

2014 CIB SYMPOSIUM INTRODUCTION OF PROF. MARIA PINA SCANU

Professor Maria Pina Scanu was born in 1961 in a beautiful island to the west of Italy in the Tyrrhenian Sea. Many threads of her varied and profound experience – culturally, professional and ecclesial will converge in her proposal to the Symposium.

Professor Scanu's training and experience as a social worker have left a legacy and a keen sensitivity to social problems. But the social tension in search of faith led her to devote herself to theology with studies at the Pontifical Athenaeum of St. Anselmo. There, immersed in a Monastic setting and steeped in that kind of life, she was prepared to share the life of the Camaldolese community of St. Anthony Abbot, sharing intense moments in friendship both joyful and painful in the community. Hence her knowledge and contact with other monastic Benedictine Italian Nuns became a reality.

After her theological studies, she continued delving into Sacred Scripture at the Pontifical Biblical Institute, where in 2012, she discussed her Ph. D thesis entitled "Why is That?" Aporie – this is an interpretation of Ex.19-20 in the light of aporie. In this work, Professor Scanu has brought forth most fragile points of Scripture, the so called "breaking points"; the inconsistencies of the biblical texts, or in more technical terms, the "aporia." With the help of the tools of scientific and linguistic leaning rabbinical exegesis, the aporias reveal unusual places of meaning, possible openings to new depths of understanding and reading of the biblical message in its entirety.

We think this is a fairly typical feminine way that also in dialogue with the Word, as in interpersonal listening, or in the interpretation of reality, opens willingly to take on nuances, contradictions, shaded and unspoken areas, to achieve higher unit of meaning.

Since 1994, Prof. Scanu has taught Sacred Scripture and Biblical Hebrew at St. Anselmo's at the Theological Study of the Benedictine Italian (STIB), in the training of monastic Cistercian Congregation, at the Urban University and other institutions.

She has developed and nurtured a keen passion for the world and Jewish culture, past and present, establishing relations of mutual esteem and respect with the Jewish communities in Italy (with that of Rome in particular) and in Israel, due to extended periods of study in Jerusalem.

Maria Pina's careful and faithful love of the Word, made her available to immediately accept with joy her attendance today with us, to share in the faith, her "listening" to that imperative with which the Lord calls us every day: Hear, O my people!