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born in Chennai, India. He holds a double Bachelor's degree in Philosophy and both a Licentiate and Doctorate in Dogmatic Theology — all earned summa cum laude from esteemed institutions across India, Israel, and Italy. He currently serves as Professor of Dogmatic Theology at the Salesian Pontifical University in Rome. His areas of specialization include the Mystery of the Trinity, Christology, Mariology, and Patrology. In addition to his academic responsibilities, Prof. Vincent BOSCO is a formator, pastoral coordinator, and spiritual guide at the Ratisbonne Monastery in Jerusalem. Deeply passionate about Interreligious Dialogue and Ecumenism, he dedicates much of his research to these fields. He is also actively engaged in youth development programs in Jerusalem, where theology is lived and shared in community.



The significance of icons in our faith cannot be overstated. They are deeply rooted in the mystery of Christ's Incarnation and His Paschal events. As St. Paul reminds us, Jesus is the visible icon of the invisible God (cf. Col 1:15). This book, originally a doctoral thesis, brings out the arguments of John of Damascus, justifying the depictions and venerations of icons against the iconoclastic controversy, a significant chapter in Byzantine history, which is generally divided into two distinct phases: the first spanning 726-787 A.D. and the second occurring between 814-843. In response to the first phase of iconoclasm, John of Damascus stood as a leading voice in the defence of icon veneration. Divided into six chapters, the book presents the arguments for the icons, the arguments of the iconoclasts and the stubborn iconoclastic stand of two emperors: Leo III and his son Constantine V.

The first chapter prepares the readers with a panoramic vision of the icons. The second presents the historical, political, and structural structure of John of Damascus' three *Orations* on sacred icons. The following three chapters present John's arguments and his methodology to respond to the iconoclastic arguments. The final chapter analyses John's reliance on the writings of the patristic *florilegia*. The readers will find a pendulum effect of the arguments for and against the icons. Often, believers find an inner oscillation for and against icons. Hence, this book will undoubtedly provoke meaningful reflection and discussion among its readers. By engaging with this text, readers will not only gain knowledge but also a deeper appreciation for the sacred icons that have been an integral part of Christian worship and devotion throughout the centuries.



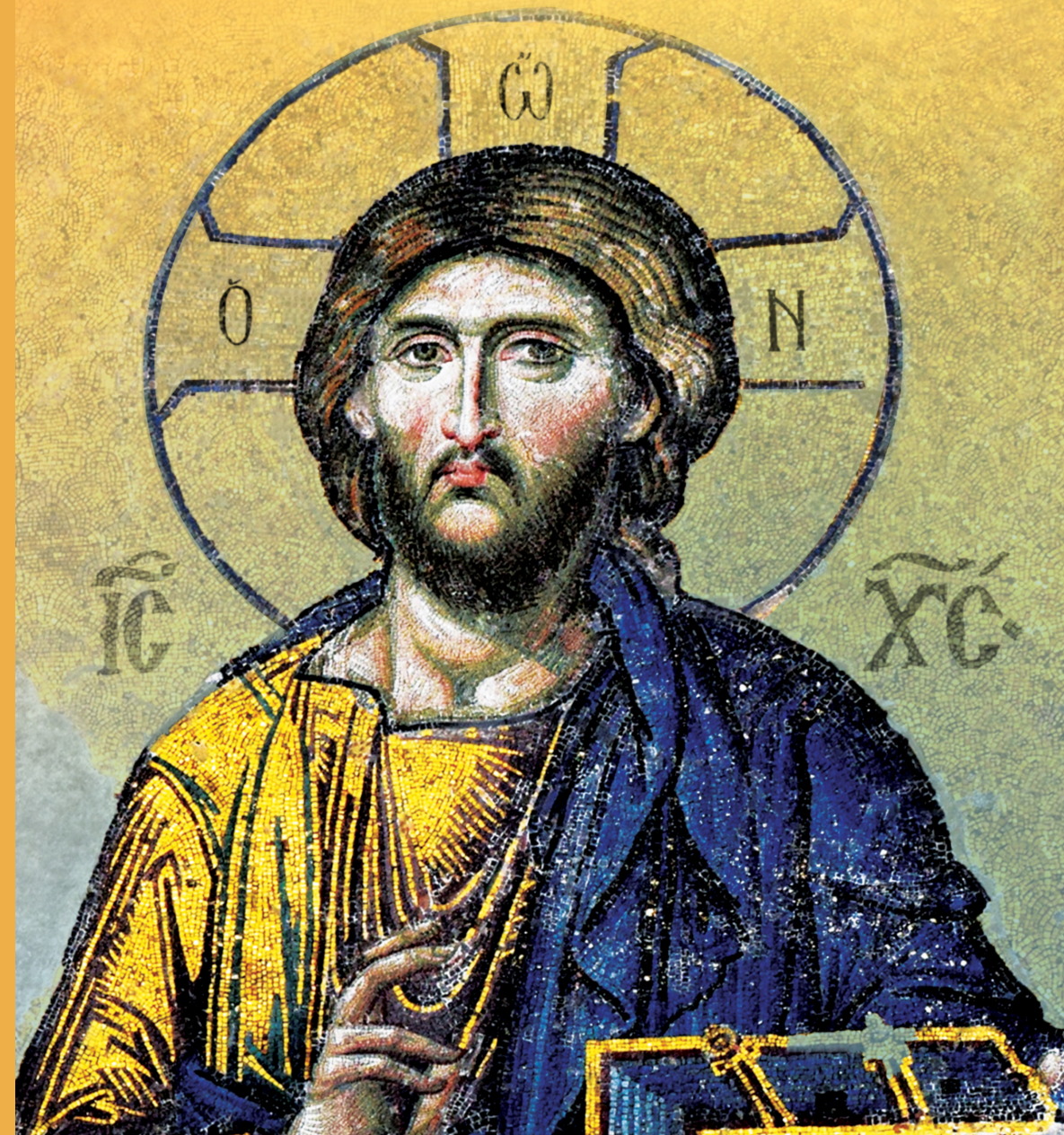
Christian Theology /
Christology

The Christological Foundations of the Doctrine
of Sacred Icons According to John of Damascus

Vincent BOSCO

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THE CHRISTOLOGICAL FOUNDATIONS OF THE DOCTRINE of SACRED ICONS ACCORDING TO JOHN OF DAMASCUS



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Cover images
Christ Pantocrator and
The Virgin Mary, Deesis mosaic,
Hagia Sophia, Istanbul

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