# The Ecumenical, Theological, and Interdisciplinary Symposium

2016: Knowledge and Enchantment: A World without Mystery?

2015: Cultural Transparency and the Loss of Privacy in the Era of Digital Technology: How Is This Shaping Our Becoming and the Ethical Dilemmas Related to It

2014: Remembering Peace: Justice, and Forgiveness in a Time of War

2013: Vivat Academia! How Post-Modern Rhetoric Shapes Our Understanding of Modern and Pre-Modern Values

2012:Time, Place and Self in Interdisciplinary Narratives

2011: Alienation and Authenticity in Environments of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century: Technology, Person and Transcendence

2010: Meaning and Mystery: From the Philosophy of Knowledge to the Theology of Person

2009: Religion and Politics: The Human Society between the Power of God and the Power of Man

2008: Cult and Culture: The Transcendental Roots of Human Civilization

2007: Theology and Literature: The Deification of Imagination and Its Cathartic Function in Spiritual Growth

2006: The Glory of Knowledge: Construction and Deconstruction. When Human Quest Ends in Apophasis

2005: Unity in Diversity: Can We Live Together in an Apocalyptic World?

2004: Globalization from A (Archeology) to S (Spirituality): What Is It and Who Needs It?

2003: Science and Theology: New Challenges and Perspectives

2002: Contemporary Culture in the Light of Christian Spirituality at the Beginning of the Third Millennium. The Secular Realities and Spiritual Perspectives

2001: Prayer as Theology of the Mind and of the Heart for the Humanity in the New Millennium

2000: Humanity in the Third Millennium and the Mystery of the Divine

1999: Jesus Christ as the Theandric Paradigm of Man's Restoration at the Dawn of the Third Millennium

1998: The Theological Legacy of Fr. Dumitru Staniloae and its Ecumenical Actuality

1997: Rediscovering God: The Relation between God and Man and its Significance for our Life Today

1996: Freedom and Responsibility in Contemporary Society

1995: Divine Creation and Human Responsibility in the Context of Contemporary Ecological Preoccupations

1994: Quo Vadis Homo? Salvation and the Modern World

1993: Worship and Identity in our Contemporary Society

#### THE ACADEMY OF ROMANIAN SCIENTISTS

Splaiul Ind 0500 tel. +40-21-USA: 30-18 NY 11377

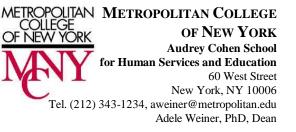
Splaiul Independentei 54, Sector 5 050094 Bucharest, Romania tel. +40-21-314 7491, www.aos.ro USA: 30-18 50th Street, Woodside, NY 11377, Tel. (718) 626-6013,

Theodor Damian, PhD, US Branch president DamianTh@aol.com,



#### THE ROMANIAN INSTITUTE OF ORTHODOX THEOLOGY AND SPIRITUALITY

30-18 50th Street, Woodside, NY 11377, Tel. (718) 626-6013, DamianTh@aol.com Theodor Damian, Ph.D., president



#### PROGRAM

The XXVth Ecumenical Theological and Interdisciplinary Symposium

Nation and Identity: Reconciling the Traditional Sense of Belonging with the Globalist Tendencies of Current Post-Culturalism

Saturday, December 2nd, 2017 10:00 AM

Metropolitan College of New York 60 West Street, New York, NY 10006 Commons on First Floor Subway: Rector Street on R or 1, Wall Street on 4 or 5 trains

## **Theodor Damian, PhD**

Professor of Philosophy and Ethics, Metropolitan College of New York; President of the Romanian Institute of Orthodox Theology and Spirituality: *Nationalism vs. Globalism. The Cultural Meaning of Borders* 

Humphrey Crookendale, JD Dean of School for Public Affairs and Administration, Metropolitan College of New York: *Communication and Identity in American Politics* 

**Richard Grallo, PhD** Professor of Applied Psychology, Metropolitan College of New York: *Fooling Ourselves with Personal Identity* 

Louis Tietje, PhD Professor of Ethics, Metropolitan College of New York: Driverless Cars: A New Occasion for the Trolley Problem

**Doru Tsaganea, PhD** Professor of Mathematics, Metropolitan College of New York: *Nation, Nationalism and Nation State in Historical Perspective* 

Alina Feld, PhD Affiliate Faculty at the General Theological Seminary, New York: Cosmopolitanism or Recognizing Humanity on the Other: Simone Weil and Martha Nussbaum

# **David Rosner**

Associate Professor of Values and Ethics, Metropolitan College of New York: *How Can the Ancient Teachings of Xenophanes of Colophon Be Applied to the Contemporary Problem of Globalization?* 

# GUESTS OF HONOR:

## His Eminence Nicolae Condrea, PhD

Archbishop of the Romanian Orthodox Archdiocese of the United States of America Metropolitan of the Romanian Orthodox Metropolia of the Americas

## Vinton Thompson, PhD

President of Metropolitan College of New York

## **Tilokie Depoo, PhD**

Chief Academic Officer and Dean School for Business Metropolitan College of New York

#### MODERATOR:

### Humphrey Crookendale, JD

Dean, School for Public Affairs and Administration, Metropolitan College of New York

#### DISCUSSANT:

**David Rosner** Associate Professor of Values and Ethics, Metropolitan College of New York

"SPIRITUS" ART GALLERY (Director **Viorica Colpacci**)

Elena Mitru: Vestimentary art exhibit

Is identity important at all? Who are you, who am I? In the Purpose-centered educational system at the Metropolitan College of New York, in the first semester, Purpose I, all teaching is focused on students' selfassessment. Who am I?

To try to understand who you are as a human being, as partially as it can be, is crucial when it comes to relating yourself to others, which is both inevitable and an implicit phenomenon of life. Socrates' exhortation "Know thyself" undertaken from the temple of Apollo in Delphi is as valid today as at any other time. In his celebrated book *Who is* Man? Abraham Heschel raises the question at the theological, ontological, anthropological and sociological levels in surprising ways. Who are we? We are, he believes, a reflection of something or somebody higher than ourselves. That is why definitions of man, like that of Aristotle, who famously said that man is a political animal, do not satisfy. Man's reference point cannot be the animal. It has to be related to a higher paradigm, and that is where religion comes into play.

An interesting theological question can be raised about one's salvation in the context of one's belonging to a given nation. The apparent response is that salvation has to do with what a person believes and not with where one belongs. Yet, belonging to any group, including a nation, contributes to one's identity and makes the person be, in no small part, who he or she is.

Cultural values, habits, practices, biases, all form, inform and transform one's mind and consequently one's doing. And salvation does depend, besides God's grace, on how one thinks and on what one does, which is part of one's identity.

Theodor Damian