

To Our Readers

In 2018 *The Wheel* published “Being Human,” our first issue on anthropology, which considered human sexuality through the lens of Orthodox thought. Edited by Father Andrew Louth with an introduction by the late Metropolitan Kallistos Ware, it remains the most widely read issue of *The Wheel*.

The present volume returns to the subject of the human condition, widening the focus to explore various aspects of embodied life. Since “Being Human,” our world has undergone the singular challenge of the Covid-19 pandemic, which has tested the resilience of the human body and human social bonds in unexpected ways. It has altered the role of global mobility and global communication technologies in everyday life. It has transformed popular perceptions of scientific research and medical expertise. Within the Church, it prompted an unprecedented collective experience of “virtual” worship. In almost every sphere of our lives, it uncovered deep-seated fears and prejudices of all kinds.

In light of the pandemic’s profound and still not fully understood impacts, the editors of *The Wheel* believe this is an opportune moment to reexamine the centrality of the corporeal in Christian anthropology. The articles that follow consider how faith in the salvation of the body is reflected in church life, liturgical art, and contemporary debates around identity. We hope this issue will help readers think through our collective return to “in-person” existence in a broader Christian perspective.