

The Orthodox Neo-patristic Movements as Renewal of Contemporary Orthodox Theology: An Overview

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This study is a synthesis of the author's long-term pursuits which were completed by a doctoral thesis. He has a twofold objective: on the one hand, the first part of the study he will offer a brief review of the main names (respectively works) related to the renewal of Orthodox theology in the 20th century; on the other hand, for a better understanding of the sources of this direction of theological revival, in the second part he will analyse the idea of Sacred Tradition as ecclesial way of life. In the end, he will describe the contributions, in various theological chapters, by Orthodox neo-patristic theologians; he will also signal a series of adverse aspects.

Keywords: *Contemporary Orthodox Neo-patristic Movements, renewal, Tradition, Georges Florovsky, Vladimir Lossky, Dumitru Stăniloae, Panayotis Nellas, Justin Popović*

Introduction

This study is a synthesis of the author's long-term pursuits, the first phase of which was completed through a doctoral thesis presented at the Faculty of Theology of the Sibiu "Lucian Blaga" University in 2007, under the coordination of Archdeacon Prof. PhD Ioan I. Ică jr.: *Aspecte teologico-spirituale ale Bisericii la Părintele Georges Florovsky (1893-1979) în contextul mișcării neo-patristice contemporane [Theological-spiritual Aspects of the Church according to Father Georges Florovsky (1893-1979) within the Contemporary Neo-patristic Movement]*. To anyone who is even somewhat aware of contemporary Orthodox theology, the names of the theologians treated here – G. Florovsky, Vl. Lossky, D. Stăniloae etc. – are very familiar; this, too, is proof of the importance and impact the Orthodox neo-patristic movement has had within the Orthodox Church, in particular, and within Christianity, in general.

This study has a twofold objective: first, it will offer a brief review of the major figures and their works related to the renewal of Orthodox theology in the 20th century; second, for a better understanding of the sources of this direction of theological revival, we will analyze the idea of Sacred Tradition as ecclesial *way of life*, with everything it means, as defined by the authors cited

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