

After all that we were made to believe about the incompatibility between science and religion it looks like a miracle to have these two sisters sit at the same table and look at each other with kindness, hope, and readiness to hear.

In fact, science grew up in the bosom of religion. As the departure of science from religion was unnatural, so its return is quite natural. Heidegger noticed that modern technology sprung out of a theological change made by nominalists. In that case, the root of the technological problem, wherever there is any problem, is of a theological nature. Consequently, there may be no surprise if the solution comes from theology (see Glenn Mc Cullough, "Heidegger, Augustine and *Poiesis*: Renewing the Technological Mind," in *Theology Today*, April 2002, p. 21).

It is then not surprising when science borrows from religion since it originated in the atmosphere of a religious world. It is more surprising when religion takes from science; that does not make religion loose anything of its power or identity; on the contrary, in doing this it shows flexibility and at the same time power and stability.

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One example which significantly shows religion's use of sciences, as early as the fourth century A.D. is Gregory of Nyssa's integration of the scientific knowledge of the time to elaborate his sophisticated theological anthropology, as demonstrated by Robin Darling Young ("On Gregory of Nyssa's Use of Theology and Science in Constructing Theological Anthropology," in *Pro Ecclesia*, vol. II, Nr. 3, Summer 1993).

Science and religion need to be together. Not only because they are necessary checks and balances for each other, but they naturally borrow from each other in the development, formulations and applications of their theories and doctrines.

This mutuality needs to be emphasized presently against so many misinterpretations of the relationship which sounded so familiar to our ears in the last two hundred years.

Theodor Damian



THE ROMANIAN INSTITUTE
OF ORTHODOX THEOLOGY
AND SPIRITUALITY

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INCORPORATED IN AUGUST 1993

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Mr. George Alexe, chairman

invite you to

*The Eleventh Ecumenical Theological
Symposium*

Science and Theology: New Challenges and Perspectives

Sunday, December 7, 2003
5:00 PM

St. Paul's Episcopal Church
13-21 College Point Boulevard
(at 14th Ave.)
College Point, New York

Subway 7 or bus Q66 to Flushing Main Street
then take bus Q20A or Q65 north

George Alexe

Senior theologian of the Romanian Orthodox Church, member of the Union of Romanian Writers, director and founder of *Romanian Communion*; Chairman of the Romanian Institute of Orthodox Theology and Spirituality: *Postmodern Science and Theology: New Scientific Temptations and Challenges versus Ecumenical and Theological Perspectives.*

Rev. Dr. Rodney L. Petersen

Executive director, Boston Theological Institute *Moral Cosmologies: Science in the 21st Century and Its Impact upon Contemporary Spirituality.*

Rev. Dr. Bert F. Breiner

Episcopal Church USA, Chaplain Grace Church School, New York; Adjunct Professor at Hunters College of CUNY: *Science and Religion: The Role of Consciousness in the Universe*

Dr. Mugur Alexandru Rose, Ph.D.

Decision Systems Group, Harvard University, Science and Religion Advisory Committee, Boston Theological Institute *Old Ethical Dilemmas in a New Biotechnical World*

Drd. Daniela Anghel

University of Bucharest, Faculty of History *Science and Religion: Antagonism or Complementarity?*

Richard Grallo, Ph.D.

Professor of Human Services, Metropolitan College of New York; Quest Institute, New York: *Religion and Contemporary Science as Quest*

Dr. Napoleon Savescu, M.D.

Dacia Revival International Society, New York *The Great Flood: Myth or Reality?*

Dr. Constantin N. Tsirpanlis

Professor of Church History, Patristics and Orthodox Theology, President of the American Institute for Patristic and Byzantine Studies, New York *Psycho-Somatic Healing in Hesychasm*

Marian Gh. Simion

Assistant Director, Boston Theological Institute *Religion and Religious Conflict: A Challenge to the 21st Century Political Science*

Mihai Vinereanu

Master in Linguistics, Graduate School and University Center of CUNY *Linguistic Contributions to the Understanding of the Early Christian Lexicon of the Romanian Language*

Rev. Dr. Theodor Damian

Associate Professor of Philosophy and Ethics, Metropolitan College of New York; President of the Romanian Institute of Orthodox Theology and Spirituality *Metaphysics as a Meeting Place between Science and Theology.*

MODERATOR:

Rev. Fr. Paul Theophilus
The Romanian Institute of Orthodox Theology and Spirituality

GUEST OF HONOR:

Rev. Dr. Paul E.C. Hamilton, Episcopal Church USA; Adjunct Professor of Human Services, Metropolitan College of New York

Science without religion is lame; religion without science is blind. *Albert Einstein*

Religion and science, just as knowledge and wisdom, even though do not use the same methods and do not have the same aim complete each other. *Kenneth S. Kendler*

Religion and science are two ways to see the world and each one helps us in our attempts to understand things. People who are profoundly religious pose the same questions as those who are profoundly scientific. *Carl Feit*

People must not play God's role before they learn how to be human; after they learned how to be human though, they will not play God's role any more. *Ronald Cole-Turner*

The entire modern conception about the world is based on the illusion that the so called laws of nature represent the explanation of the natural phenomena... It seems to us that when all possible scientific questions were posed the problem of life remains completely untouched. *Ludwig Wittgenstein*

The miraculous constitution of the universe with its own incomparable harmony could not be made but based on the plans of an omni-scient and almighty Being. This remains my highest and ultimate conviction. *Isaac Newton*

It is impossible to conceive and to prove that the splendid and the indefinitely marvelous universe, as well as the human being, be the result of an accident; this impossibility seems to me to be the best proof of God's existence. *Charles Darwin*

Science can conflict only with science and faith only with faith; science which remains science cannot conflict with faith which remains faith. This is true also of other spheres of scientific research, such as biology and psychology. *Paul Tillich*