

## CHRISTIAN ETHICS AND THE MILITARY

*Georgeta GAVRILĂ*

Secretary General of the Ministry of National Defence

(translated from Romanian by *Cristian Baciu*)

*In this paper are presented the following issues: bridging the gap between the Church and the Army; the Lord of Hosts and the Lord of Love; the Lord of the Heavens and the Lords of the World; love your enemies; why do we raise the sword?; Quo vadis, homine?...*

### **Bridging the gap between the Church and the Army**

**A** standing drive in human history has been a strong propensity for material comfort and civilisation. So far so good, as long as living in comfort does not invite to spiritual decline or total neglect ending up in the drift of millions away from their Maker – the Author of our earthly passage.

Marin Preda, a notable Romanian author, defined culture as the mode of life displaying the creative abilities of a certain community. It should be noted, however, that culture displays an astonishing medley of genuine Christian values with such values as tend to break man away from God. The result is a restless and often confusing dynamics, with people and even communities conflicting one-another in angry support of conflicting values. As the crisis escalates, warfare is in sight and the parties rise in arms: one to conquer and invade, another to stand up against invasion. In either case, the parties will find a more or less plausible explanation to make their case and grab the sword.

What possible argument could bridge the uncompromising abyss that separates man's love for his like from man's hating his like to death? What kind of stuff could build a bridge strong enough to join the Church and the Army — two institutions of perfectly opposite missions, the more so nowadays?