Editorial

The late Metropolitan of Pergamon, John Zizioulas (1931–2023), is widely regarded as one of the most influential theologians and thinkers of the 20th century. The originality and creativity of his thought have attracted significant attention, resulting in numerous articles, essays, and academic theses worldwide. His major monographs, including his posthumous magnum opus, *Remembering the Future: Towards an Eschatological Ontology*, have already been translated into several languages.

Through his academic work and ecclesiastical service, Zizioulas has shaped the agenda of not only contemporary Orthodox theology, but Christian theology as a whole. Studying any aspect of Orthodox theology today—whether it be hermeneutics, philosophical theology, ecclesiology, dogmatics, ecumenism, the history of theology, anthropology, political theology, ecotheology, or gender issues—very often involves referencing his work to be complete.

In light of this, the John Zizioulas Foundation, in cooperation with St. Sebastian Orthodox Press (Los Angeles, California) and the Volos Academy for Theological Studies (Volos, Greece), has decided to launch a journal dedicated to an in-depth and scholarly study of Zizioulas' theology.

OmegAlpha: Journal for the Study of Metropolitan John Zizioulas' Theology is an open-access, peer-reviewed scholarly journal that publishes research on various aspects of Zizioulas' thought and work, positioning him as one of the foremost spokespersons of global Orthodoxy today. The journal primarily publishes scholarly articles that focus on specific theological issues related to the

late Metropolitan of Pergamon, as well as broader topics concerning his theological legacy from theological, philosophical, historical, or other perspectives. The editorial policy is ecumenical, allowing for the publication of critical book reviews, review essays, and responses to articles.

The journal's name is significant. It reflects John Zizioulas' fundamental idea that the Omega has a clear priority over the Alpha, that the eschaton affects both the past and present history. According to Zizioulas, "the future of the *eschata* is not a prolongation of the historical future into eternity; it is rather a future that visits history from outside or beyond history" (*Remembering the Future*, p. 24).

The first issue of the journal explores various aspects of John Zizioulas' eschatological view. For Zizioulas, eschatology "is not simply a doctrine; it is an orientation, a perspective, a mode of existence. Eschatology does not concern only the future; it affects our past as well as our present" (*Remembering the Future*, p. 1). In other words, eschatology represents an outlook that informs everything one can assert about existence/being and truth. Exploring this conviction, in the first issue authors from diverse backgrounds investigate the role of eschatology in his work, its relevance for inter-Christian encounters, and the challenges of the contemporary world. The issue also includes a critical edition of unpublished archival material, notably an essay written by Zizioulas for a seminar on "Mysticism" while he was studying under Paul Tillich at Harvard University in 1956. This volume concludes with two extensive review essays and one conference review.

The second issue will focus on "Hermeneutics," a central theme in both theological and philosophical reflection across time.

Nikolaos Asproulis
Editor-in-Chief