretensions to deep scientific knowledge. Unlike in the past, today's believers often pose challenges that should also be responded to with a solid dose of theoretical preparation. This is what the present study suggests. As for specific dimensions, I fully accept the contributions highlighted in the dissertation and the abstract. The main ones, as indicated by the dissertation student, are: 1. This one labor everything appears one from the little in Bulgarian liturgical science which _ analyze Slavic springs on Bulgarian, Russian and Serbian languages in different them revisions and usage them in the Byzantine liturgical tradition. 2. Traces and proves the Byzantine continuity among the peoples adopted and used at the worship

service Old Bulgarian texts and especially those who _ reflect advocacy on the saints like main part from Eucharist canon from The liturgy on Eastern Orthodox ritual . 3. Through the research on Slavic redactions on both Byzantine liturgies , the author proves that _ advocacy on the saints everything perceives even today and gives confidence that _ it will everything also searches the continuum on church life on the future ones generations . 4. On the base on the liturgical ones texts in Slavic officials in the examined centuries everything proves the visible and the invisible meaning for prayers life on The church attitude to the saints , the cult to them and the special them importance in construction on the mercury connection between Earthly and Heavenly Church .

Remarks

Along with the undoubted qualities of this work, in my opinion, there are also some minor weaknesses:

1. The beginning of the Introduction has more the character of a preface, because it does not point clearly and directly to the topic of the dissertation
2. In the review of the historiography, not only information about authors and titles should be given, but also a short critical analysis should be made; This would make the contributions stand out even more brightly.
3. In my opinion, the abbreviation anywhere in the text 3C is inappropriate. This avoids constant repetition, but affects the style and perception of the reader.
4. The Appendix section could be more extensive.

Conclusion

I declare that I do not in any way fall under the hypotheses of the law and other normative acts concerning conflict of interests!

The qualities of the current dissertation work give me full reason to vote positively "FOR" Miloslav Danov Bonov to be awarded the educational and scientific degree "Doctor" in the field of higher education 2. Humanities, professional direction 2.4, scientific specialty Religion and Theology (Liturgy).

Veliko Tarnovo

2024