

“Ο Χριστὸς, μυστικῶς ἱεουργούμενος ἐν ταῖς ἀγίαις σκηναῖς”<sup>1</sup>  
– Fr. Dumitru Staniloae and the Rediscovering and  
Reinterpreting St. Cyril of Alexandria’s Teaching About  
the State of Perpetual Sacrifice of Jesus Christ

CIPRIAN IOAN STREZA\*

*Father Dumitru Staniloae’s complex and integral vision on the Holy Liturgy comprises all the dimensions of life in the church; it constitutes the object of this study, which intends to re-interpret, systematize, and evaluate the teaching of St. Cyril of Alexandria concerning the importance of the Eucharistic Synaxis in the life of the Church. The Eucharistic celebration is only the visible dimension of the eternal Liturgy of love within the Holy Trinity, whose Altar, Oblation and High Priest is Jesus Christ, the slain Lamb, who lives in a state of permanent sacrifice, who was incarnate, who died and arose again, and sent His Holy Spirit in the Church, so as to radiate among those who open up to Him in faith, and thus saturate them with the dynamism of His own surrender to the Father.*

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Many pages have been written on Father Dumitru Stăniloae, yet not one person can truly state that they have exhausted all the defining aspects of the personality and work of this amazing Romanian theologian. His original creative genius, his whole discourse covering an unique mix of all the aspects of theological research – Dogmatic and Moral Theology, Spirituality, Church History, Biblical and Liturgical Theology –, his charism of a tireless translator and commentator of patristic literature, the way he built his entire rhetoric around the mystery of experiencing God; all of these impregnated his work with a value that has profoundly impressed the theological and philosophical realms of the time.<sup>2</sup> The uniqueness and originality of his broad and complex theological enterprise<sup>3</sup> lies, first of all, in that he knew how to break the rigid

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\* Ciprian Ioan Streza, Professor of Liturgics at the “Andrei Șaguna” Faculty of Orthodox Theology, “Lucian Blaga” University of Sibiu, Romania. Address: Str. Mitropoliei 31, 550179 Sibiu, Romania; e-mail: ciprian\_streza@yahoo.com.

<sup>1</sup> Saint Cyril of Alexandria, *De adoratione et cultu in spiritu et veritate*, PG 68, 708C.

<sup>2</sup> Antonie Plămădeală, “În loc de introducere: Generația Stăniloae” in: Mircea Păcurariu, Ioan I. Ică jr. (eds.), *Persoană și Comuniune. Prinos de cinstitie Părintelui Profesor Academician Dumitru Stăniloae la împlinirea vârstei de 90 de ani*, Sibiu, 1993, p. XI-XXI.

<sup>3</sup> On the defining aspects of Father Dumitru Stăniloae’s work, see: I. I. Ică jr., “De ce Persoană și comuniune?” – Cuvânt prevenitor la un *Festschrift* întârziat” in: M. Păcurariu, I. I. Ică jr. (eds.), *Persoană și Comuniune*, p. XXIV-XXVII.