UNIVERSITY ”AL.I. CUZA” OF IASI

DOCTORAL SCHOOL OF THE

FACULTY OF ORTHODOX THEOLOGY

**The Feast of the Baptism of the Lord.**

**Historical perspective. Elements of theology**

**and liturgical spirituality.**

Doctoral thesis - summary

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**Summary**

Holy Feasts are occasions where, on the one hand, we remember and update the saving works realized by the Lord Christ on earth and then by the saints who imitated him, and on the other hand, they became echoes of the transmission of the teaching of faith or the doctrine of the Church, through the creation of hymnography, which clung to the skeleton of such an event. The form of hymnography, has the role of singing the dogmas of the Church and correctly interpreting the true meaning of a saving event.

The research paper that I made was aimed at opening new perspectives, by bringing to light and by analyzing new documents, information, aspects, useful for the theological scientific field, regarding the Epiphany Feast. In its composition we have based on liturgical sources, the Homilies of the Holy Fathers from the early Christian and manuscript centuries (old documents, typikon, books of worship) that bring to light the way in which the elements that make up the service of this Feast were placed in the structure him, over the centuries. Thus, the main objective was to familiarize, once again and more thoroughly, the romanian theology with the liturgical evolution of this Feast. The liturgical sources that underlie our research were "clothed" with theological writings, studies and articles, both from the "byzantine" and the Western areas, brand concerns of the theologians that led to the development of this topic.

The hypothesis from which we started, in the elaboration of this scientific work, was that of a hierarchical course of the analysis road. I started from the biblical episode of the saving event in Jordan, sprinkled with the memory of the Old Testament prefigurations. Then I saw how it was received by the literature of the first centuries. After that, from the Homilies of the church writers dedicated to this Feast was extracted the hymnography creation, which covered the background of the Epiphany's Feasts. In the end, I split the latter to observe how the hymns and songs were placed in the structure of the Praises of the Holidays, and I became acquainted with the popular traditions that this ensemble gave birth to, beyond the ecclesial space where the Feast is held.

From the perspective of the research methodology, the work had as a starting point a historical, comparative approach, of biblical exegesis and of theological- hymnography analysis.

The work is structured in six chapters, consisting, in turn, of several sub-chapters. In the first chapter I have highlighted the richness and beauty of the doctrinal ideas and the eschatological meanings by which the divine orthodox worship is distinguished. The hypothesis we developed was that of the meaning of the word "today", which we find in the hymnography songs of the Church Feasts. After that, I have set out the main concerns that have arisen, both in the romanian and the western areas, regarding the study of the Feast of Baptism of the Lord. In writing this stage of the research I followed a diachronic presentation of the writings dedicated to this Feast.

Through the second chapter I followed the importance that the Baptism of the Lord occupies, both in the Holy Scripture and in the literature of the first three Christian centuries. The hypothesis we wanted to reach demonstrated that, through the Old Testament prefigurations, the accounts of the evangelists and the ideas that make up the literature of the first three Christian centuries regarding the Baptism of the Lord, the Hymnography of the Feast of Epiphany was born. Therefore, every time I have presented the ideas from these treaties, which have as their point of analysis the act of the Baptism of the Lord, we have tried to connect them with the themes of the Feast hymnography text.

In drawing up the third chapter, which included the history of the Feast of Baptism of the Lord, we stopped, first, on the calculations that led to its celebration on January 6 and the separation of the Feast of the Birth of the Lord, as well as the testimonies which shows that this Feast of the Church was a baptismal one, during which the baptism of the catechumens was performed. We tried to analyze the development of this Feast, considering the most important Christian centers, both from the eastern and the western areas.

Through the Homilies or hymns of the Fathers of the Church dedicated to the Feast of Baptism of the Lord, which we have analyzed in the fourth chapter of the present work, we have followed several aspects, both historical and theological that emerge from them, the latter helping us to we enter into the hymnography analysis of this Holy Feast. From the prism of this part of the content of the thesis, we wanted to demonstrate, that, the hymnography represents the Homilies of the church writers, in verses. The analysis of these Homilies helped us to observe how the hymnography of the Feast of Epiphany was born.

In the fifth chapter of our work, we followed how, on the initial skeleton of the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord, the hymnography elements, such as hymns, songs, Bible readings, hymnography poetry in general, were placed in the structure of the service. This part of the paper, which represents the core of our research, helped us to observe the manner in which the hymnography creation was intoned during the services dedicated to the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord.

The last chapter of the doctoral thesis, the sixth, I dedicated it to the history and theology of the service of the Blessing of Water. In writing this chapter we focused on the historical analysis of several internships. First, the examination of the Blessing of Water in the pre-eighth century Epiphany I called "prehistory." Then we followed the evolution of the service throughout the VIII-XVI and XVI-XXI centuries, trying to restore the order of the Blessing of Water through the prism of the notes from different liturgical sources and books of worship.

Through this doctoral thesis we give to the Romanian liturgical space an update of the theological, historical and spirituality research of the Feast of Baptism of the Lord, celebrated on January 6, sprinkled with notes of originality, through which we hope we have met the imposed requirements. In the present work we also want to offer an impetus to the research of all the Christian Feasts celebrated during the church year, because we consider that it is worth highlighting the liturgical treasure that they hide, behind the songs or their dedicated hymnography creation.