

FOREWORD

The connection between the military career and Christian ethics was the subject of a successful symposium which recently took place at the National Military Circle, under the auspices of the Ministry of National Defense, the Academy of Romanian Scientists and “Carol I” National Defense University. The idea actually is an expression of a complex and generous spiritual identity, a consistent and everlasting one, based on the spirituality of the military and the latter’s intrinsic connections with the Christian ethics. The Church and the Military are the most respected Romanian institutions and this is neither arbitrary nor mandatory; yet, it originates in an ancestral symbiosis within our people’s inner development. Church has always enabled the soldiers’ access to the Christian ethics and to the sacred values of everlasting faith and existence of the Romanians on this Earth, on the land God granted us; the Romanian soldier has always given real proof of this connection between spirit and action, between duty and responsibility, by means of his heroic deeds, under all circumstances, throughout history. The huge respect for church springs from the Christian values, from a faithful and spiritual environment which Christianity has generated, nurtured and refreshed within our living space, our toil, hopes, hardships as well as accomplishment stages, in humbleness and balance, sticking to values which shaped us as individuals and as a people on the whole. Christian ethics is an ethics of duty and respect, of faith in God and Good on Earth, of clearing the spirit and enlightening our life path. Moreover, the Military career is fed to its accomplishment by Christian ethics, even though being a military means taking extreme risks which value glory and victory, denying defeat, on equal terms, along with sacrifice, duty and honor. Its main goal on Earth is defense, preservation of our life and spirit, our people’s individuality altogether, against threats and dangers which still roam this world fiercely.

Times and breakups would not allow the Romanians to accomplish the divine virtue of their environment by the help of their creative talent. We are still carrying unhealed wounds. For the many years of invasions, big hazards of history, empires stretching in close vicinity and wars of all kinds would not let us settle down and replace the sword with the plough. The world has always been full of conflicts and probably will always be. That is why the Romanians as well as other similar nations have had to defend themselves at any price, to live life in both glory and sacrifice.

Church has taught us how to keep our faith, to let it nourish our hope, to fight with honor and dignity for our sacred right for the homeland, life and air space in full respect of other nations and of ourselves. Our existence on the Romanian area is at a certain extent a complex, synthesizing civilization, open

to values and culture, a non-exclusive, non-conflictual, complex area of connections. The Romanian Armed Forces have as a source of spirituality this very civilizing reality, this synthesized area, consistently and beneficially expressed by the Christian ethics, "because the military are Christians" as the words of the Romanian Anthem say. The military career is an honorable one, having preserved through times its spirituality, its long lasting values mostly grounded on its Christian values, on the values of the Romanian soul. Church and the Military have always kept close together. Hardships have not made them split up, although in some circumstances they were humiliated and even temporarily separated. Times of chaos have failed to diminish their importance and make them obsolete, or turn them into an amorphous mass thus destroying them. A people's spirituality, faith and force cannot be destroyed. These institutions have never been opposed to the direction of history, although there have been circumstances when they were set against it or, at its worst, some have tried to pull them out of history and civilization.

Human civilization has evolved from ancient culture and new culture, through science, technology and accumulated experience. Throughout the ages, people have built their own living standard. Human nature has been enriched by culture. Culture is a link and at the same time plays an important role in the spiritual area. God takes care of all the living beings in the Universe and, as far as we know, only man is able to understand this Truth, to follow it and be ruled by it. The military profession uses the Christian values to extend its own military culture. Everything changes but the real values remain. The military profession is an outstanding profession within the architecture of the values we share. Our country's defence and security are still basic duties, even if nowadays they are re-considered in the context of the Alliance. The Alliance strengthens the identity and importance of the member states. But there is no identity without value and we must add the vital interest to this value. Our army is one of the institutions that promote this vital interest whenever and wherever it is needed and therefore the army is considered a profession that assumes extreme risks. We reconsider and assess the systems of values any time we need it, and faith and duty mingle in the same way as vocation and responsibility, Christian ethics and the military profession do.

This mixture between Christian ethics and the military profession fosters motivation, trust, faith and power. And this reality is envisaged both in the outstanding results obtained by the Romanian military both in training and the activities in the theatres of operation, as well as in the way Christian ethics helps this noble profession to continually improve its spiritual values.

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