

**The Activity of the Lay Missionary Ioan Popescu-Sinval from Valcea,
Reflected in Several Papers and Reports Drawn up Between
August and December 1935. Files From the Archive of the
Archdiocese of Craiova**

**Fr. PhD Senior Lecturer SERGIU-GRIGORE POPESCU,
University of Craiova,
sergiupopescu77@yahoo.com**

Abstract

In the second half of 1935, in the Diocese of Râmnic New Severin, the lay missionary Ioan Popescu-Sinval, a tireless defender of Orthodoxy against neo-Protestant proselytism, carried out his activity with great zeal. We do not know much about his life and theological studies. However, considering the complex and difficult mission entrusted to him by the leadership of the Diocese of Râmnic, we can assume that he attended the courses of a theological school, even for a shorter period of time. It is also worth noting the knowledge of many texts in the Holy Scriptures with which he argued his ideas and the success of his conferences held in churches, cultural centers, schools, private homes or even houses of worship of the cults. Even more impressive is the fact that he was able to bring back to Orthodoxy believers who had lost their way and were now finding it with the help of this tireless missionary. Difficulties of all kinds have only strengthened his conviction that the defense of the „Ancestral Law”, of Orthodoxy, and of its teachings, is worth every effort. We do not know when and under what circumstances the lay missionary Ioan Popescu-Sinval ceased his activity, but it is certain that through his efforts he signaled that, in Oltenia, Orthodoxy is and must remain the religion of the „great majority of Romanians”, and The Orthodox Church - „Dominant Church in the Romanian State” -, as provided by the 1923 Constitution.