



Invitation



Dear Sir/Madam,

In an era marked by accelerated transformations and the fragmentation of value systems, the figure of Saint Martin returns to contemporary relevance as a symbol of Christian ethics, spiritual chivalry, and responsibility toward our fellow human beings. His emblematic gesture—sharing his cloak with a person in need—has become, within the European tradition, the archetypal symbol of active compassion and of the transformation of the warrior into a protector of the vulnerable, a moral model that has inspired, over the centuries, the emergence and development of Christian chivalric orders.

Within the context of contemporary Europe, the Martinian legacy continues to inspire academic reflection on the relationship between tradition, cultural identity, and civic responsibility. Today, the chivalric ideal is increasingly interpreted not as a relic of the medieval past, but as a form of moral and cultural engagement capable of contributing to intercultural dialogue, social solidarity, and the transmission of Christian values within the European public sphere.

Following the success of the 2024 first edition of The International Conference "Saint Martin, precursor to the establishment of Knightly Christian Orders", the second edition aims to deepen, from interdisciplinary perspectives, the spiritual, cultural, and historical role of Saint Martin and the influence of the Christian chivalric ideal in shaping European and regional identity.

Upholding Christian-cultural principles, valuing the lessons and teachings of human history, and bringing the ideals of chivalry into the modern era, the "Sovereign Templar Order of Saint Martin" Association – Arad, together with the Prefecture of Arad County, the City Hall of Arad, the Arad County Council, the Arad County Cultural Center, the "Alexandru D. Xenopol" County Library – Arad, the Arad Museum Complex, the Romanian Historical Sciences Society – Arad Branch, the "ASTRA Arădeană – 1863" Association, the "Ioan Slavici" Center for History and Literary Theory – Arad, the "Ștefan Cicio-Pop" Association – Arad, and the Union of Professional Journalists in Romania – "Ioan Slavici" Branch – Arad organize the International Conference "Saint Martin, Precursor of the Creation of Christian Knightly Orders" – 2nd Edition.

Appreciating your scholarly interests, we have the honor of inviting you to actively participate in the conference, which will take place on April 24, 2026, starting at 10:00 AM, in the "King Ferdinand" Hall of the City Hall of Arad.

To facilitate the participation of a larger number of researchers from Romania and abroad, the conference will also include an online section via the Zoom platform, dedicated to remote presentations. Technical details regarding access and scheduling of online interventions will be provided to confirmed participants in due time.

The conference sections include original topics addressing imagological, cultural, and historical representations found in the Arad region of the Mureș Valley: Salt Road, Signs of Early Christianity, Saint Martin and Chivalry, Benedictine Monasteries, and Cistercian Monasteries, with the most valuable scientific contributions planned for subsequent publication in a specialized volume.

The conference offers an academic dialogue between past and present, where the values embraced by Saint Martin – dedication, compassion, selfless service, and moral responsibility – are reinterpreted in the context of contemporary society, serving as essential benchmarks for building a culture of the common good.

Please confirm your participation by sending the title of your presentation along with your institutional affiliation by **April 10, 2026**, to the email address simpozionarad@gmail.com. In your registration message, please specify your preferred mode of participation – *in-person* or *online* via Zoom. For inclusion in the conference program, submission of an **abstract** in both Romanian and English is also required.

For comprehensive logistical details and any further assistance, please contact:

- **Sorin Bulboacă**, tel. +40 727 455 952, e-mail: sorinbulboaca@yahoo.com
- **Aurelian Roland Boiț**, tel. +40 728 669 558, e-mail: aurelianroland@yahoo.com
- **Gabriela Adina Marco**, tel. +40 726 380 781, e-mail: mgabi16@gmail.com
- **Ioana Nistor**, tel. +40 754 886 592, e-mail: ioananistor2003@yahoo.com

Yours faithfully,

Organizing Committee of
The International Conference "Saint Martin,
precursor to the establishment of Knightly Christian Orders"