

On the Immigration of the Christians and on some Missionary Tendencies in the European Context

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Immediately after the 1989 revolutions, the citizens from Eastern Europe were able to express their freedom of movement and they visited or emigrated mainly in Western Europe, but also in other areas. In our times, people can easily travel long distances, as easily communicate over long distances and it seems that globalization speaks for itself increasingly clear through various modes of transfer of some elements from one social context to another. We note also that human interaction is sustained by modern technology (computer, car, airplane, telephone, internet, media, etc.) and express a new reality, much more interactive than a few decades ago. This increased mobility that occurred on all continents for the last decades is no doubt a strong research theme for Mission Studies and for the Church.

The immigration phenomenon is not new and through it, new spaces were populated, the United States of America, being an example of a country built by immigrants. But along with immigration phenomenon, all the social issues that these people are causing move. In the countries where they arrive, they are seen as persons threatening the social security of the citizens born on that land, so most immigrants will get only jobs with a high risk and will be paid under the level accepted by the local people. The major reason for choosing to go to another country lies in searching a better life. This hope motivates people to leave their old home and build new ones, in different conditions. Modern human life is divided into spheres of action, an economic one, a religious one, a social one, this is the reason for which man shares his life in several areas of action, but without thinking that this fragmentation will not solve his problems, regardless whether they are economic, social or religious. Man's unity of action apparently doesn't function any more or it is dissipated in at least three directions, which compete each other.

The small communities of immigrants are organizing in the new country according to the language, culture and religion. As for the Christians, even in the early period of the Church, the providing of a permanent religious assistance from the Church was a goal assiduously pursued by the missionaries. Church should always be close to its members, to preach the Word of God and to maintain the hope in God's kingdom. The Church is called to intervene at different levels in the lives of its members; it can sensitize and mobilize their communities within the fight against human injustice.

In the case of Romanian immigrants after 1989, they can be found today in larger and smaller communities in Italy, Spain, Greece, Canada, USA, almost everywhere. They demanded permanent religious assistance from the Orthodox Church, and Synod was obliged to find solution sin order to be together with its members. This paper is on the peculiarities of this missionary process developed in the past 25 year.