

**ON THE HEALING PRAYER AND INCANTATION TRADITIONS IN  
THE ACTIVE AND PASSIVE CONGREGATION**

Good health has always been the main concern for humans as the basis for the other activities. According to the folk traditions most of the diseases are inflicted by evil spirits. People refer to various means for treatment and cure. Believers turn to church according to the advice of the Saint Fathers, but those who do not follow the church teaching make use of incantations. Mainly these diseases are of psychoneurological nature (fears, insomnia, *uzhmuri*, evil eye.)

As for the active believers the above-mentioned objects are substituted with a box-tree bough, rose petals taken from the church at Pentecost day, sanctified water, incense, holy water of the Great Thursday, or the oil taken from the grave of saints.

It is important to mention that the texts of prayers and incantations are mainly identical.

The application of healing herbs in the folk medicine speaks about the medical experience and knowledge of psycho and phyto-therapy. The instances of treatment discussed in this paper confirm the deep relationships between the folk incantations and religious prayers but it is not always easy to determine whether the method originated from the church or from folk