

***A*cademician preot profesor universitar doctor Mircea Păcurariu (1932- 2021) - o viață pusă în slujba lui Dumnezeu și a neamului românesc, Editura Renașterea, Cluj Napoca și editura Episcopiei Devei și Hunedoarei, Deva, 2021, coordonatori: † Gurie GEORGIU, preot Florin DOBREI, 384 pp.**

The passing into the eternal world of the man, priest, teacher, historian of the Romanian people's church and academician Mircea Păcurariu, was to end the time that had been given to him for the work on earth, for his own salvation and that of the children of the people he came from. Aware of the value of the mission that he had fulfilled in abundance, the first Bishop of Deva and Hunedoara, Father Gurie Georgiu, took the initiative to publish a memorial and memorial volume, published in autumn 2021 in Deva.

The volume begins by recording some thoughts of gratitude of the first proper hierarch of the Romanians of Hunedoara, towards the one who understood, felt and supported these desires of the Romanians of these lands, in the midst of which he was born, to have their own diocese. In this sense, the father of the history of the Romanian Orthodox Church had emphasized, many times, the importance of the great fighters for the defense of Orthodoxy from these lands and the natural legitimacy of the year of the foundation of these dioceses. It was, in fact, a duty of gratitude, which the father professor had made known to his students and to the general public, in order to understand the deeds of the forefathers and to serve the Church and the nation with great love. It was a sign of love and respect for the people and deeds of these places. Father Mircea Păcurariu, was part of the history of this nation and that is why our hierarch showed that there was no separation between the condescension of the teacher and the priest's mirida, in the service of his nation and of God.

These thoughts gathered under the title “Mircea Păcurariu a witness of history, an ever-living presence and a rich legacy for the future”, are followed by the Biobibliography drawn up by his successor in the chair, Professor Paul Brusanovski, who reviewed his impressive scientific and publishing work, starting with the *History of the Romanian Orthodox Church*, for the theological seminaries in seven editions, followed by the masterly work with the same title, in three volumes, totalling over 1900 pages, published in three editions and a Compendium, also published in three editions, intended to summarise the *History of the Romanian Orthodox Church*, for the general public, translated into German. Alongside this, works such as; *The Beginnings of the Transylvanian Metropolitanate*, *The Policy of the Hungarian State towards the Romanian Church in Transylvania during the period of dualism 1867-1918*, *The History of Prislop Monastery*, *Two Hundred Years of Theological Education in Sibiu, 1786-1986*, *Pages from the History of the Romanian Church. Considerations in connection with the union in Transylvania*, *History of the Romanian Church in Transylvania, Banat, Crișana and Maramureș until 1918*, *History of the Eparchy of Arad, Basarabia. Aspects of the history of the Church and of the Romanian nation*, *The daco-Romanian and Romanian Saints*, *The Romanian Revolution in Transylvania and Banat in 1848-1849. Contribution of the Church*, *Dictionary of Romanian Theologians*, *Sermons on Sundays and feasts, on the feasts of the Emperor and the Virgin Mary, of the saints and on Romanian saints; occasional sermons and on feasts*, *Siberian scholars of the past*, *Sibiu Metropolitan Cathedral*, *Studies on the history of the Romanian Orthodox Church - 2 volumes*, *Romanian Theological Culture or Encyclopedia of Romanian Orthodoxy*, some in several editions. These works are intended to educate those to whom they are addressed on the Christian life that has pulsed for two millennia in these territories, with all the sacrifices made in the struggle to defend the ancestral faith and the national being, and to keep the sons and daughters of the nation in the faith of their ancestors. But to form the image of his laborious work, we should mention the approximately 1,000 studies, articles, reviews, conferences and communications or interviews published in the country and abroad, some of them translated into international languages. Many refer to the Romanian diaspora, both in the Orthodox East, with special reference to the ecclesiastical links of the Romanians with the ancient patriarchates of Constantinople, Antioch, Alexandria and Jerusalem and also with the

monasteries of Mount Athos, Mount Sinai, Russia, Kiev or Serbia, as well as those in the United States of America and Canada, totalling some 15 000 pages.

After the complete bibliography, the thoughts of His Beatitude Daniel, Patriarch of the Romanian Orthodox Church entitled “Father Academician Mircea Păcurariu - the great historian of the Romanian Orthodox Church” are included under the title *At the farewell hour*; that of His Eminence Laurențiu, Archbishop of Sibiu and Metropolitan of Ardeal, entitled “Father Academician Mircea Păcurariu left to receive the blessing of St. Hierarch Andrei Saguna” and that of Academician Professor Ioan Aurel Pop.

Under the title *Thoughts and Memories*, are gathered the comments of His Eminence Andrei, Archbishop of Vad, Feleac and Cluj and Metropolitan of Cluj, Maramureș and Sălajului, of His Eminence Timotei, Archbishop of Arad, of His Grace Macarie, Bishop of Northern Europe and of His Grace Emilian Crișanul, Bishop-Vicar of the Archdiocese of Arad. Alongside them are articles by renowned professors and historians, colleagues or disciples of Father Mircea Păcurariu.

The last chapter, symbolically entitled *Homage to the people of Hunedoara*, begins with a word by the prelate Daniel Stoenescu, followed by studies by the fathers Ionel Popescu, Florin Dobrei, Ioan Octavian Rudeanu, Gabriel Basa, Stefan Negreanu, Daniel Alic. At the end there is a collection of memories of priests who were his contemporaries, some of them once students but also close family members from this land of Hunedoara.

In this way we get the image of the researcher, the great scholar, teacher and historian, Father Mircea Păcurariu, who remains both a witness of history and transmits over the centuries a legacy that opens new perspectives and research horizons for Romanian historiography.

Rev. lect. dr. Gabriel-Valeriu BASA