

Pr. Lect. Univ. Dr. Ioan LAZĂR, *Demian Tudor (1912-2001). Preotul, mărturisorul și duhovnicul tinerilor teologi*, Colecția *Teologi arădeni* 5, Editura Universității “Aurel Vlaicu”, Arad, 2023, ISBN 978-973-752-940-4, 313 pp.

The present monograph happily completes the *Teologi arădeni* Collection, a series launched on the occasion of the Bicentennial of Arad Theology (1822-2022), at the initiative of Rev. Prof. Dr. Cristinel Ioja, Dean of the “Ilarion V. Felea” Faculty of Theology in Arad. The volume includes the life, activity, and work of Father Demian Tudor (1912-2001), a former professor at the Arad Theological Academy (1937-1940) and spiritual father of the Faculty of Theology in Arad (1991-1994).

The book stands out through two fundamental and defining characteristics: it is an extremely vivid book, resembling a historical novel, easy to read and follow, while equally fulfilling academic and scientific standards. This is something rarely found in a monograph, which usually presents a mere list of dates, characters, and events.

1. It is a living book because it speaks about a living man, a man who lived in Christ and for Christ, a man who dedicated his entire life, even to the point of sacrifice, to serving Christ, His Church, and his fellow people. Such a man, even in death or upon dying, remains alive, as the words of Revelation say: “I was dead, and behold, I am alive forever and ever” (Revelation 1, 18). When something is written about such a man, that writing becomes alive and active, constructive and useful. The testimony he gave about Christ throughout his entire life defines the measure of his life. This measure is confirmed by the pious end of Father Demian Tudor’s life, but even more so by an event that occurred in the latter part of his life, as testified by his beloved son.

2. It is a rigorously prepared monograph, adhering to all academic and scientific requirements. This is because much of the book is written based

on documents and the press of the time, where we find Father Demian Tudor's entire journalistic work, supplemented by books and specialized studies that deal directly or tangentially with his person, activity, and work. The documents researched in various archives – the Tudor Demian Family Archive, the Micălaca Veche Parish Archive, the Romanian Orthodox Protopresbytery of Arad Archive, the Arad-Center Parish Archive, the National Council for the Study of the Security Archives – reveal a series of new details about his life and activity, shedding light on his complex personality and his model of priesthood, exemplarily lived and demonstrated by this worthy servant of Christ.

The personality and conduct of the former professor and spiritual father of the Arad School of Theology are presented by the author in the context of the era in which he lived. This is essential for a correct and unbiased understanding of Father Tudor's activities and thought.

The historical truth is respected by the author, even if it disadvantages some people from that period. The author does not accuse but presents the historical realities from the end of the interwar period, the communist era, and the early years after the 1989 Revolution.

The author successfully structures Father Demian's theological thought, analyzing his entire journalistic work and offering readers an overview of what the theology professor and priest Demian Tudor wrote and thought.

The most impressive part of the monograph is Chapter VI, which covers the years of imprisonment and the entire ordeal Father Demian Tudor experienced during the communist period, as well as his family's ordeal, a part of his life that gives him the stature of a confessor of the faith.

Chapter VIII consists of testimonies from those who knew Father Demian Tudor. This is a less common feature in classic monographs, but these direct testimonies add value to the book, forming first-hand documents that highlight the father's personality and the impact of his missionary and pastoral work. Particularly noteworthy is the touching and vibrant testimony of his son, eng. Damian Tudor.

The annexes are extremely valuable, containing 30 photographs and 44 documents in facsimile, allowing specialists and those interested to directly consult the information as well as visual depictions of the life of this worthy servant. The photographs are grouped into three categories (I.

The Man and the Servant; II. Family; III. Service) and, like the documents, are presented in chronological order.

How did Father Ioan Lazăr manage this fortunate symbiosis? His consistency and tenacity, his close connection with Father Demian Tudor's family, his reliance on documents, his constant reference to books and specialized studies, and his regular consultations with the faculty's deanship have led to this successful outcome: scientific, historical, theological, and spiritual, all at once imbued with the spirit of Father Demian Tudor and complemented by the effort and humility of Father Ioan Lazăr.

Protosyngellos lect. dr. Nicolae M. TANG

Pr. Prof. Univ. Dr. Cristinel IOJA, Pr. Conf. Univ. Dr. Caius CUȚARU, Pr. Lect. Univ. Dr. Adrian MURG, Protos. Lect. Univ. Dr. Iustin POPOVICI, Pr. Lect. Univ. Dr. Filip ALBU (coordonatori), *The Significance of Theology in Today's Society and Culture*, Editura Universității „Aurel Vlaicu” din Arad, Arad, 2023, 615 pp. ISBN: 978-973-752-936-7

In the year 2022, the Faculty of Orthodox Theology “Ilarion V. Felea” from Arad, with the blessing of the Most Reverend Father Dr. Timotei Sevciciu, Archbishop of Arad and the Most Reverend Father Dr. Emilian Crisanul, Vicar Bishop of the Archdiocese of Arad, celebrated the Bicentennial of Arad Theology (1822-2022).

The event brought together in Arad professors of theology from the Universities of Romania, Europe, America and Canada, on a current topic regarding the meanings of Theology in today's society and culture, a topic of contextual reflection, in connection with the anniversary of the Bicentennial of Aradian Theology.

Also during this period, the College of Deans of the Romanian Patriarchate was organized. The international symposium enjoyed the