

CONVERSION

The word "conversion", as it is used today in the religious circles, involves often the acceptance of a belief system. However, the fundamental biblical semnification is – „to return towards”- usually to return towards God. In the same meaning, the christians uses today the greek word „μέθνοια”. The people return towards God is represented from two points of view. The human, a rational being, the face of God, is always into God. In this regard, the human is „into” God and is heading „towards God”, „towards” deification. This heading of the human towards God is always possible only with the help of „the first”, because He is The One who reveals himself to the human, The One who finds and define in the humans life, the coordinates related to the prescriptions of the christian and moral laws. So, the conversion presents itself as a work, which involves ourself entirely, turning all the 3 vital areas of the life: the intelect, the will and the emotion.

Reffering to our days, the XXI century - of globalization, the process which runs through a galloping activity, where the crossing of confessions and religions cause social and political problems, which often exceed the specialized and theological dialogue, where the process of the secularization included the entire christian Europe – the issue of conversion and reconversion of the people to christianity, appears as a current issue of real interest.

The present study, it aims to analyze the principal causes of people conversion to the orthodox christianity – the baptism validation, mixed marriages – the answer of the Romanian Orthodox Church regardind this new, open and wide challenge, as well as the ways used by the Orthodox Church to spiritually initiate, welcome and develop the new orthodox christians.

Keywords: „*conversion*”, „*The Romanian Orthodox Church*”, „*XXI century*”, „*mixed marriages*”, „*globalization*”.

Pr. Prof. dr. Gheorghe Petraru

Drd. Goldan Vasile-Lucian

Iasi, Romania