

THE DIVINE LITURGY IN THE THINKING OF THE LITURGIST ROBERT TAFT

Rev. Assist. Prof. PhD Gabriel PIȘTEA
Faculty of Orthodox Theology "Dumitru Stăniloae",
"Al. I. Cuza" University, Iași

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Abstract

*Throughout time, the Divine Liturgy has received many definitions, resulting from the personal experience of those who have tried to define it. In addition to Robert Taft's technical approach to liturgical themes, in his book *Liturgy, Model of Prayer, Icon of Life*, he attempts to provide a general and accessible understanding of the highest form of worship of God: the Divine Liturgy. The sixteen definitions of the Divine Liturgy, according to Robert Taft's thought, which we will present in this study, highlight a fundamental truth: the Divine Liturgy must be applied to our lives as a living and authentic experience of living with Christ.*

Keywords: *Divine Liturgy, Robert Taft, liturgical studies, experience, prayer, life, worship*

The work of the great liturgist Robert Taft is an impressive one. His lifelong work in the field of Liturgical Theology, together with his team, has covered unexplored spaces in the field, enriching it with the results of research that is pressing for the Western world and beyond. In addition to his well-known technical method of working in the composition of his studies, by consulting the sources and liturgical manuscripts, Robert Taft has published several volumes in which he explains in a comprehensible way, without a technical text and elaborate footnotes, elements of the Byzantine rite, which he has studied meticulously. It is this type of books, accessible to the general public interested in the history of Byzantine worship, that our author through the *Byzantine Rite*¹ and the *Liturgy, Model of Prayer, Icon of Life*² left us.

¹ Robert F. TAFT, *Ritul bizantin – scurtă istorie*, translated by Dumitru Vanca and Alin Meheș, Reîntregirea, Alba Iulia, 2008 (see also Robert F. TAFT, *The Byzantine Rite – a Short History*, The Liturgical Press, Collegeville, Minnesota, 1993; see also Robert F. TAFT, *Storia Sintetica del Rito Bizantino*, Libreria Editrice Vaticana, Citta del Vaticano, 1992).