

**BABEȘ-BOLYAI UNIVERSITY
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**The pastoral, cultural and social dynamics of the
Lutheran pastor Johann Konrad Wilhelm Löhe and
the martyred priest Florea Mureșanu in a
multicultural European context**

Summary

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This doctoral thesis is structured in three parts with several chapters and subchapters preceded by an introduction, followed by conclusions, annexes and bibliography. In the introductory part I aimed to point out the aspects related to the motivation that led to the choice of the research topic, its importance and topicality, as well as the scientific objectives assumed in this research. One of the motivations is also that „the personality of Pastor Wilhelm Löhe to be brought up to date, as he is the one who will establish a modern Christian philanthropic system, based on the Church's involvement in social work, which today bears the name Diakoneo, as well as that of the martyr Father Florea Mureșanu, who through his vast pastoral experience has outlined some concrete directions through which the Church can respond to both the spiritual needs of the faithful and those of a social nature. As I will develop throughout the work, Father Florea Mureșanu remains a pioneer in the Transylvanian Orthodox Church, who was involved body and soul like Wilhelm Löhe, in articulating pastoral principles based on social but also in articulating social principles based on pastoral pastoral in the life of the Church.” (p.11)

The introduction also contains elements that refer to the current state of doctoral research and the methodology used in the research. The introductory part concludes with the limits of the doctoral research and a brief structure of the doctoral thesis.

In the first part of my doctoral dissertation entitled *The Lutheran Pastor Johann Konrad Wilhelm Löhe* I have tried to portray the personality of this pastor in various aspects. In the first chapter I have given updated information about the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Germany with aspects concerning the structure of this Church, its legal status, without omitting to point out data concerning the specific teaching of the Lutheran churches in Germany. At the end of this chapter you will find valuable information on updated statistical data that gives an overview of the realities of this Church. In the second chapter of the first part I have tried to present the life and work of the Lutheran pastor Wilhelm Löhe, emphasizing the pastoral and missionary work both in Neuendettelsau and in America. Also within this chapter, in order to contextualize the pastor's activity, I have presented brief historical data related to the Evangelical Church in Bavaria in the 19th century.

The third and fourth chapters of the first part are dedicated to the welfare institution founded by Wilhelm Löhe in the second half of the 19th century. The third chapter contains the theological elements from the pastor's writings as well as a history of the philanthropic

institution that emphasizes its evolution as well as its perspectives and its reception in Germany and beyond. The last chapter of this part is dedicated to the links that Diakoneo promotes with the Romanian Orthodox Church, but especially with the Metropolitanate of Cluj, Maramureşului and Sălajului and with the Faculty of Orthodox Theology of the Babeş-Bolyai University of Cluj-Napoca.

Another important aspect is the theological consultations that took place between Diakoneo Neuendettelsau and the Romanian Orthodox Church. These consultations presented highly topical themes related to the issue of Bioethics, and the participants, who included hierarchs and theologians from the two Churches, made an important contribution in terms of ecumenical dialog, but especially in terms of the approach to Bioethics in contemporary theology.

The second part of this doctoral research is related to the personality of the martyred priest Florea Mureşanu, theologian and priest of renown in the Eparchy of Vadului Feleacului and Cluj in the 20th century. In order to contextualize the remarkable activity of this priest of vocation, in the first chapter of the second part of the first part of the second chapter we presented brief historiographical data related to the reactivation of the episcopal see in Cluj and the Theological Academy of Cluj. The second chapter entitled Florea Mureşanu - Priest and the dynamics of pastoral activity presents information related to the biography of Father Florea Mureşanu. A novel aspect of this chapter is the doctoral student file of Father Mureşanu, which I made a brief analysis. Also, the most important aspects of the pastoral activity in Râşca de Sus, the Eparchial Cathedral, the Church of the Hill "Holy Trinity" and Suciul de Sus, and finally the activity within the Lord's Chant are also pointed out. In this chapter we also evoked the monastic vocation of Fr. Florea Mureşanu, who founded the Breaza Monastery near Suciul de Sus. In the third chapter we presented the teaching activity that Father Florea Mureşanu had in the Theological Academy of Cluj, but also elements related to his publicistic activity, as well as the vast theological work of this erudite priest.

As a theologian, Father Florea Mureşanu has developed a diversified thematic palette, concretized in specialized studies of historical theology, as well as liturgical theology, homiletics and catechetics. He was recognized as a skilled master of the methodology of deciphering archival documents and the theological literature of the medieval period of our Church. His doctoral dissertation on the central theme of Varlaam's Cassation is an argument in this regard.

In the fourth chapter of the second part are related the events related to the periods of detention that Father Florea Mureșanu Florea Mureșanu suffered being deported to the Danube-Black Sea Canal, but also from the prison of Aiud where the father finds his martyric end. The periods of detention treated in the doctoral dissertation were supported by information from the Securitate's tracking file, as well as details taken from the archives researched.

The last chapter of the second part is entirely dedicated to the living testimonies of those who knew directly the martyr father Florea Muresanu. This chapter represents the unpublished part related to the personality of the father, because I grew up where he was arrested and imprisoned in Aiud.

As a constant concern that I pursued within the objectives of the research was also to advocate for Father Florea Muresanu to be recognized for the sacrifices he made for the Church and the nation and consequently to be canonized. In order to outline this approach, which is ultimately the responsibility of the higher bodies of the Romanian Orthodox Church, I have presented all the arguments in favor of his canonization, but I have also dismantled the biased and slanderous information, based on arguments, against Father Florea Mureșanu.

The last part of the doctoral research highlights the pastoral-missionary paradigms of the two protagonists in the multicultural European context. The first chapter emphasizes the elements of theological, pastoral, missionary and cultural interference of the two personalities. Their exceptional theological training facilitated their pastoral activity to have a direct impact on the lives of the faithful, with the emphasis on the methods of contextual pastoral ministry which were quite modern for those times, but especially on the Sacred Liturgy and their liturgical life.

The last chapter of the doctoral thesis focuses on the relevance of philanthropic activity and mission in the Church as an essential factor in social assistance. Also in this chapter I propose possible social projects under the aegis of the two personalities.

The doctoral dissertation concludes with the related conclusions in which I emphasize that the two personalities „were incorrigible idealists, who in the course of their life and work were forced to face many difficulties that sometimes seemed insurmountable. The difficulties and obstacles they faced did not prevent them from seeing their ideals realized. Wilhelm Löhe leaves to posterity one of the most important social welfare institutions in Germany, with ramifications throughout the world, and Father Florea Muresanu leaves as an inestimable gift to the Church his model of a model of a priest with a sacrificial spirit, an intellectual, with a

monastic and martyr vocation, founder of a monastery, of Romanian and Orthodox culture and spirituality. When our Church will include him in the calendar of its holy martyrs, we will have a petitioner in heaven and a model for the entire priesthood today.” (p.237)

The doctoral thesis also includes a rich appendix of unpublished texts and images, as well as an updated bibliographical list of specialized literature.