

Laurențiu ȘOITU, Ion ALBULESCU

THE ASSOCIATION OF CHRISTIAN PEDAGOGISTS
Asociația Pedagogilor Creștini

PhD. Professor Laurențiu Șoitu, PhD. Professor Ion Albulescu
"Alexandru Ioan Cuza University", Iași
"Babeș-Bolyai" University, Cluj-Napoca

In the preamble to the album of the Association¹ we start with the following question:

Is an Association of Christian Pedagogists needed!?

Is it necessary to invite such great personalities of the spiritual, academic, scientific life!?

Is there a need of national representation with aspirations towards internationalization!?

Our answer is yes, to all the questions.

It is needed because our youngsters and children require the chance of a healthy education!

Because we all need to find the way to fulfil our purpose as pedagogues – to offer criteria for good and meaningful choices for the accomplishment of the up growing ones!

Because we all want to be closer together to the everlasting values of the world.

Because we, adults, gather all hopes:

- of parents and teachers, who brought us here through their prayers and their labour;

- of the younger ones – who put their faith in us!

In fact, such occasions increase our mutual trust and bring us the proof that we are not alone.

We are not alone! We consider this truth to be the most important finding in the long history of the world! The faith, the certitude that we are not sent by ourselves in the world are the strongest references of our being. I am not alone not only because there is another one beside me, but because in my loneliness and in the presence of others, above all, there is Him! His presence, God's presence, modifies the way I consider myself, the others, the world, the history as past, present and future. Our loneliness is annihilated by His presence, by the Creator, by his only Son, Jesus Christ, who came into this world for us!

If the Association took shape, it is natural to express our gratitude to His Grace Teofan, The Metropolitan of Moldova and Bucovina, for his encouragement in moments of doubt!

We are also grateful to His Excellency Petru Gherghel, always ready to join the labour for the fruitage of faith.

¹ APC – *Asociația Pedagogilor Creștini*, Iași, Editura Universității "Alexandru Ioan Cuza", 2016.

The Association of Christian Pedagogists – founded by 24 university professors, laypersons – will reunite the efforts and the grace of clerics, of churchmen with the work of teachers, scientists, artists and men of culture.

They are all founders because:

They are *seniors in belief*, they have the confirmation of being followed in their endless ardour for continuous labour for the benefits of their peers and of everybody.

Their efforts in thanking God and showing respect for the rewards they received from Heaven and from people became steady.

They want to be mediators for brothers and for everybody, in the people's prayer – while analysing their pain, their weaknesses but also their own struggles.

Together, they can offer a powerful confession, worship and praise of loving God and people. They want to support the understanding, the life and the aspiration towards *The Way, the Truth and the Life* revealed to the world.

They learn by teaching us to pray with gratitude, to be grateful with feat for the happiness of belonging to the Divinity, to the One who sent us to the world to be useful!

Each of the 24 founders can be found among the generations of students, PhD candidates, colleagues whom they showed that people grow through love and aspiration towards Perfection, through faith and serving God.

Each of the founders claim and support that Church and the school are the pillars set at the foundation of the continuous divinity of the man. *God invites each man to deliverance and to come to know the truth* (1 Timotei 2,4) but *You can do nothing without me* (Ioan 15,5). The ones who forget their loss their power, strength, courage and faith in their own accomplishment.

Each of the founders knows and claims that, like the priest, more than anything, we are servants of the Word. Each of us should continue asking ourselves if *by being closer to words we will get closer to the Word!*²

This year, in October, the Association will mark the first year of its existence. Happy anniversary, ACP!

² Laurențiu Șoitu, *Mai aproape de cuvinte*, Iași, Editura Ars Longa, 2008, coperta IV.