After the end of World War II, the Communist Party took over power in Romania. The social and political changes transformed the life of philosopher Constantin Noica as well. Considered an “anti-revolutionary” thinker (the files of his trial reveal that his writings on Hegel’s *Phenomenology of the Spirit* were considered anti-revolutionary*), Noica was placed under house arrest in Câmpulung-Muscel between 1949 and 1958. In 1958, he was sentenced to 25 years in prison. He was freed after 6 years; *Pray for Brother Alexander* covers his experiences during this time. For more on his life and philosophy, see my article, “Constantin Noica’s Becoming within Being and Meno’s Paradox.”†

This is the third volume by Noica published in English. The previous two were both published in 2009, both translated by Alistair Ian Blyth: *Becoming within Being* (Marquette University Press) and *Six Maladies of the Contemporary Spirit* (University of Plymouth Press).

For this edition, all footnotes belong to me, unless otherwise noted. At times, I have chosen to keep Romanian terms, explaining their meaning in a footnote. The register of Noica’s writing varies throughout the book. At times, it reads as a diary, while at other times as a philosophical treatise.

I remain indebted to Dana Munteanu for her continual support during the translation of this volume and for reading and

offering helpful suggestions. My wife, Elena, and my son, Andrei, have often suggested the right word whenever I could not find it. For this and for sharing their lives with me, I am forever grateful.