

Greetings to the Reader

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When designating long periods, historical eras, it is customary to use the notations BC (“before Christ”) and AD (“Anno Domini,” in [the] year of [the] Lord). Due to the cultural tradition rooted in the Western, primarily Christian European past, this periodization and designation spread throughout the world and became well known and accepted to this day. This is so even if other cultures, along these, keep and tend to their time-keeping and periodization (as well), since for them, this is a matter of life and death, a matter of identity even. Whether we want or acknowledge the fact or not, our era is connected to Jesus and the Lord. This is why the notations “before Christ” (BC) and “Anno Domini, in [the] year of [the] Lord” have been used quite naturally and are still consciously used nowadays by some. For me, Anno Domini is more than a mere chronologically accurate designation. It does not stand only for the time that has passed since His birth but also for the system of values, the lifestyle, and life that followed in His footsteps.

AD2020 left a deep mark worldwide from several points of view in the history of mankind. It also left its mark in our public and private life. The past year also affected Partium Christian University in several regards; however, it met the challenges and dealt with them satisfactorily. It is my firm belief that it has done so quite expeditiously. The Centennial Year of National Cohesion was a milestone for our University as well. This year coincided with the anniversary of thirty years serving the Hungarian community in Partium and Transylvania. It is reassuring that all Bachelor’s and Master’s degrees our University offers are accredited degrees. In addition to this, the University as an institution was reaccredited. By the end of the year, we could diminish all our financial, economic debts and our scales became balanced. It was also by the end of the year that Partium Publishing House, for the first time in its history, was to become an accredited and, from a scientometric point of view, measurable publisher. Last but not least, the idea of an international academic journal was born, the first issue of which we are launching at the moment.

Similarly to its predecessor, Sulyok István Reformed College, Partium Christian University has engaged prominently and in measurable terms in maintaining and strengthening the Partium, Transylvanian Hungarian national, Christian identity, and presence. As a quality-focused institution, our university is committed to holding a strong position on the higher grounds of higher education, where the priority is to increase the opportunities to advance our entire academic society. To achieve this, alongside the ongoing improvement in the areas of education and academic research, we are also working on establishing the conditions for continual development and innovation. A new academic journal not only offers an appropriate platform for the scientific community but also saves our institution a place in the academic world. I am convinced that the new journal will both have a decisive role in the Partium regional intellectual circle in the future and it will act toward professional recognition on an international level. Therefore, the bold idea, plan, and first step must be followed by great erudition, commitment, consistency, exigency, and high-quality work.

Nowadays our age is labeled in many ways. Undoubtedly, not only are we witnesses to vast changes on a large scale, but also forgers of these changes. I firmly believe that, from all so-called transition periods, those emerge victorious who do not forget that there is a persistent pro-life system of values, "cantus firmus," advocating of which is not shameful but a brave and joyful act. I believe that the Partium Christian University in general and this journal, in particular, must remember amidst the ideological struggle of our era, its roots, and in Whose service it stands if it wishes to be true to itself. For this reason, I believe, based on the analogy of the reformer's thought-*simul iustus et peccator* (at the same time righteous and sinner)-that as a university with an endorsable and acceptable system of values, based on the tenet of "preservation by adaptation", we must be at once conservative and progressive.

In lieu of the classics, I wish the journal *simul conservando et progrediens* (preserve and progress). Conservative, in the true sense of the word, because it strives to sustain, protect, and preserve the previously accumulated spiritual knowledge. Progressive, because in the spirit of the here and now, realizing the challenges of the age, it is more likely to be open to novelty, to changes. It opens the door to state-of-the-art innovations that shape the future, it encourages advancement, development because it knows that life is in constant move and it perceives the importance of these changes at all times.

Soli Deo Gloria!