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FACULTY OF ORTHODOX THEOLOGY**

**Priest Alexandru Filipașcu – Dean of the University Level
Theological Institute and Director of the Church Singers
School in Cluj**

Doctoral Thesis Abstract

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CONTENTS

CONTENTS.....	2
LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS.....	3
ARGUMENT.....	4
INTRODUCTION.....	6
Chapter I.....	12
THE LIFE OF FATHER PROFESSOR ALEXANDRU FILIPAȘCU.....	12
1.1. Genealogy of the Filipașcu Family.....	12
1.2. Biographical Notes on Alexandru Filipașcu from the Meeting with Dr. Vasile Filipașcu.....	17
1.3. Biographical Notes on Alexandru Filipașcu from the Meeting with Dr. Gheorghe Bilașcu.....	29
1.4. Romanian Education in the Interwar Period.....	38
1.5. Alexandru Filipașcu's Activity as a Teacher and Priest.....	46
1.6. Livia Piso-Filipașcu and Alexandru Filipașcu, Members of the Filipașcu Family.....	53
Chapter II.....	63
Father Alexandru Filipașcu's Activity in the Fields of History, Culture, and Politics.....	63
2.1. The Church Singers' School of Cluj.....	63
2.2. The Cultural, Social, and Political Activity of Alexandru Filipașcu.....	74
2.3. Alexandru Filipașcu's Activity during the Vienna Dictate.....	86
2.4. The Historical Work of Alexandru Filipașcu.....	105
2.4.1. History of Maramureș.....	105
2.4.2. Le Maramureș.....	123
2.4.3. The Voivodeship of Maramureș – Origin, Structure, and Trends.....	125
2.4.4. History of the Romanian Church.....	128
2.4.5. Historicitas libri Genesis.....	135
2.5. Activity in the Field of Journalism.....	137
2.6. Interethnic Relations.....	143

Chapter III.....	148
Father Alexandru Filipașcu, Confessor of the Faith in Communist Prisons.....	148
3.1. Communism in Romania.....	148
3.2. The Relationship between Church and State under Communism.....	170
3.3. Aspects of the “Unification” of the Romanian Orthodox Church with the Greek-Catholic Church.....	187
3.4. The University-Level Theological Institute of Cluj during 1948-1952.....	196
3.5. The Canal of Suffering.....	204
3.6. The Arrest and Sentencing of Father Alexandru Filipașcu.....	214
Chapter IV.....	229
Remembrances over the Years.....	229
4.1. Reflections on the Personality of Alexandru Filipașcu in the View of Academician Ioan-Aurel Pop.....	229
4.2. An Evaluation of the Impact and Cultural Value of Priest Professor Alexandru Filipașcu’s Personality.....	234
CONCLUSIONS.....	244
BIBLIOGRAPHY.....	255
Annexes Documents.....	266

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Keywords: Alexandru Filipașcu, History of Maramureș, Theological University Institute of Cluj, theological and historical contributions, national and cultural identity.

The work entitled "Father Alexandru Filipașcu – Dean of the University Theological Institute of Cluj and Director of the School of Church Singers in Cluj" is the result of an in-depth research carried out over five years within the prestigious doctoral school "Isidor Todoran" in Cluj, under the attentive and wise guidance of Father Prof. Univ. Dr. habil. Vasile Stanciu.

It is essential for every nation to understand its true history in order to avoid repeating past mistakes and to build a solid future founded on the experiences accumulated over time. Throughout history, there have been remarkable personalities who, through courage, virtues, or diplomatic and strategic abilities, have made significant contributions to shaping the national destiny, managing to preserve and pass on to future generations significant pages from the past.

Considering the special impact such figures have had in recovering and promoting the historical heritage of the nation, this research deemed it appropriate to bring to attention the representative figure of Father Professor Doctor Alexandru Filipașcu. Through his active involvement in the social and cultural life of his time, he undertook numerous historical research efforts aimed at highlighting the continuity and antiquity of the Romanian people in the Transylvanian area, with a special focus on the history of Maramureș, his native region.

A subject as complex and rich as that addressed in this research requires full commitment, confrontation with rigorous intellectual challenges, and assuming considerable responsibility. This is all the more important given that Alexandru Filipașcu, recognized as a prominent cultural personality, served as a professor at the Chair of the History of the Romanian Orthodox Church within the University Theological Institute of Cluj. The present work aims to analyze in depth his vision, focusing on this fundamental discipline.

The natural course of research on such a generous subject highlighted that, although it represents a significant intellectual challenge and a serious responsibility, this endeavor is also

an honor. Thus, through this work, the aim is to reconstruct and highlight the extensive activity of Alexandru Filipașcu, both as a priest and mayor, and as a respected teacher and scholar.

This research intends to emphasize not only the theological and educational contributions of Alexandru Filipașcu but also the moral and ethical principles he promoted, which continue to be a source of inspiration for many generations. A central point of the analysis is the way his activity and conceptions harmoniously integrated into church traditions, bringing a valuable contribution to the development of the spiritual and cultural heritage of the Romanian Orthodox Church.

Thus, the work constitutes both an examination of the life and work of Alexandru Filipașcu and a reflection on his significance in the present, stimulating our responsibility to continue dedicated work in the service of Christ, inspired by his example of profound involvement and devotion.

Given the scope and complexity of Father Filipașcu's activity, it is evident that a single work cannot fully encompass his entire contribution. Only God, in His infinite knowledge, can fully understand a man's life. The present study aims to offer a perspective on his activity, especially in the ecclesiastical field, remaining open to future researchers to continue adding new elements and interpretations that complete the portrait of this remarkable historian and professor.

The motivation from which I started this endeavor is closely linked to the celebration of the "Centenary of the Romanian Orthodox Faculty of Theology in Cluj-Napoca," an institution that had the honor of counting, alongside other prestigious teachers, the remarkable historian Alexandru Filipașcu, who was present there between 1948 and 1952. Unfortunately, he was subjected to surveillance and investigations by the security organs, being included in the first group of teaching staff of the Faculty of Orthodox Theology – then known as the Theological Institute of Cluj – and sentenced to forced labor in the Poarta Albă camp on the Danube-Black Sea Canal.

Desiring to make a modest contribution in the field of Church Music and Ritual, as well as to pay a sincere tribute to the remarkable personality of Father and Professor Alexandru Filipașcu, I approached rigorously the achievement of the proposed objectives. To achieve them, a series of specific methods were applied in the research, which will be detailed below.

In particular, I used the qualitative method together with its three related submethods: comparative, case-study, and memorialistic. This approach proved essential to accurately and responsibly convey relevant aspects of Father Professor Alexandru Filipașcu's existence, both

as a man of culture and through his scientific work, and to underline the defining traits of his personality, especially from the perspective of his pastoral activity.

In the development of the first chapter, the case-study method was primarily applied, representing an essential tool in gathering data that facilitated the outlining of the context in which the Father carried out his activity, the elaboration of a detailed biography, and the highlighting of his remarkable personality. This technique closely correlates with the analytical method, which involves identifying relevant sources related to the Father's existence and character, followed by a rigorous evaluation stage and subsequent processing of the obtained information.

For this section of the study, valuable documents were examined, such as the Yearbooks of the Faculty of History and Philosophy and the Dictionary of Members of the Institute of History in Cluj, which provided important opportunities for extracting relevant data for the research. At the same time, applying this method allowed the analysis of personal files from the Security Archives, constituting invaluable sources for deepening the addressed topic.

In elaborating chapters II and III, the comparative analysis method was applied, which allowed an in-depth examination of the Father's professional vocation as a man of culture and historian, reflected in his work. Also, the scientific directions addressed in his writings were investigated, along with the contributions brought to the theological field, in relation to the work of other prominent representatives of this discipline.

The memorialistic method formed the foundation for the elaboration of the fourth chapter, consisting of the careful selection of relevant information drawn from the testimonies of notable personalities in the cultural field, who provided valuable support in shaping the authentic image of the Father.

All these specific scientific research methods worked harmoniously, facilitating the achievement of the previously established objectives. Their integration allowed a comprehensive presentation of the life and work of this remarkable man of culture, portraying a man of integrity who lived in accordance with Christ's teachings and who had the courage to confess his faith firmly, even in the face of repression exercised by the Security.

Regarding the applied methodology, it is noteworthy that various documentary sources were thoroughly analyzed, such as articles from specialized press, scientific works, biographical and bibliographic studies, as well as autobiographical materials in which the author expresses his own vocation, published in the magazine "Transilvania." In the initial phase of documentation, these materials were prioritized alongside those found in the Yearbooks of the Faculty of History and Philosophy and in the Dictionary of Members of the Institute of History

in Cluj. These sources clearly highlighted the pastoral practice of Father Alexandru Filipașcu, the product of his deep spiritual calling.

Alexandru Filipașcu played an essential role in defining the written history of Maramureș, being one of the pioneers who dedicated this area to thorough investigation. Thanks to his sustained efforts, the region today benefits from a well-documented and solidly founded history that captures not only major events but also the cultural, social, and economic dimensions of the Maramureș space.

Through his work, Filipașcu brought together historical elements, authentic traditions, and life accounts, offering a complex view of the specific identity of this area. He promoted the study of regional history and highlighted the uniqueness of this land, which had previously not received comparable attention within the national historiography.

Appreciating his merits is fundamental not only to recognize his personal contribution but also to stimulate an objective and respectful approach to the local historical heritage. Thus, besides having authored a significant part of Maramureș's history, Filipașcu paved the way for future generations of researchers, encouraging the continuation of explorations and deepening the knowledge of this fascinating region.

Alexandru Filipașcu had a profound impact on Maramureș historiography, fulfilling his mission toward the country and community with passion and responsibility. His achievements are truly remarkable, considering the impressive volume of documents valorized in a relatively short time. This performance highlights both his professionalism as a researcher and his devotion to bringing to light fundamental aspects of Maramureș's past.

One of his major contributions consists in identifying and valorizing essential documentary sources, as well as locating them, thus opening new perspectives for understanding the historical and cultural context of the area. Before the publication of his studies, many of these materials were only partially known, and their use was limited, which made the history of the region incomplete and less accessible.

Because of his work, Filipașcu laid the foundations for solid future research, stimulating other specialists to deepen and expand themes related to Maramureș. Beyond his role in enriching the historical heritage, his contribution was also essential for strengthening local identity.

Undoubtedly, Alexandru Filipașcu deserves due recognition for his outstanding contribution to writing the history of this land with a well-defined identity. His scientific activity was crucial in highlighting and documenting the historical, cultural, and social dimensions of

the region, bringing to light valuable previously neglected or insufficiently explored information.

Through his rigorous methods and ability to utilize a wide range of documentary sources, Alexandru Filipașcu managed to outline a clear and detailed image of Maramureș's past. His activity not only significantly enriched knowledge about local history but also contributed to strengthening the sense of belonging and identity within the community.

Recognizing his merits represents, on the one hand, a tribute to a dedicated historian, and on the other, a necessity to stimulate a deeper appreciation of regional heritage. Valuing his achievements will surely inspire future generations of researchers to continue explorations and bring new perspectives on the past to light, thus contributing to the conservation and promotion of Maramureș's specific cultural wealth.

A careful analysis of his work highlights both its relevance in the context of the era and the depth and complexity of the adopted approaches. Although his writings played an essential role in affirming national identity and cultivating historical consciousness, they go far beyond mere propaganda, being supported by a solid scientific foundation that facilitates understanding the region's evolution and its broader historical environment.

Father Filipașcu demonstrated a remarkable capacity for interpreting and researching sources, presenting information in an accessible yet rigorous manner. His careful critique of documents, along with his talent for connecting diverse facts and events, added value to his endeavor. Thus, he managed to integrate data into a coherent and captivating narrative that not only informs but also educates readers about the specificity and evolution of the area.

Besides these, his contributions generated debates and stimulated further investigations, influencing numerous historians to deepen themes related to Maramureș and its historical heritage. In this sense, Alexandru Filipașcu's work represents both an expression of the era in which he was active and a solid foundation for future studies.

Thus, his importance in Romanian historiography lies at the intersection of ideological and scientific dimensions, transforming his creation into a fundamental landmark for understanding not only the Maramureș region but also the national history as a whole. This dual valence of his work underlines the complexity of the role historians have in consolidating collective consciousness and advancing academic research.

Alexandru Filipașcu's writings undoubtedly express the deep passion of a man of culture dedicated to the history of Maramureș, as well as his patriotic sentiment. Beyond simply documenting regional events and transformations, they reflect the awareness of an authentic Romanian formed in the spirit of local traditions and values.

He succeeded in subtly capturing the subtleties of life in Maramureș, bringing to the forefront not only historical events but also the social, cultural, and economic environment that shaped the community's evolution. His testimonies are the product of rigorous research and a profound understanding of local identity, reflecting at the same time his deep connection to his native lands.

Through his writings, Filipașcu constructed a narrative that goes beyond mere exposition of facts, exploring the complexity of human relationships and their influence on the development of Maramureș society. Each volume bears the mark of both accumulated knowledge and the emotions and values he cultivated throughout his life. His works constitute a valuable heritage and a testimony of devotion to Romanian identity and the region's past, representing a source of inspiration for future generations and an invitation to a deeper understanding of history.

Filipașcu's works reflect the ideals and national aspirations of his predecessors, transmitting an echo of the desire for freedom, truth, and dignity. This profound connection with the past and fundamental values is found in every page, offering a passionate perspective on Maramureș's evolution.

However, in his effort to support the Romanian national cause, the historian sometimes adopted a subjective position, which could lead to certain exaggerations or less balanced interpretations of facts. This tendency, frequently encountered among researchers writing from a patriotic perspective, is influenced by the social and political context of the time. Nevertheless, his passion and commitment to national ideals add value to his work, even if they sometimes affect analytical objectivity.

It is vital that Filipașcu's works be subjected to rigorous critical evaluation by contemporary specialists. Such an approach not only highlights possible exaggerations or subjectivities but also allows a deeper and more nuanced understanding of the historical context. This critical analysis facilitates a balanced appreciation of his contribution to Romanian historiography and national identity formation.

In his creation, Maramureș is presented as a region integrated into Romanian civilization but with a distinct character that confers uniqueness. This particularity results from the complex interaction of geopolitical, socio-economic, ethnic, confessional, and cultural factors. Filipașcu manages to emphasize these diverse elements, offering a detailed and nuanced representation of the region's specificity.

Alexandru Filipașcu's work, although the result of a self-taught path combined with diverse academic influences, represents a significant contribution to Romanian historiography.

It is essential to view these writings not only as simple historical documents but as manifestations of an extended perspective on national identity and the cultural heritage of Maramureș. Such an integrative approach facilitates a deeper understanding of the region's historical particularities and its importance in the context of national history.

The influence exerted by the Center for Studies and Research on Transylvania in Sibiu and the National Institute of History in Cluj-Sibiu on Filipașcu is clearly reflected in his methodology and historical conception. These institutions, representing reference research centers of the time, promoted rigorous and systematic analysis of Romanian past, emphasizing the regional particularities of Transylvania and Maramureș.

Access to resources and dialogue with specialists from these academic environments were crucial in consolidating him as a historian. Interaction with researchers and colleagues enriched his intellectual horizon, offering him not only a solid theoretical foundation but also rigorous methodological tools.

This influence was decisive in shaping his approaches, allowing him to combine diverse perspectives and utilize a varied range of documentary sources. Thus, he managed to outline a narrative that captures both the local realities of Maramureș and the broader context of Romanian history.

In conclusion, connections with these academic institutions were fundamental for Alexandru Filipașcu's perfection in the field of history. Besides expanding his knowledge, the importance of the adopted research methods must also be underlined, which allowed him to approach the region's history with a depth and rigor that contribute to a better understanding of Maramureș's complexity within national history. This influence highlights the essential role of collaboration between researchers and university centers in forming a solid and well-founded historiography.

The process of Alexandru Filipașcu's becoming as a historian can be divided into distinct stages, each marking a transformation in his way of thinking and research techniques. The first phase, culminating with the elaboration of the work "The History of Maramureș," represents a defining moment, resulting from investigations carried out in a self-taught manner.

This work stands out for its informational richness, obtained from multiple sources, and reflects the author's effort to highlight Maramureș's regional past. Although appreciated for clarity of presentation and objectivity of remarks, it also contains some contradictory elements that can be attributed to external influences, personal prejudices, or limitations inherent in an informal academic research.

Romanian historiography has addressed these aspects through a critical evaluation of Filipașcu's work, highlighting both merits and challenges encountered in the investigative process. Constructive criticism is essential for understanding his contributions in the broader context of studying and interpreting Maramureș's history.

Thus, the first stage of his evolution represents a combination of self-taught initiatives and external influences, generating a valuable but not uncontroversial work. This duality is part of the dynamics of Romanian historiographical development, emphasizing the need for critical analysis and continuous reflection on historical interpretations.

The second stage of Alexandru Filipașcu's becoming, covering the years 1940 to 1948, marks an important change through his integration into organized and systematic research. During this period, he came into contact with prestigious institutions such as the Center for Studies and Research on Transylvania in Sibiu and the National Institute of History in Cluj.

In this phase, he published articles in renowned journals such as "Transilvania" and "Revista Istorică Română" ("Romanian Historical Review"), where he presented the results of rigorous investigations. His writings demonstrate methodological maturity, influenced by scientific principles and academic rigors promoted by the institutions with which he collaborated. His attention to selecting pertinent information, source criticism, and correct interpretation became increasingly evident, reflecting an increasingly professional historical approach.

The works published in this stage of Alexandru Filipașcu's career stand out for a high level of professionalism, reflecting the demanding standards promoted by the National Institute of History in Cluj. This institution was recognized for supporting rigorous and well-founded historical research, and Filipașcu managed to meet these expectations, which consolidated his position as a respected and appreciated historian in the academic environment.

Thus, the second period of his activity represents a defining moment in his professional evolution. Contact with organized research and the adoption of a rigorous methodology considerably refined his approach, generating studies that not only enriched knowledge about the region's history but also strengthened his prestige within the scientific community. This stage therefore marks an essential turning point in which Filipașcu fully asserted his identity as a dedicated and professional researcher.

The third phase of his professional path, characterized by didactic activity at the Orthodox Theological University Institute of Cluj, reflects deep intellectual and professional maturity. In this period, Filipașcu focused his attention on confessional history and the Church,

exploring essential themes that reflect both his vast knowledge and his theological and cultural convictions.

His contributions to the "History of the Romanian Church" are particularly valuable, and the sections attributed to him express solid mastery of historical research techniques. These works are the result of meticulous analysis combining methodological rigor with a profound understanding of the historical and religious context. This thematic orientation gave him the opportunity to study not only the events themselves but also their influence on religious and cultural communities in the Romanian space.

The manuscripts produced in this stage, enriched with original and well-documented interpretations, attest to his maturity as a historian. Filipașcu managed to combine theological and historical perspectives, offering a complex view of the Church's role in shaping the national and cultural identity of the Romanian people.

In conclusion, the third stage of his career marks a synthesis of previously accumulated experiences and the consolidation of his status as a prestigious historian. Through his contributions to confessional history and the study of the Romanian Church, he not only enriches specialized literature but also brings a deeper understanding of the intersection between historical and religious dimensions in the Romanian context. This period also highlights his expertise in historical research and his deep commitment to the cultural and spiritual values of the nation.

Alexandru Filipașcu's work is an authentic expression of his concern to discover and highlight essential historical events as well as to explain their causes and consequences. This method represents a valuable contribution to national historiography, bringing to the forefront both major moments of the past and the everyday realities of the peasant masses from which the author comes.

Filipașcu manages to incorporate in his writings the perspectives of those from the peasant ranks, emphasizing the importance of their role in shaping national history. Thus, he pays tribute to the true makers of history, valuing their contributions that are often neglected in traditional narratives. This approach not only enriches historical discourse but also reaffirms the essential place of the people in the process of forming national identity.

Through his research, Filipașcu offers a complex perspective on Romanian history, promoting an integrative vision that combines social, economic, and cultural dimensions. This holistic perspective is indispensable for understanding how the various layers of society interacted and influenced historical evolution.

In conclusion, Alexandru Filipașcu's work is fundamental due to his ability to highlight both major historical events and processes and the essential role of the peasant masses in Romania's history. This approach contributes to a balanced and inclusive historiography that fully reflects the diversity and complexity of the Romanian historical experience. The deep appreciation for his social and cultural roots gives his works an authentic note that resonates with both researchers and readers.

The objectives assumed by Alexandru Filipașcu in his historical activity are truly remarkable and express a sincere commitment to the cultural and historical heritage of Maramureș. The desire to know the life and deeds of ancestors, as well as to reconstruct the past of this region, constituted for him an academic mission and a form of respect and recognition for the contributions of those who lived and fought for the identity and rights of the local community.

His involvement in defending the political rights of Maramureș and its inhabitants in difficult times reflects not only an academic commitment but also a profound sense of responsibility towards his community. This involvement was crucial in the context of the political and social transformations of the time, giving a voice to those marginalized in official historical discourses.

At the same time, Filipașcu outlined clear directions for family members and future generations of Maramureș intellectuals, encouraging them to study and valorize the region's cultural richness. This aspect of his activity underlines the importance of education and knowledge in community development, contributing to the formation of young people aware of their identity and cultural and historical heritage.

What Alexandru Filipașcu gathered through his research goes beyond the simple recording of historical facts; he created a veritable intellectual treasure, a precious treasury for future generations of researchers and anyone wishing to delve into the depths of Maramureș's history. His works continue to inspire and serve as a solid foundation for new interpretations and studies, thus highlighting his lasting impact and the invaluable value of his contributions.

Alexandru Filipașcu stands, without doubt, as a symbol of authentic Romanianism and genuinely lived Christianity. He was a man who carried in his soul and deeds the moral precepts of his faith, manifesting a profound commitment to Christian values. Through his way of life, he expressed a broad vision of social unity and cohesion, nobly overcoming confessional boundaries that often generated divisions within the community.

In this light, Filipașcu fits into a noble tradition of the nation's martyrs — those people of extraordinary faith and devotion who fought with sacrifice for the fundamental ideals and

values of their people. Motivated by a sacred mission and a high ideal, these people remained steadfast in the face of difficulties, finding the strength to advance unwaveringly in the pursuit of truth and justice.

Through his entire activity, Filipașcu managed to make a valuable contribution not only to enriching historical knowledge but also to consolidating a collective consciousness that values national identity and cultural heritage. His devotion to the community and moral values makes him an emblematic figure of Romanian history, a model of integrity and social responsibility.

In essence, Alexandru Filipașcu remains a living example of courage and dedication, a Romanian and Christian who fulfilled his mission with firmness and dignity in the face of the challenges of his times. His spiritual and intellectual legacy continues to illuminate the paths of coming generations, always reminding us of the importance of humanity's values, solidarity, and commitment to the common good. This legacy represents a guiding light, a source of inspiration in our effort to build a more harmonious future, where mutual respect and collaboration triumph over any divisions.

The work dedicated to Father Professor Doctor Alexandru Filipașcu clearly highlights his essential role in consolidating regional and national historiography, especially through his investigations into Maramureș and the history of the Romanian Orthodox Church. Through rigorous research, supported by qualitative methods and integrated specific methodologies, the study reconfirms the importance of his contributions in the effort to affirm the cultural and spiritual identity of the Romanian people.

The analysis of Filipașcu's work reveals a dual valence of his activity: on the one hand, as a self-taught historian dedicated to exploring regional past, and on the other, as a professor and theologian involved in defining and promoting Romanian confessional heritage. This complementarity gives him a complex profile, characterized by a balance between patriotic passion and scientific rigor.

The work also highlights the challenges inherent in history written from a national perspective, including subjective tendencies or interpretations influenced by the socio-political context of the era. Therefore, a continuous critical evaluation of Filipașcu's work becomes imperative, allowing a nuanced and balanced understanding of his contributions, in the spirit of modern historical methodology.

His impact on Maramureș historiography is indisputable, both through the valorization of previously little-known documentary sources and through opening new research directions for future generations. In this regard, Filipașcu contributed to strengthening regional identity

consciousness, in connection with the national dimension, offering a model of integrating local past into Romanian history.

Through his didactic and publishing activity, Alexandru Filipașcu consolidated the link between theological and historical research, demonstrating that the study of the Church represents a fundamental component in understanding national identity. Thus, his work becomes a reference for interdisciplinary studies addressing Romania's spiritual and cultural heritage.

In the end, the figure of Alexandru Filipașcu stands not only as a dedicated scholar but also as a model of moral integrity and Christian devotion, whose intellectual and spiritual legacy represents an inspiration for the academic community and Romanian society as a whole. This work opens a horizon for continuous research, inviting the deepening and extension of studies regarding his contributions, in the spirit of assumed academic and civic responsibility.