

SOLIA

THE HERALD
JACKSON, MI

PENTECOST

DESCENT OF
THE HOLY SPIRIT



APR-JUN 2019

VOL. LXXXIV, No. 4-6

SOLIA

ENGLISH EDITOR / SECRETARY:

Mr. David Oancea

ROMANIAN EDITOR:

Rev. Fr. Dan Hoarste

STAFF:

V. Rev. Dr. Remus Grama

Mr. Mark Chestnut

Mr. Richard C. Grabowski

CHAIRMAN:

Most Rev. Archbishop
Nathaniel Popp



SOLIA — THE HERALD (ISSN 0038-1039) is published quarterly for \$15.00 per year: United States, \$20.00 per year: Canada, and \$25.00 per year in other countries by The Romanian Orthodox Episcopate of America, 2535 Grey Tower Road, Jackson, MI 49201-9120. Periodicals postage paid at Jackson, Michigan, and additional offices. Phone: (517) 522-3656, Fax: (517) 522-5907. E-mail: solia@roea.org. Internet: <http://www.roea.org>.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to: SOLIA — THE HERALD, P.O. Box 185, Grass Lake, MI 49240-0185, U.S.A.

Photo submissions: Use high resolution/quality digital camera settings (at least 300 dpi).

Articles and news published in SOLIA do not necessarily reflect the views or the endorsement of the Romanian Orthodox Episcopate of America.

CONTENTS

English Section

Pastoral Changes	2, 13
CONVOCATION - 87TH ANNUAL EPISCOPATE CONGRESS.....	3
SPECIAL ELECTORAL SESSION CONVOCATION	4
Candidate Nominated for Office of Auxiliary Bishop:	
Rev. Fr. Vicar Dan Hoarste.....	5, 11
Metropolitan Tikhon Guest of Ecumenical Patriarchate at Annual Pilgrimage to Cappadocia	6, 16
Metropolitan Elpidophoros Elected Archbishop of Greek Orthodox Archdiocese	7, 15
50 Signs You Are Falling Away From the Church, Archpriest Geoffrey Korz	8-9, 10
Update: Orthodox Christian Laity Spring Board Meeting...	10
Hierarchal Schedule	11
Serbian Patriarch and Patriarchs of Antioch Call for Pan-Orthodox Unity.....	12
ARFORA Undergraduate Scholarship.....	12, 16
Symposium Focuses on 'Reviving the Female Diaconate in the Orthodox Church: Has the Time Come?.....	13
Financial Report.....	14-15
Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America Releases Results of National Survey.....	16

Romanian Section

Sfântul Teolipt al Filadelfiei Cuvânt la Cincizecime, despre venirea Preasfântului Duh	17, 23
Din Viața Parohiilor	18-19, 24
CONVOCARE - AL 87-LEA CONGRES ANUAL AL EPISCOPIEI.....	20
CONVOCARE SESIUNE SPECIALĂ ELECTORALĂ.....	21
Candidat Propus Pentru Funcția de Episcop Vicar Preacucernicul Părinte Dan Hoarște.....	22-23

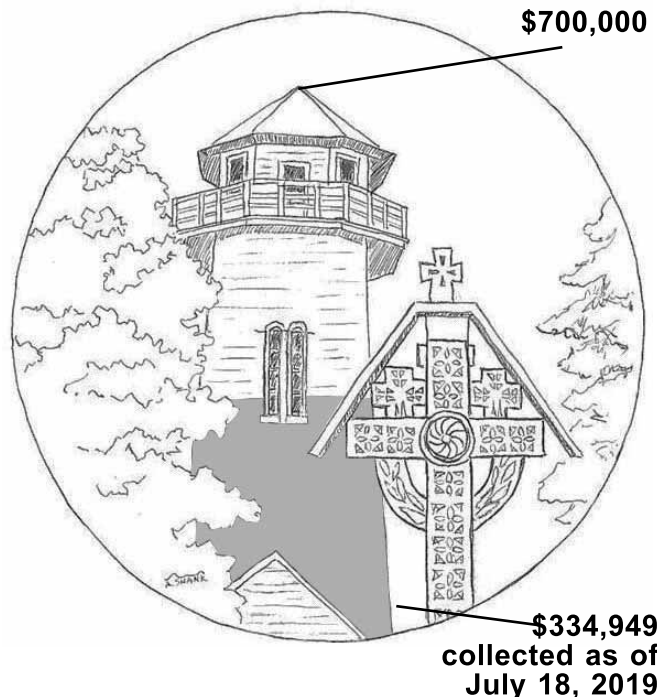
PASTORAL CHANGES

ORDINATIONS

CAUTIS, Deacon George, was ordained to the Holy Priesthood on May 12, 2019, by Archbishop Nathaniel at St. Nicholas Church, Alliance, OH.

IFTODE, Florin, was ordained into the Holy Diaconate on June 15, 2019 and into the Holy Priesthood on June 16, 2019, by Archbishop Nathaniel at Holy Trinity Church, Los Angeles, CA.

VATRA GENERATIONS APPEAL



RECEIVED / ASSIGNED / RELEASED

CAPSA, Rev. Fr. Constantin Iustin, who was attached to Holy Trinity Church, Los Angeles, CA, was assigned Parish Priest of Holy Archangels Michael and Gabriel Church, Palm Springs, CA, effective May 1, 2019.

CAUTIS, Rev. Fr. George, who was attached to St. Nicholas Church, Alliance, OH, was assigned Parish Priest of Annunciation Church, Walker, MI, effective June 1, 2019.

IFTODE, Rev. Fr. Florin, was attached to St. Anne Church, Pomona, CA, effective June 16, 2019.

Cont. on page 13

SOLIA APR-JUN 2019



CONVOCATION

In conformity with Article III, Section 7, of the By-Laws of the Romanian Orthodox Episcopate of America, we hereby call into session

THE 87TH ANNUAL EPISCOPATE CONGRESS

Friday, August 30 - Sunday, September 1, 2019

St. George Cathedral, 18405 W 9 Mile Rd, Southfield MI 48075

HOTEL: The Westin Southfield Detroit, 1500 Town Center, Southfield, MI 48075

Phone: (248) 827-4000 / Name of Event: ROEA

\$99/night King / \$109/night 2 Double beds (plus state and local taxes) | Reservation Deadline: August 11.

After this date, no room guarantee!

All Priests presently assigned to a parish and all Lay Delegates legally elected by their Parish Assembly in 2019, and whose credentials have been verified by the Chancery, are called into Session.

The Congress will be in session starting

FRIDAY, AUGUST 30, 2019 at 2:00 pm, Eastern Daylight Savings Time

All clergy and lay delegates are requested to participate until the completion of the Congress which includes Hierarchal Divine Liturgy followed by the Congress Banquet on Sunday.

*The Agenda, as printed in the **Annual Report to the Episcopate Congress 2019**, will include:* Reading / Approval of the 86th Episcopate Congress Minutes; Official Reports to the Congress; Reports from the Episcopate Auxiliaries; New Business as submitted by the Episcopate Council.

As per Article III, Section 1, the Episcopate Congress shall be composed of:

- The Bishop
- The Auxiliary Bishop(s)
- The Vicar
- The Parish Priest and Assistant Priest(s)
- Two Lay Delegates elected by each Parish Assembly for Congresses 2019-2020
- Two delegates from each Auxiliary organization of the Episcopate
- Priests under the jurisdiction of the Episcopate not having parishes; deacons, abbots, abbesses, if accredited by the Episcopate Council
- Members of the Episcopate Council in office, including Auxiliary Presidents ex-officio

Should the duly-elected lay delegates be unable to attend, their alternates will represent the parish. No addition, substitution or ad hoc delegation will be recognized by the credentials committee.

+NATHANIEL

Archbishop of Detroit and The Romanian Orthodox Episcopate of America

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

THURSDAY, AUGUST 29

7:00 pm Episcopate Council Meeting

FRIDAY, AUGUST 30

9:00 am Clergy Conference

1:00 pm Lunch / Registration

2:00 pm Invocation to the Holy Spirit

87th Episcopate Congress Convenes

6:00 pm Vespers

7:00 pm Supper

SATURDAY, AUGUST 31

9:00 am Congress Session II

11:30 am Special Electoral Session

1:00 pm Lunch

2:00 pm Congress Reconvenes – Session III

SATURDAY, AUGUST 31 (continued)

6:00 pm Memorial Service followed by Great Vespers

7:30 pm Supper

8:30 pm Program

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 1

8:00 am Matins

9:30 am Procession of the Clergy

10:00 am Hierarchal Divine Liturgy

1:00 pm Congress Banquet & Closing Program
celebrating the 90th Anniversary of the
Episcopate



SPECIAL ELECTORAL SESSION CONVOCAATION

*In conformity with Article I, II and III of the By-Laws of the Romanian Orthodox Episcopate of America, we
hereby call into special electoral session*

THE EPISCOPATE CONGRESS

For the purpose of Electing One (1) Auxiliary Bishop

**Saturday, August 31, 2019 at 11:30 am Eastern Daylight Savings Time
at St. George Cathedral, 18405 W 9 Mile Road, Southfield, Michigan**

In compliance with Article II, Section 1(a) of the By-Laws, the Episcopate Council has nominated for election:

The Reverend Father Vicar Dan Hoarste

No nominations for the office of Auxiliary Bishop shall be accepted from the floor (Article I, Section 15).
As per Article III, Section 1, the Episcopate Congress shall be composed of:

- The Bishop
- The Auxiliary Bishop(s)
- The Vicar
- The Parish Priest and Assistant Priest(s)
- Two (2) Lay Delegates elected by each Parish Assembly for Congresses 2019-2020
- Two (2) delegates from each Auxiliary organization of the Episcopate
- Priests under the jurisdiction of the Episcopate not having parishes; deacons, abbots, abbesses, if accredited by the Episcopate Council
- Members of the Episcopate Council in office, including Auxiliary Presidents ex-officio

Should the duly-elected lay delegates be unable to attend, their alternates will represent the parish. No addition, substitution or ad hoc delegation will be recognized by the credentials committee.

+NATHANIEL

Archbishop of Detroit and The Romanian Orthodox Episcopate of America

CANDIDATE NOMINATED FOR OFFICE OF AUXILIARY BISHOP REV. FR. VICAR DAN HOARȘTE

Fr. Dan Hoarște was born on June 13, 1982 in the city of Făgăraș, Brașov, Romania into an Orthodox Christian family. The education received from his parents and his grandparents played a significant role in encouraging his love for God and the Church. At the age of 14, in September 1996, he began studies at the “Holy Brâncoveanu Martyrs” High School Theological Seminary in Făgăraș, Romania. However, just one year into his studies, in June 1997, his family decided to move and to begin a new life in the United States.

Arriving in the Detroit area, they attended the Divine Liturgy at Sts. Peter & Paul Romanian Orthodox Parish in Dearborn Heights, Michigan, on their first Sunday in America, and from that time made it their parish home. Under the guidance of his parish priest, Protopresbyter Romey Rosco, the young seminarian quickly integrated into parish life as a Sunday School student, altar server, junior chanter, choir member, AROY chapter member, and assisting the clergy in various capacities. It was also through the parish that he was sent as a student to Camp Vatra, to which he returned in future years as a volunteer staff member.

Fr. Dan graduated from Dearborn High School in Dearborn, Michigan in June 2000 with highest distinctions (6th out of 280 students), having been active in Students Against Destructive Decisions (SADD), French Club, Young Business People Club, and National Honor Society. He then went on to graduate in May 2004 from the University of Michigan with highest honors, having earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in History and Political Science with a minor in French studies.

During his college years, he continued to be active in the parish, including teaching the Sunday School’s high school class, and also expanded his involvement in the Episcopate. Having been a delegate to the National AROY Conference for several years, he was first elected to the National Board of the organization in 2001, and in 2003 was elected as its 37th National President for two consecutive terms. In this capacity, he was actively involved in the youth programs of the Episcopate, represented National AROY on the Episcopate Council and assisted in establishing new AROY Chapters in parishes across the country.

In September 2004, with the blessing of His Eminence Archbishop Nathaniel, he entered Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology in Brookline, Massachusetts to continue his theological studies that had been interrupted seven years prior. While at Holy Cross, in addition to educational studies and spiritual formation,

he was appointed as Ecclesiarch of the Holy Cross Chapel, worked in the office of the Dean of Students as Events Coordinator and Student Liaison with the faculty, was elected Class President, and was actively involved in the organization of retreats, conferences and projects for helping the needy. In 2006, he was blessed with the experience of participating in an OCMC mission trip to the African nation of Tanzania, where he assisted in providing catechetical instruction for young Orthodox faithful of the diocese of Bukoba. He graduated from Holy Cross in May 2008, earning a Master of Divinity degree with highest distinction, ranking 2nd in his graduating class. He remained at the school for further studies until December 2008.

Following the completion of studies at Holy Cross, Fr. Dan accepted, with the blessing of Archbishop Nathaniel, the position of Pastoral Assistant at Annunciation Greek Orthodox Cathedral in Atlanta, Georgia (serving in that capacity from March 2009 until June 2010), where he assisted the parish clergy in pastoral, liturgical and educational matters, especially with the youth.

In June 2010, he was accepted into the Patristic Theology Doctorate program at the Pontifical Oriental Institute in Rome, Italy with a full scholarship from the Pontifical Council for Promoting the Unity of Christians through its Committee of Cultural Collaboration. He pursued his doctoral research under the guidance of Professor Edward Farrugia SJ in the field of dogmatics/liturgics, choosing as the title of his thesis, “Spirit and Spiritedness in St John Damascene’s Octoechos Antiphons.”

Fr. Dan was ordained into the Holy Diaconate on September 29, 2012 at the hand of Archbishop Nathaniel at St. George Romanian Orthodox Cathedral in Detroit/Southfield, Michigan, and then into the Holy Priesthood by the same hierarch on December 23, 2012 at his home parish of Sts. Peter & Paul in Dearborn Heights, Michigan.

After ordination, during his doctoral research, with the blessing of Archbishop Nathaniel and with the permission of His Grace Bishop Siluan of the Romanian Orthodox Diocese of Italy, he assisted liturgically at the Romanian Orthodox Parish of St. Sava of Buzau in Perugia, Italy. While in Rome, he participated in various academic conferences and retreats at which he was invited to be a speaker. He was the Orthodox speaker on the panel of the ecumenical conference organized in Assisi in January 2013 on the occasion of

Cont. on page 11

METROPOLITAN TIKHON GUEST OF ECUMENICAL PATRIARCHATE AT ANNUAL PILGRIMAGE TO CAPPADOCIA



Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew concelebrating with Metropolitan Tikhon

DEREYAMANLI, CAPPADOCIA, TURKEY [OCA] -- Orthodox Christian faithful who trace their roots to Cappadocia filled the Church of the Mother of God here on the Sunday of All Saints—June 23, 2019—as His All-Holiness, Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew of Constantinople and His Beatitude, Metropolitan Tikhon concelebrated the Divine Liturgy.

Metropolitan Tikhon and a delegation representing the Orthodox Church in America that included Archpriest Alexander Rentel, Chancellor, and Archdeacon Joseph Matusiak had been invited by His All-Holiness to participate in the annual pilgrimage to Cappadocia in conjunction with a three-day pilgrimage to the Ecumenical Patriarchate.

His Eminence, Metropolitan Paisios of Lerou Kalimnou also concelebrated with His All-Holiness, His Beatitude, and the OCA delegation.

At the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy, His All-Holiness warmly welcomed His Beatitude, recalling the many occasions on which Metropolitan Tikhon, representing the Orthodox Church in America, had visited the Patriarchate of Constantinople. He also spoke of the close friendship that has been built as a result of those visits.

His Beatitude responded by thanking His All-Holiness for the invitation, and especially for the opportunity to experience the martyric witness of the deserted caves and church ruins across the Cappadocian region. The complete text of Metropolitan Tikhon's address appears below.

During the pilgrimage, Metropolitan Tikhon and the OCA delegation had the opportunity to visit the ancient cave churches and monasteries that dot the region, as well as churches that had been closed fol-

lowing the exchange of populations between Greece in Turkey in 1922.

**Address of His Beatitude, Metropolitan Tikhon
to His All-Holiness, Ecumenical Patriarch
Bartholomew of Constantinople
Sunday of All Saints
June 23, 2019**

Your All-Holiness, Patriarch Bartholomew,

It is a great joy for me to concelebrate the Divine Liturgy with Your All-Holiness, together with His Eminence, Metropolitan Paisios, and the brothers who serve with us, on this great day of the Feast of All Saints, when in the glory of Pentecost we honor the great cloud of witnesses offered to us in the holy men and women of our Orthodox Christian faith.

When I travel abroad, I normally bring the prayers and greetings of the faithful of North America to the place where I am travelling. But after these days, when I have had the honor of walking — at the invitation of Your All-Holiness — in the lands of Cappadocia, I feel that it is rather I who am receiving, on behalf of North Americans, the prayers and embrace of the martyric witness which resound from the deserted caves and the ruins of church temples around us.

In today's Gospel, the Lord said to us: "And everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or wife or children or lands for My name's sake, shall receive a hundredfold, and inherit eternal life." These lands echo with the trials and loss of the past, but these clouds of past sufferings are made brighter by the hope offered to us by Jesus Christ, the Author and Finisher of our faith, Who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

It is this hope, this faith, this joy which we find fulfilled as we gather as brothers and sisters in Christ in the celebration of this Divine Liturgy, which is the goal of our pilgrimage in life. We have all come here because we are seeking that which was lost: our homeland, our families, and our churches. But this seeking is also for something deeper in our hearts, as the Psalmist says: "As the deer pants after the fountains of water, so pants my soul after Thee, O God. My soul thirsted for God, the mighty, the living; when shall I come and appear before the face of God" (Psalm 41:1).

I come from America, the land of freedom, the land of abundance, the land of hope. It is to this land that

Cont. on page 16

METROPOLITAN ELPIDOPHOROS ELECTED ARCHBISHOP OF GREEK ORTHODOX ARCHDIOCESE

The Order of Saint Andrew is pleased to forward the announcement from the Ecumenical Patriarchate on May 11, 2019, on the unanimous election of His Eminence Metropolitan Elpidophoros of Bursa as Archbishop of America. The announcement is as follows:

ECUMENICAL PATRIARCHATE

“Today, Saturday May 11, 2019, the Holy and Sacred Synod, continuing its work, proceeded to fill the vacated seat of the Archdiocese of America following the voluntary resignation of its shepherd, His Eminence, Archbishop Demetrios Geron of America.

“Therefore, following the suggestion, permission and exhortation of His-All Holiness, the holy synodical members, duly casting their votes, unanimously elected as Archbishop of America, His Eminence, Metropolitan Elpidophoros of Bursa, Abbott of the Holy Monastery of the Holy Trinity in Halki and Professor of the Theological School of the Aristotelian University of Thessaloniki.

—From the Secretariat of the Holy
and Sacred Synod”

In a letter to His Eminence Archbishop-elect Elpidophoros, National Commander Dr. Anthony J. Limberakis stated,

“On behalf of all the members of the Order of Saint Andrew, Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate in America, I express the tremendous joy and satisfaction of the Order for your election today to the Eparchial Throne of America. As our new spiritual leader and Exarch of the Ecumenical Throne, we Archons of the Mother Church, pledge our fidelity and obedience to Your Eminence as our new Archbishop and the chief shepherd of all Orthodox Christians in the United States of America.

“We are deeply thankful for the providential wisdom and prudence of His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew and the Most Reverend Members of the Holy and Sacred Synod for electing you to the Throne of the Holy Archdiocese of America. We promise to Your Eminence that the Order of Saint Andrew shall lead the way in our support, provision, and promotion of your goals and programs as our new Archbishop.

“Again, please accept our heartfelt congratulations and most sincere best wishes on this historic occasion.”



In his letter to His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew National Commander Dr. Limberakis, stated,

“All of us understand that Archbishop Elpidophoros has been left with numerous challenges to meet and overcome. We pledge to Your All-Holiness that the Order of Saint Andrew shall welcome and embrace him with open arms as Your representative and our new archpastor, and that we shall lead the way in our support, obedience, provision, and promotion of the goals and programs of our new Archbishop.

“In the coming days and weeks, as we eagerly await the arrival of Archbishop

Elpidophoros, please know and be assured that we shall be ceaselessly preparing the ground for his Archiepiscopal ministry in America.”

Archbishop-elect Elpidophoros was born in 1967 in Bakirköy, Istanbul. He studied at the Department of Pastoral Theology, Theological School of the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, from which he graduated in 1991. In 1993, he finished his postgraduate studies at the Philosophical School of the University of Bonn, Germany, submitting a dissertation entitled, “The Brothers Nicholas and John Mesarites.”

He was ordained a Deacon in 1994 at the Patriarchal Cathedral and was appointed as the Codecographer of the Holy and Sacred Synod. In 1995, he was appointed Deputy Secretary of the Holy and Sacred Synod. From 1996-1997, he studied at the Theological School of St. John the Damascene in Balamand, Lebanon, where he improved his knowledge of the Arabic language. In 2001, he presented a doctoral dissertation at the Theological School of the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki under the title: “Severus of Antioch and the Council of Chalcedon,” proclaiming him a Doctor of Theology. In 2004, he was invited to Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology in Boston, where he taught as a visiting professor for one semester.

In March 2005, at the proposal of His All-Holiness, he was promoted by the Holy and Sacred Synod to the position of Chief Secretary and was ordained to the priesthood by the Ecumenical Patriarch in the Patriarchal Cathedral. In 2009, he submitted two dissertations to the Theological School of Thessaloniki and was unanimously elected Assistant Professor of

Cont. on page 15

50 SIGNS YOU ARE FALLING AWAY FROM THE CHURCH

By ARCHPRIEST GEOFFREY KORZ

“Nevertheless I have this against you, that you have left your first love...” (Revelation 2:4)

Those of you old enough to recall it might remember the Paul Simon song, *50 Ways to Leave Your Lover*. In it, an adulterer contemplates a long list of ways in which one affair can be terminated – presumably with the goal of concentrating on a different one.

Like that song, living an Orthodox Christian life presents a plethora of ways to leave our first love: *to leave Christ and His Church*, whether we are planning to do so or not. Usually, most people do not set out to leave their faith – yet of those who join the Orthodox Church in adulthood, a full 50% fall away, sometimes through complete apostasy, but more usually through “Sundays-only Christianity”, or the accompanying dying in the heart of the love of God.

Unlike the song, there are signs – lots and lots of them. Over the years, many priests have accumulated a list (either mental or written) of the habits which inevitably lead people to falling away from the Church. Usually, priests can see it coming, and can only pray for a person who is setting themselves up for departure. Such a person is rarely open to advice or admonition, since they do not see a problem, or if they do see it, they lack the will to do anything about it.

At the heart of the matter, **we find that the “50 Ways to Leave Your First Love” are entirely a matter of the personal will.** *Just how much is a person willing to force him or herself, in the face of lack of motivation, a bad attitude, or many distractions?* More importantly, in the early stages when only a few of the “50 Ways” begin to appear, will an individual take the steps to act before the first few Ways grow into a grocery list of many more Ways, which inevitably engulf the human soul, carrying it almost imperceptibly away from God?

Here then is the full list, in no particular order, of the 50 ways to Leave Your First Love – Jesus Christ and His Holy Orthodox Church. If a few of them sound familiar, take note, and work on them. There is much profit in putting forward a consistent effort, every day, with which God will provide His grace and help, which will certainly bring success.

If more than a few sound familiar, however, do not underestimate the seriousness of the situation. These are the very habits that have accumulated for thousands of people, and which have stolen previously faithful, observant, active Orthodox Christians far away from Christ and His Church, leaving them with a hollow shell of a faith with which to face the impossible challenges of life, alone and without God.

If you do recognize these characteristics in yourself, do not despair: claim the ones that apply as your own crosses, and know that God can heal everything – and will in fact use everything for your salvation.

As an old wood shop teacher of mine used to say, we must learn from the mistakes of others: if we wait to make them ourselves, they might be permanent, and lethal.

The 50 Ways to Leave Your First Love Prayer & Asceticism

1. Daily prayer is fit in, when it can be done. Maybe. (At least, it used to be.)

2. Don’t bless the food each time you eat.

3. Your icons are dusty (from disuse).

4. Your prayer books are dusty (from disuse).

5. Be aware of your declining observance of the fasts – but do nothing to stem the slide.

6. Give your kids an example of prayer and fasting which will not really prepare them to do anything as adults – or even now.

7. Don’t pray about your actual problems, like family who are sick, conflicts in your marriage, or problems your kids are having. Keep your faith distant and abstract. Soon, you will crave “reality”, and the devil will be able to lead you to it – outside the Church.

Holy Mysteries

8. Do not confess monthly... or quarterly... or even annually.

9. Do not attend Liturgy every Sunday, for various reasons.

10. Arrive late and leave early from services as a regular rule.

11. Generally, believe that making the effort to simply attend Sunday Liturgy is enough.

12. Stay away from Holy Confession. Imagine the priest has never heard any real sins before, or he won’t “like” you if you confess.

13. Stay away from Holy Communion. This can be done by making excuses about not being able to fast, or pray, or be “holy enough to receive”. Whatever you do, do not discuss the matter with the priest: asking questions might dispel the foolish ideas, and lead to a return to receiving the Holy Mysteries.

14. Convince yourself you can lead a successful spiritual life without dealing with your addictions, bad temper, and issues from childhood. Eventually, hypocrisy will make Orthodox Christian life unbearable for you, and you’ll flee from the Church.

15. Jump from one confessor to another, either to

avoid embarrassment, or to arrange for the lightest possible spiritual consequences from a priest who does not know the whole story about your life.

Virtues

16. When making financial or education plans for the future of yourself or your family, faith does not enter into the equation (or if it does, it seems to give exactly the same answers as everyone else in my life).

17. In general, do not read or listen to any Orthodox spiritual material in a given day.

18. When planning trips, don't let it enter your mind whether you will be near an Orthodox parish on Sundays or feast days.

19. Do not let it be relevant to travel plans whether you travel on a Sunday or a feast day, and thus have to miss holy services.

20. When you travel, don't worry about keeping the fast on an airplane or in a train station (despite the fact that the Muslims and Jews sitting beside you seem to do so just fine).

21. Don't connect real life problems – like addictions, marital problems, sexuality, or raising kids – to life in the Church. If the two areas of your life get too close, they might come into contact.

Other People

22. Make little distinction or priority between socializing with faithful Christians, or surrounding yourself with anyone you find entertaining.

23. Stay isolated from your family.

24. Have little or no contact with godchildren or godparents, as far as it is up to you.

25. Have no social or personal relationship with people at your parish, or people in the Church in general.

26. Have relationships that interfere with church attendance and/or daily prayers.

27. Maintain relationships – or better still, plan holidays, business partnerships, or a marriage – with a person whose influence undermines the practice of your faith.

28. Remain angry with some people at your parish, and avoid them.

29. Don't go to Orthodox events or retreats, either because you don't think you learn anything new, or because you don't like the people.

30. Watch other people. Keep track of their whereabouts, their attendance, their clothing, how often they commune and confess. God might ask.

Your Parish

31. Donate money to the Church, if you happen to think of it – but certainly, do not tithe.

32. Contribute no time to work at your parish (since everything is surely done by the priest and the caretaker).

33. Stay in a situation where you must drive an hour or more to church.

34. Enjoy the idea of regularly visiting other parishes, just for a “change”, since you know other people are there to take care of things at your “home” parish.

35. In general, be too tired to go to church.

36. Retain a feeling of guilt about something you have/haven't done, and stay away from your parish in order to avoid talking about it.

37. Avoid confrontations with your parish priest, but still remain upset with him about things you have never expressed out loud.

38. Make avoiding “offending the family” your excuse for not attending Vespers, or even Sunday Liturgy (it's the perfect excuse, since it makes you seem like a good Christian, while allowing the devil to keep you away from the holy services).

39. Correct others in church. Yell, fix their posture, criticize their children, shush their insufferable singing. This will help their humility (if not yours).

40. Make church singing a concert – and if anyone ruins it with their lousy or untrained voice, get mad. The madder you are, the less likely the situation will happen again.

Lifestyle

41. Choose to take a job in a place where there is no Orthodox parish nearby.

42. Have sporting events on Sundays and feast days that keep you from attending church services.

43. As a rule, work on Sundays and/or feast days, and don't try repeatedly to arrange things differently because of worry about what people might say or do. (And don't ask the priest to write a letter asking your employer to accommodate you – that's for religious fanatics).

44. Have hobbies that interfere with church attendance.

45. Don't feel you need ongoing catechism or spiritual education – you've learned it already.

46. If your club or your ethnic tribe does something that comes into conflict with the doctrines of the Church, always defend your tribe. Better still, get angry at the Church, and seek some “brand” of “Christianity” that puts your tribe first.

47. Keep moving from one residence to another (ideally, a “better” one). Never putting down roots in a place or a parish will ensure you never have to spiritually mature.

48. Regularly ask why someone else doesn't solve the problems at your church, school, work, or home. This state of mind will keep you infantile, and ensure you will be unable to bear the challenges of the Christian life.

49. When something about the Church – practice, belief, moral life, etc. – offends or contradicts something you believe or do, become deeply offended, and demand that the Church (or the priest) apologize, and take away your hurt feelings.

50. Whatever happens, remember: the Holy Tradition that is the experience of all the holy people of the Orthodox Church over two thousand years can't hold a candle to what you do, what you feel, and what you

Cont. on page 10

UPDATE: ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN LAITY SPRING BOARD MEETING

**Archbishop Nathaniel Attends as
Advisory Board Member**



Fellowship and Dinner gathering on Thursday evening before the OCL Spring Board Meeting. The Meeting was held at St. Peter the Apostle Mission, Bonita Springs, Florida, on Friday, March 29, 2019.

The meeting of the Orthodox Christian Laity directors in Bonita Springs, Florida, at the end of March, was successful on many levels. Two new board members, Chris Panagos, Clearwater, FL and Pamela Collins, Naples, FL, were welcomed. Board members attended Salutations Services followed by a Lenten Supper. Board member Dr. Gayle Woloschack presented insights into the organization of the International Orthodox Theological Association (IOTA) Meeting in Romania in January 2019. The morning board meeting provided challenging discussions and actions as we move forward into the second decade of the 21st Century. Here are a few highlights:

OCL will explore ways to broaden its fundraising efforts to attract micro donations via the Internet. Through these means, we afford more faithful and committed church members the opportunity to participate in our ministry of helping to unify Orthodox Christianity in the USA so that it can work more efficiently and get into canonical order.

OCL will make every effort to broaden its educational outreach to the faithful via social media and will explore the development of a Mobile Phone App to reach more folks.

OCL will work directly with the 14 independent Patriarchs and hierarchs to help them understand that the Assembly of Bishops in the USA cannot function, if they do not give them the blessing to solve the problems facing the faithful living in this geographic area. The difficulties of the mother churches must be separated from the work of the Assembly, which is not functioning, because the bishops are distracted by disputes among the old-world hierarchs. The mother

churches need to empower the Assembly to do its work.

A research study needs to be developed that focuses on the cost effectiveness of a unified Orthodox Christian Church in the USA. This is a stewardship issue. The fragmentation and duplication of institutions, publications, education, churches, and maintenance of physical structures, philanthropic, mission and outreach efforts dilute the stewardship and major donations of the faithful. The return on the stewardship of the faithful is negligible. The Church is not growing. It is stagnant. The Church cannot retain our children. How do we make the gifts of time, talent and resources of the faithful more effective? OCL will seek funding for such a project.

Is there any one effort and institution that the Assembly can empower and work together to make worthy and excellent? It is the sense of the OCL board that the faithful and the Bishops should consider consolidating the many theological schools that train our priests into ONE world-class Orthodox Christian theological seminary in the USA. Is this a project that can show our unity? Transforming theological education is something all jurisdictions should embrace and work to make a reality. The faithful should encourage them to consider such a project.

OCL will continue to build relationships with other Pan-Orthodox Christian Ministries. OCL will feature them on our web site. OCL will promote the efforts of grassroots Pan-Orthodox projects taking place all over the USA and encourage groups to send the information to us to post on the web site.

OCL board members will join the Romanian Episcopate in its Pilgrimage to Alaska during June 2020, commemorating the 50th Anniversary of the Tomos of Autocephaly and the Glorification of St Herman of Alaska. Join us. For details see

<http://www.culturallycreativetravel.com/pilgrimage-to-alaska-2020/>.

Preparations are being made for OCL's 33rd Annual Meeting which will take place in Houston, TX on November 1-2, 2019. Save the date and plan to attend.

Published by Orthodox Christian Laity (ocl.org) on April 17, 2019.

50 Signs ... *Cont. from page 9*

want. If the Church insists otherwise, it's just a matter of time before you will have to part ways.

And of course, that's just how the devil planned it all along.

Originally published by Pravmir.com on June 18, 2019.

HIERARCHAL SCHEDULE

ARCHBISHOP NATHANIEL

January 1 – April 23, 2019

January 1. Dormition Monastery. Rives Junction, MI. Hierarchal Divine Liturgy of St. Basil for feast of Circumcision of Our Lord and St. Basil.

January 5-6. Dormition Monastery. Rives Junction, MI. Saturday: Eve of Theophany. Hierarchal Divine Liturgy of St. John. Great Blessing of Waters. Vigil for feast of Theophany. **Sunday:** Hierarchal Divine Liturgy of St. Basil the Great. Great Blessing of Waters.

January 7-12. Miami Lakes, FL. Christ the Savior Cathedral. One year Memorial Service for Bishop Mark Forsberg.

January 12- 13. Dormition Monastery. Rives Junction, MI. Saturday: Great Vespers. **Sunday:** Hierarchal Divine Liturgy.

January 20. Dormition Monastery. Rives Junction, MI. Hierarchal Divine Liturgy.

January 26-27. Dormition Monastery. Rives Junction, MI. Saturday: Great Vespers. **Sunday:** Hierarchal Divine Liturgy.

February 1-3. Fairlawn, OH. Presentation of Our Lord. Friday: Pastoral Visit. **Saturday:** Hierarchal Divine Liturgy for the patronal feast. Memorial Service. Great Vespers. **Sunday:** Blessing of Robert Dietrich to be a Reader. Hierarchal Divine Liturgy. Banquet for 105th Anniversary.

February 6-10. Phoenix, AZ. Exaltation of the Holy Cross. Sunday: Hierarchal Divine Liturgy. Lunch.

February 11-15. Scottsdale, AZ. Franciscan Retreat Center. Annual Clergy Confertreat.

February 17. Glendale, AZ. St. John the Baptizer. Hierarchal Divine Liturgy.

February 23-25. Naples, FL. St. Polycarp of Smyrna. Saturday: Great Vespers. **Sunday:** Hierarchal Divine Liturgy.

March 1-3. Elkins Park, PA. Descent of the Holy Spirit. Saturday: Jones wedding. **Sunday:** Hierarchal Divine Liturgy. Banquet.

March 9-10. Dormition Monastery. Rives Junction, MI. Saturday: Great Vespers. **Sunday:** Hierarchal Divine Liturgy.

March 16-17. Dormition Monastery. Rives Junction, MI. Saturday: Great Vespers. **Sunday:** Hierarchal Divine Liturgy. Memorial Service for Matilda Marinescu.

March 17. Grass Lake, MI. St. Mary Cemetery. Gravesite memorial service for Matilda Marinescu.

March 22-27. Colorado Trip. Saturday: Frederick, CO. St. Dimitrie the New. Hierarchal Divine Liturgy. Banquet. Great Vespers. **Sunday: Lakewood, CO. St. John the Hozevite.** Hierarchal Divine Liturgy. Banquet. **Monday-Wednesday: Lake George, CO. Holy Protection Monastery.** Hierarchal Divine Liturgy for

feast of Annunciation of March 25. Luncheon. Visit to new church in progress.

March 28-31. Naples, FL. Orthodox Christian Laity (OCL) Meetings. Friday: St. Peter the Apostle Mission (Antiochian Archdiocese). Akathist. Presentation by Gail Woloschak. **Saturday:** Great Vespers. **Sunday:** Attended Liturgy.

April 3. Dormition Monastery. Rives Junction, MI. Great Compline.

April 7. Dormition Monastery. Rives Junction, MI. Hierarchal Divine Liturgy.

April 13-14. Dormition Monastery. Rives Junction, MI. Saturday: Great Vespers. **Sunday:** Hierarchal Divine Liturgy.

April 20. Dormition Monastery. Rives Junction, MI. Saturday: Great Vespers.

April 21. Warren, MI. Descent of the Holy Spirit. Hierarchal Divine Liturgy. Banquet.

April 23. Dormition Monastery. Rives Junction, MI. Presided at Presanctified Divine Liturgy.

Candidate ... *Cont. from page 5*

the 50th anniversary of the Vatican II document *Unitatis Redintegratio*, and presented a paper on liturgical music and renewal at the March 2013 Liturgical Renewal Conference at Holy Cross in Brookline, MA. Also, during the week of Ecumenical Prayer, he was invited to give presentations and lectures in several of Rome's seminaries and in parishes throughout Italy.

In March 2013, Fr. Dan was appointed by Archbishop Nathaniel to serve as Chairman of the Episcopate's Department of Youth and Young Adult Ministries and as Director of Camp Vatra for Seniors. In September of the same year, he was appointed as Romanian Editor of *Solia-The Herald*. At the Annual Episcopate Congress in September 2014, at the recommendation of Archbishop Nathaniel, Fr. Dan was confirmed by the Congress to serve as Vicar to the Archbishop with responsibilities for assisting the mission and pastoral work of the parishes in Canada.

With the blessing of the Archbishop, besides his work in the office of the Chancery and being involved in the day to day administration of the diocese, Fr Dan traveled throughout the Episcopate to visit parishes on the occasion of their anniversaries and patron feast days. He was delegated by the Archbishop to preside at general assemblies in various parishes to settle administrative issues. He also served in several parishes as interim parish priest during vacancies and oversaw the administration of the parishes as well as the spiritual life of the following communities: Annunciation Parish in Grand Rapids (Jan – March 2016), Holy Cross in London, ON (Jan – Feb 2017) and St Athanasius Parish, Aurora, IL (Sept 2017 – Oct 2018).

On June 6, 2019, Father Dan successfully defended his thesis at the Pontifical Oriental Institute in Rome and was granted the Doctorate in Theology degree with "Summa Cum Laude."

SERBIAN PATRIARCH AND PATRIARCHS OF ANTIOCH CALL FOR PAN-ORTHODOX UNITY



[DAMASCUS, SYRIA] His Holiness Irinej – Patriarch of Serbia met His Holiness Patriarch Mor Ignatius Aphrem II, Patriarch of Antioch and All the East and head of the Universal Syriac Orthodox Church and His Beatitude John X – Greek Orthodox Patriarch of Antioch at the St. George Patriarchal Cathedral on June 2, 2019. The Hierarchs of the three ancient Churches called for deeper unity between the Eastern and Oriental Orthodox family of Churches.

During the meeting, Patriarch Mor Ignatius Aphrem II stated that: “Faithful long for the day on which we partake in the same Eucharistic chalice, after the theologians of both churches agreed that we confess the same belief in our Lord Jesus Christ, the Incarnate Word”.

In his reply, Patriarch Irinej stated that “What unites us is love and faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. We are one Church, although, sorrowfully, the historical circumstances have divided us”. The Patriarch of Serbia urged unity among Orthodox Churches through dialogue and agreements in all matters of faith and dogma. The Serbian primate added that the Church needs unity, especially in difficult times. He said, “Our strength is in our unity, and our unity is not only in words but in serious action towards full unity in all spheres.”

Originally published by OCP Media Network on June 4, 2019 via syriacpatriarchate.org.

A.R.F.O.R.A. UNDERGRADUATE SCHOLARSHIP



Anne E. Holan

Anne E. Holan, granddaughter of the late Father Peter Lipovan and daughter of Emily Lipovan of Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio, is the recipient of a \$1,000 ARFORA Undergraduate Scholarship. She is a member of The Presentation of Our Lord Orthodox Church in Fairlawn, OH and is attending Kent State University in Kent, Ohio, where she is studying for a degree in Immigration or Labor Law

with a minor in Russian. Anne was able to secure an internship at Performance Health, where she is translating product descriptions in French for their Amazon page. Her involvement in parish life includes being active in the AkROY group as an auditor, as well as volunteering at banquets and fundraisers. Anne’s ultimate goal is to “take my passion for language, new cultures, and service to international human rights law or immigration law.” A.R.F.O.R.A. congratulates Anne on her outstanding achievements.

Elizabeth M. Schester, daughter of Michael J. and Liliana Schester of Plymouth, Michigan, is the recipient of a \$1,000 ARFORA Undergraduate Scholarship. She is a member of St. George Romanian Orthodox Cathedral in Southfield, MI and is attending Michigan State University in East Lansing, MI, where she is studying for a degree in Mechanical Engineering and a minor in Material Sciences. Elizabeth is actively involved in the Orthodox Christian Fellowship (OCF) chapter at Michigan State and served as secretary. She also served as a lead ambassador for the Women in Engineering K-12 Outreach and lead



Elizabeth M. Schester

Cont. on page 16

SYMPOSIUM FOCUSES ON ‘REVIVING THE FEMALE DIACONATE IN THE ORTHODOX CHURCH: HAS THE TIME COME?’

With the blessings of His Eminence Metropolitan Evangelos of New Jersey, an Archon symposium was held at the St. Sophia, Sts. Faith, Hope and Agape Greek Orthodox Church in Jeffersonville, PA on Saturday, March 30, 2019, focusing on the historical, canonical and ecclesiastical status of the female diaconate, including a fresh look at the role of deacons in the Orthodox Church and an examination of whether the Church will lose young women if questions around the female diaconate are not addressed.

Regional Commander Dr. Cary J. Limberakis, who organized the symposium, commented, “After having attended a religious seminar late last year, I learned that in 1988 an International Orthodox Consultation was convened by His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Demetrios I, of blessed memory, and that one of its concluding recommendations was the restoration (not creation) of the female diaconate. I was completely oblivious of this! I felt compelled to act on this recommendation and began organizing a symposium with experts on the subject matter so as to increase the awareness of this not-well known International Orthodox position, particularly in America.”

The symposium was introduced and moderated by the Historian of the Order of Saint Andrew, Archon **George E. Demacopoulos, Ph.D.**, Professor of Theology, Co-Director, Orthodox Christian Studies Center Fordham University, Bronx, New York. After the event, Demacopoulos tweeted: “What a spectacular event this was. Thank you @OrderStAndrew [the Order of Saint Andrew’s Twitter address].”

Lectures were presented by the **Rev. Dr. John Chryssavgis**, the renowned author and theologian, Archdeacon of the Ecumenical Patriarchate and theological advisor to the Ecumenical Patriarch who spoke on “The Diaconate in Christ: A Fresh Look at the Role of Deacons”; **Teva Regule, PhD**, of Boston College, a scholar of liturgical theology, history and ritual studies and noted researcher in the fields of sacramental theology, ecclesiology, ecumenism, theological anthropology, and the ministry of women in the Church, who spoke on “The Female Diaconate in The Orthodox Church?”; **Kyra Limberakis, M.T.S.**, Director of the CrossRoad Summer Institute and Assistant Director of the Office of Vocation & Ministry at Hellenic College Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology, who addressed the topic of “Young Women: Will the Church Lose Them?”; and **Carrie Frederick Frost, PhD**, of Saint Sophia Orthodox Seminary (UOC of USA), a board member



Archon George E. Demacopoulos, Ph.D., was moderator for the Archon Symposium which included experts (left to right) Carrie Frederick Frost, Ph.D., Kyra P. Limberakis, M.T.S., Teva Regule, Ph.D. and Rev. John Chryssavgis, Ph.D. who participated via video.

of the Saint Phoebe Center for the Deaconess and the International Orthodox Theological Association, who spoke on the topic of “Ordination: Why Now?”

Published by the Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate (archons.org) on May 10, 2019.

Pastoral Changes *Cont. from page 2*

PREDIA, Rev. Fr. Ionut, was released from his duties as Assistant Priest of Descent of the Holy Spirit Church, Ridgewood, NY, and assigned Parish Priest, effective May 1, 2019.

SANDU, Priest Marius Ionut, was canonically received into the ranks of clergy of the Orthodox Church in America on April 6, 2019 by Metropolitan Tikhon from the Church of Romania and transferred to the Romanian Episcopate.

SANDU, Priest Marius Ionut, who was awaiting assignment, was assigned as Parish Priest of St. John of Suceava Church, Manchester, NH, effective May 1, 2019.

RETIREMENT

DUMITRESCU, Archpriest Viorel, was released from his duties at Descent of the Holy Spirit Church, Ridgewood, NY, and granted retirement, effective May 1, 2019. In his retirement, he remains attached at Descent of the Holy Spirit Church, Ridgewood, NY.

DEATHS

BARR, Archpriest Romulus, reposed on May 12, 2019, while serving as Temporary Administrator of St. Stephen the Great Church, Clearwater, FL.

FINANCIAL REPORT

EPISCOPATE SUPPORTERS

V Rev Fr & Psa Remus Grama, Cleveland, OH...	\$200.00
George & Nancy Ittu, Cleveland, OH	\$100.00
Veta Buzas, Allen Park, MI	\$50.00
Aldena Jinar, Ellwood City, PA	\$25.00

2019 EPISCOPATE ASSESSMENT

St John the Evangelist, Toronto, ON	\$6,300.00
St George, Winnipeg, MB	\$5,100.00
Holy Martyrs, Aurora, ON	\$4,825.00
St Nicholas, Alliance, OH	\$4,125.00
St George, Toronto, ON	\$4,000.00
Holy Cross, London, ON	\$3,975.00
St Nicholas, Montreal, QC	\$3,525.00
Holy Brancoveanu Martyrs, Lachine, QC	\$3,525.00
St Parascheva, Laval, QC	\$3,330.00
Descent of the Holy Spirit, Warren, MI	\$2,000.00
Holy Forty Martyrs, Aurora, ON	\$2,000.00
St George, Toronto, ON	\$1,675.00
Annunciation, Walker, MI	\$1,237.00
St Mary, Las Vegas, NV	\$825.00
St Nectarios Mission, Stoney Creek, ON	\$480.00
Holy Trinity, MacNutt, SK	\$210.00
Holy Cross, Hermitage, PA	\$150.00
Holy Trinity, Miramar, FL	\$150.00

GENERAL DONATIONS

Anonymous	\$36,181.22
Holy Trinity, Los Angeles, CA	\$2,500.00
(In honor of Parish's 80 th Anniversary)	
St John, Toronto, ON	\$1,421.80
(Hierarch Travel)	
National ARFORA	\$1,200.00
(Camp Vatra)	
National ARFORA	\$1,200.00
(Vatra Housekeeping)	
Dr Gheorghe Marinescu, Rochester Hills, MI ...	\$1,000.00
Holy Martyrs, Aurora, ON	\$1,000.00
(Hierarch Travel)	
St Basil, Raleigh, NC	\$1,000.00
(Hierarch Travel)	
National ARFORA	\$600.00
(Hierarch Travel)	
Lynch & Sons Funeral Directors, Clawson, MI....	\$500.00
National ARFORA	\$500.00
(Seminarian Fund)	
St Dimitrie, Easton, CT	\$500.00
(Vicar Travel)	
St Dimitrie, Frederick, CO	\$500.00
(Hierarch Travel)	
St John, Lakewood, CO	\$500.00
(Hierarch Travel)	
St Mary, Elmhurst, NY	\$500.00
(Hierarch Travel)	
Alexa & Florica Mindea, Morton Grove, IL	\$500.00
(ACE Fund)	
St Dumitru, New York, NY	\$400.00
(Hierarch Travel)	
Descent of the Holy Spirit, Ridgewood, NY	\$300.00
(Hierarch Travel)	

St Nicholas, Alliance, OH	\$300.00
(Hierarch Travel)	
St Anne, Pomona, CA	\$250.00
(ACE Fund)	
John & Lucy Pop, Northbrook, IL	\$250.00
(Pascha)	
Philip Tudor, Troy, MI	\$250.00
Mihai & Corina Pop, Alexandria, VA	\$200.00
(Camp Vatra)	
St John, Woonsocket, RI	\$200.00
(Hierarch Travel)	
St John of Wallachia, Ridgewood, NJ	\$200.00
(Hierarch Travel)	
Florentina Ursu, Troy, MI	\$200.00
(Camp Vatra)	
Holy Transfiguration, Manchester, CT	\$150.00
(Hierarch Travel)	
Elena Constantin, Vancouver, BC	\$100.00
Maria Risca, Oakland Twp, MI	\$100.00
(Prayers for family members)	
Adriana Rus-Hagel, New York, NY	\$100.00
Joseph & Madelena Ilcus, Jupiter, FL	\$100.00
(Pascha)	
Roxana Florescu, Farmington Hills, MI	\$50.00
(Grave blessings)	
Deacon Wayne & Lenora Wright, Uniontown, OH	\$30.00
Marcella Bourean, Warren, MI	\$20.00
Dan & Florica Giurgiu, White Lake, MI	\$10.00

MEMORIAM

Dr Dumitru-Dan Teodorescu, Arcadia, FL	\$300.00
Liviu George Constantinescu, Simi Valley, CA	\$200.00
(IMO Parents: Dimitru & Viorica)	
Silvia Costea, Northville, MI	\$200.00
(IMO Paul Costea)	
M/M Victor Dinu, Skokie, IL	\$100.00

90TH ANNIVERSARY ALBUM SPONSORS

Holy Trinity, Youngstown, OH	\$1,000.00
St Dimitrie, Easton, CT	\$1,000.00
St Dumitru, New York, NY	\$1,000.00
Sts Michael & Gabriel, Middle Village, NY	\$1,000.00
St Mary Cathedral, Cleveland, OH	\$900.00
St Andrew, Laval, QC	\$500.00
St George Toronto, ON	\$500.00
Holy Confessors, Oakville, ON	\$400.00
V Rev Fr & Psa Adrian Balescu, Miramar, FL	\$300.00
St Andrew, McKees Rocks, PA	\$300.00
St Mary, Chelsea, MA	\$300.00
St Nicholas, Alliance, OH	\$250.00
V Rev Fr Remus & Psa Elena Grama, Cleveland, OH	\$200.00
Holy Protection, Pierrefonds, QC	\$200.00
Holy Cross, Hermitage, PA	\$150.00
St Athanasius, Aurora, IL	\$150.00
Holy Ascension, Montreal, QC	\$100.00
Mary Ghetia, Rocky River, OH	\$100.00
St Elias, Ellwood City, PA	\$100.00
George & Lynn Tonna, Worcester, MA	\$100.00
Alina & Kenneth Kleinhenz, Santee, CA	\$97.50
American Orthodox Patriarchate Pioneers, Simi Valley, CA	\$90.00
Dorothy Aldea, Royal Oak, MI	\$90.00
Hieromonk Arsenie Boca Orthodox Academy, Simi Valley, CA	\$90.00

Doru Buza, Ridgewood, NY	\$90.00
Constantinescu Consulting Agency, Simi Valley, CA.....	\$90.00
Betty Ciocanea, Cleveland, OH	\$90.00
Sandra Cotosman, Addison, IL	\$90.00
Raymond & Cornelia Fratila, New Brunswick, OH	\$90.00
Louise Gibb, Brookfield, OH.....	\$90.00
George & Nancy Ittu, Cleveland, OH	\$90.00
George & Ana Mohan, Brunswick, OH.....	\$90.00
Holy Cross, Phoenix, AZ.....	\$90.00
Valerie Nelson, Chicago, IL.....	\$90.00
M/M John Pop, Northbrook, IL	\$90.00
Eugene Raica, Sterling Heights, MI	\$90.00
Dorina D Riscutta, North Olmsted, OH.....	\$90.00
Psa Mary Ellen Rosco, Dearborn Hts, MI	\$90.00
Laura & Mustafa Saraclar, North Canton, OH	\$90.00
John & Magdalena Siara, Sanford, NC	\$90.00
Dr Dorel & Delia Suboni, Davie, FL	\$90.00
Jessica & Joe Wise, Rocky River, OH.....	\$90.00
United Romanian Society, Southfield, MI	\$90.00

VATRA GENERATIONS

Holy Trinity, Youngstown, OH	\$1,000.00
Dr Gheorghe Marinescu, Rochester Hills, MI ...	\$1,000.00
(For the good health of family & Bogdan family & IMO Traian Lascu)	
Dr/Mrs Doru Buza, East Meadow, NY	\$500.00
(IMO Dr Simon & Doina Speriosu / Ion & Sofia Buza)	
Victor & Lola Costache, Naples, FL	\$500.00
Attorney Dan Miclau, Naples, FL	\$500.00
Horia & Mihaela Draghiciu, Muncie, IN.....	\$300.00
Ron & Sherry Iliovici, St John, IN.....	\$250.00
Valentin Hurgoi, Naples, FL.....	\$200.00
Doina & Alexis Vircol, Wilmette, IL.....	\$150.00
V Rev Fr & Psa Nicolae Lapuste, Vancouver, BC	\$106.13
Viorica Fuchs.....	\$100.00
Kathleen Kalugar, Lake Orion, MI	\$100.00
George & Nancy Ittu, Cleveland, OH	\$100.00
Elaine Luca, Struthers, OH.....	\$50.00
George & Dojna Zivan, Peoria, AZ.....	\$50.00
Maria Arhire, Falls Church, VA.....	\$35.00
Elena Apetrechioae, Chicago, IL	\$20.00
George & Lorraine Flunder, Yorkton, SK.....	\$14.15
Anonymous.....	\$14.14
Anonymous.....	\$3.54

MEMORIAL DAY – VATRA GENERATIONS

Bunny & Robert Muzina, Tuckahoe, NY.....	\$700.00
Nick & Marie Avramaut, Middleburg Hts, OH.....	\$500.00
George & Joyce Anagnostache, Marietta, GA	\$500.00
Frank & Molly Copacia, Salem, OH	\$400.00
Florentina Marconi, Chesterfield, MI	\$300.00
M/M Joseph Bucciarelli, Livonia, MI	\$250.00
M/M Thomas Radu, Chagrin Falls, OH.....	\$250.00
Richard Rogozan, Livonia, MI	\$250.00
Constantin Nan, Carrollton, TX.....	\$200.00
Dorina Maxim, Silver Springs, VA.....	\$200.00
Gary & Vicky Danis, Plymouth, MI	\$200.00
Dorothy Aldea, Royal Oak, MI	\$200.00
Mitch Mindroiu, Novi, MI.....	\$150.00
Anonymous.....	\$100.00
Anonymous.....	\$100.00

Anonymous.....	\$100.00
Emilia Barbu, Rockwood, MI.....	\$100.00
Pauline Criel, Oxford, MI.....	\$100.00
Silvia Costea, Northville, MI.....	\$100.00
Vicki & Gary Danis, Plymouth, MI.....	\$100.00
(In honor of Susan Cutshall)	
V Rev Fr Dimitrie Vincent, Redford, MI	\$100.00
M/M Michael Kalugar, Madison Hts, MI	\$100.00
Anonymous.....	\$80.00
Tom Turkus, Centerline, MI	\$70.00
Hendricks-Precop Families, Jackson, MI.....	\$60.00
Eleanor Stepanski, Troy, MI	\$50.00
Virginia Vincent, Troy, MI	\$50.00
M/M Nicholas S Avramaut, Dayton, OH.....	\$50.00
Stephen Maxim, Indianapolis, IN	\$50.00
Anonymous.....	\$40.00
Michael & Lilianna Schester, Plymouth, MI	\$40.00
Steve & Kathy Miroy, Stafford, VA.....	\$30.00
Maranda Tipa, Macomb, MI	\$30.00
Mariana Tipa, Oakland Twp, MI	\$25.00
Anonymous.....	\$20.00

R.O.E.A. DEANERY CONTRIBUTIONS

Holy Cross, Hermitage, PA.....	\$200.00
Holy Trinity, Youngstown, OH	\$200.00
St Andrew, Mc Kees Rocks, PA	\$200.00
St George Cathedral, Southfield, MI	\$200.00
St George, Canton, OH.....	\$200.00
St Mary Cathedral, Cleveland, OH.....	\$200.00
St Theodora, Royal Oak, MI	\$200.00
Sts Peter & Paul, Dearborn Hts, MI	\$200.00

Metropolitan Elpidophoros ...

Cont. from page 7

Symbolics, Inter-Orthodox Relations and the Ecumenical Movement. The dissertations are entitled: “The Synaxes of the Hierarchy of the Ecumenical Throne (1951-2004)” and “Luther’s Ninety-five Theses. Historical and Theological Aspects. Text – Translation – Commentary.”

In March 2011, he was elected Metropolitan of Bursa, and in August of the same year was appointed Abbot of the Holy Patriarchal and Stavropegial Monastery of the Holy Trinity on the island of Halki. He has served as the Orthodox Secretary of the Joint International Commission for the Theological Dialogue between the Orthodox Church and the Lutheran World Federation and as a member of the Patriarchal delegations to the General Assemblies of the Conference of European Churches and the World Council of Churches.

He was the Secretary of the Pan-Orthodox Synods in Sofia (1998), Istanbul (2005), Geneva (2006), and Istanbul (2008). He has been a member of the Faith and Order Commission of the World Council of Churches since 1996.

The Archbishop-elect was also a featured speaker at the 2013 Archon International Conference on Religious Freedom held in Berlin, Germany.

Published by the Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate (archons.org) on May 11, 2019.

GREEK ORTHODOX ARCHDIOCESE OF AMERICA RELEASES RESULTS OF NATIONAL SURVEY

NEW YORK – The Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America has released the results of a National Survey that was commissioned by the Archdiocese in order to assist in the evaluation of the programs of the National Ministries. The results of the survey will help determine the Archdiocese's current National Ministry priorities and where the Archdiocese's financial and personnel resources should be targeted.

Underwritten by the *Leadership 100 Endowment Fund*, the Survey was conducted by the *Barna Group*, a nationally recognized research group that works with faith-based organizations. More than 560 anonymous participants responded to the on-line survey, including clergy, parish council presidents and lay leaders from the Direct Archdiocesan District and all Metropolises across the country. The research evaluated the Ministries and resources by priority of the Ministry, how favorably the Ministry resources were rated and the desire for further investment or reduced investment in a Ministry. To view an Executive Summary and the full the Survey Results and Program Evaluation results,

please visit <https://www.goarch.org/-/2019-survey>.

This Survey initiative is part of an ongoing effort to better serve our parishes and faithful by conducting independent research on the perceptions and value of the various Ministries of the Archdiocese and thus determine where investments should be made to optimize the use of resources.

In a presentation to the Archdiocesan Council last May, *Barna Group* representative Brooke Hempell noted that the Survey found that respondents placed the highest priorities on next generation development in church engagement and stewardship. She also indicated that National Ministries receiving the highest favorability ratings included the Archdiocese's youth programs, religious education and stewardship ministries. The Survey lays the groundwork for continued discussion on the role of National Ministries in supporting the growth of our church in America.

Published by the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America (goarch.org) on June 11, 2019.

Metropolitan Tikhon ...

Cont. from page 6

many from Anatolia fled, and it is the land to which many emigrated from Eastern Europe, from the Middle East, and from other places where difficulties were to be found. But there are difficulties to be found in America as well, and we have been working, through the process of the Assembly of Bishops, to find solutions by which all the Orthodox in our lands might offer a strong and united witness to Christ and His Holy Church, in imitation of the great saints that we celebrate today and in fulfillment of the exhortation made by Your All-Holiness, that we all need "to move beyond

what is mine and yours, to what is ours." This is the goal for us as Orthodox Christians: to move beyond what is mine and yours, to what is ours – and what is ours is Jesus Christ and the communion of the saints.

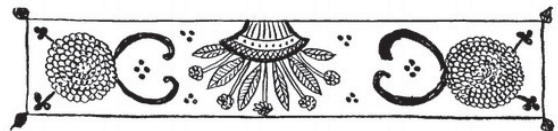
Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking, as our parents and grandparents did, to Jesus Christ, Who gives us life and Who gives us hope.

Thank you, Your All-Holiness, for your prayers and for your hospitality.

Published by the Orthodox Church in America on June 24, 2019.

ARFORA ... *Cont. from page 12*

facilitator for the Engineering Leadership Series. Her involvement in parish life includes being a choir member and participating in church services. She has been volunteering at the Vatra Summer Camps for the past 6 years as a counselor and art director. She was able to fundraise money for Vatra Generations by donating one of her original paintings as a raffle prize. Elizabeth has recently accepted an internship at Lear Corporation Engineering. A.R.F.O.R.A. congratulates Elizabeth on her outstanding achievements.



ADDRESS CHANGE

Send your change of addresses to:
SOLIA, PO BOX 185
GRASS LAKE, MI 49240 USA
or solia@roea.org

SFÂNTUL TEOLIPT AL FILADELFIEI

CUVÂNT LA CINCIZECIME

DESPRE VENIREA PREASFÂNTULUI DUH

Teolipt, născut în Niceea, în anul 1250, a fost mitropolit al Filadelfiei (astăzi Alaşehir, în Turcia) până la moartea sa, în anul 1322. Informațiile privitoare la viața sa sunt păstrate în elogiul funerar închinat acestuia de către Nichifor Chumnos, filosof, om politic și teolog bizantin, precum și înalt demnitar al primei perioade a Paleologilor. Așadar, documentul menționează că, în anul 1275, atunci când împăratul Mihail al VIII-lea și patriarhul Ioan al XI-lea Bekkos (1275-1282) și-au început politica de a impune unirea Bisericilor (de Răsărit și de Apus), hotărâtă cu un an înainte la Lyon (martie 1274), Teolipt avea 25 de ani. Tot în anul 1275, Teolipt, fiind diacon căsătorit în Niceea, decide să se retragă din lume, în momentul în care încep persecuțiile antiunioniste, supunându-se unui ascet renumit, care îl învață tainele ascezei și ale spiritualității contemplative. Împotrivindu-se politicii unioniste a împăratului și, totodată, fiind acuzat de distorsiunea Scripturilor, Teolipt este întemnițat. În același timp, patriarhul Atanasie al II-lea al Alexandriei (1276-1316) încearcă să-l atragă în grupul unionist, dar este refuzat cu vehemență. Din fericire, perioada în care a fost închis nu a fost de lungă durată, fiindu-i permis să se întoarcă pentru puțin timp în Niceea, unde se retrage într-o mănăstire. Soția lui Teolipt va accepta cu greu decizia acestuia de a-și dedica în totalitate viața misticii. Cu toate acestea, având un renume al sfințeniei considerabil și fiind căutat frecvent de către cetățenii niceeni, Teolipt (al cărui nume semnifică „inspirat de Dumnezeu”) este ales mitropolit al Filadelfiei în anul 1283. În ceea ce privește scrierile sale, unul dintre documentele cele mai importante care le conține este prezent în colecția *Ottoboniani* a Bibliotecii Apostolice Vaticane: este vorba despre manuscrisul *Vaticanus Ottobonianus graecus* 405, 247f., un manuscris din secolul XIV. Acesta este dedicat în totalitate lui Teolipt al Filadelfiei și conține 5 epistole și 23 de discursuri închinare, în special, prințesei bizantine Irina Chumne-na Paleologhina, fiica lui Nichifor Chumnos, rămasă văduvă la vârsta de doar 16 ani și care, îndemnată de către Teolipt, va deveni maică sub numele de Evloghia, iar mai apoi stareță a mănăstirii Philanthropos Soter din Constantinopol, care poate fi considerată o ctitorie



a familiei Chumno: nu doar pentru faptul că Irina și-a cheltuit aproape întreaga avere pentru a reconstrui edificiul, dar și pentru faptul că Nichifor Chumos și soția acestuia și-au petrecut aici ultima perioadă a vieții lor.

Mai jos, redăm cuvântul Mitropolitului Teolipt adresat maicilor mănăstirii Philanthropos Soter, cu ocazia praznicului împărătesc al Cincizecimii care, din păcate, se întrerupe brusc, fiind păstrat incomplet în documentul amintit anterior. Este important să observăm, în scurtul discurs (preluat din volumul *Teolipt al Filadelfiei, Despre viața ascunsă în Dumnezeu – cuvinte duhovnicești, imne și scrisori*, Sibiu 2010², realizat de către Diac. Ioan I. Ică jr.), maniera în care Teolipt

insistă asupra ecleziologiei și a unității Bisericii, fapt ușor explicabil având în vedere că, în timpul vieții și al activității sale, Mitropolitul s-a confruntat în mod dramatic cu două realități: prima este încercarea de Unire de la Lyon, menționată mai sus, iar cea de-a doua este reprezentată de către schisma arsenită, care își avea originea în conflictul existent deja în Imperiul din Niceea (1204-1261), un conflict între societatea din Asia Minoră și aristocrația constantinopolitană, refugiată în Niceea după capturarea Constatinopolului. Încet-încet, această mișcare s-a transformat într-un sprijin popular din partea tuturor celor care s-au opus Unirii Bisericilor din 1274. A fost o mișcare care a înfruntat atât puterea centrală și oficială a Bisericii, cât și grupul antiunionist al aristocrației constantinopolitane. Chiar și după instaurarea ortodoxiei de către împăratul Andronic al II-lea, în anul 1282, sprijinul popular considera această mișcare ca opoziția formală față de autoritatea politică și ecleziastică. Fără alte formalități, prezentăm, în următoarele rânduri, discursul Mitropolitului Teolipt:

«*Surorilor și maicilor*, multă este veselia care ne răsare nouă, creștinilor din sărbătorile duhovnicești, fiindcă sufletele noastre sunt pururea înnoite de cele săvârșite și grăite în biserică. Și așa cum cel ce urcă pe o scară înaintează din treaptă în treaptă și întreagă alergarea lui se face în sus, tot așa și plinătatea creștinilor care vestesc că au cetățenia lor în ceruri [Flp

Cont. la pag 23

DIN VIAȚA PAROHILOR ...



Hramul și Aniversarea Parohiei Sfânta Treime din Los Angeles, CA, 15 - 16 iunie 2019.

Arhiepiscopul
Nathaniel
în vizita la
Parohia Sf.
Vasile cel Mare
din Durham,
NC cu ocazia
aniversării de 10
ani a parohiei,
1-2 iunie 2019.



Clerul slujitor la vecernia dinaintea sfințirii bisericii Parohiei Sfinții 40 de Mucenci, Aurora, Ontario, Canada, 24 - 25 mai 2019.

**Vizita Înalt-preasfințitului
Arhiepiscop
Nathaniel la
Mănăstirea
Învieea
Domnului,
Temecula, CA,
18 iunie 2019.**



Aniversarea de 20 de ani a Parohiei Sf. Ioan Evanghelistul, Toronto, Ontario, Canada, 26 mai 2019.



**Vizita Părintelui
Arhiepiscop
în Parohia
Bunavestire din
Grand Rapids,
MI și instalarea
noului preot
paroh, 23 iunie
2019.**

Cont. la pag 24



CONVOCARE

În conformitate cu Articolul III, Secțiunea 7, a Regulamentelor Episcopiei Ortodoxe Române din America, chemăm în sesiune

AL 87-LEA CONGRES ANUAL AL EPISCOPIEI

Vineri, 30 august – Duminică, 1 septembrie 2019

Catedrala Sf. Gheorghe - 18405 W 9 Mile Rd, Southfield MI 48075

HOTEL: The Westin Southfield Detroit, 1500 Town Center, Southfield, MI 48075

Tel: (248) 827-4000 /Rezervări sub numele: ROEA

\$99/night King / \$109/night 2 Double beds (plus state and local taxes) | **Rezervări până la 11 august 2019**

După aceasta data, camera la preț redus nu este garantată!

Toți preoții parohi și asistenți numiți în parohii de către episcop, precum și toți delegații mireni aleși legal de către Adunările Generale Parohiale în 2019 și ale căror acreditări au fost verificate de către comitetul de acreditare al episcopiei, sunt convocați în sesiune de lucru.

Congresul va fi în sesiune de lucru începând cu ziua de

VINERI, 30 AUGUST 2019 la 2:00 pm ora Coastei de Est

Toți delegații (clerul și mireni) sunt rugați să participe și să rămână până la încheierea Congresului, în ziua de duminică, la Sfânta Liturghie Arhierească și la banchetul festiv.

Ordinea de zi, după cum este publicată în Raportul Anual al Congresul Episcopiei 2019, va include: Citirea/ Aprobarea Procesului Verbal al celui de-al 86-lea Congres; Raporturile Oficiale către Congres; Raporturile din partea Organizațiilor Auxiliare ale Episcopiei; Propuneri noi din partea Consiliului Episcopesc.

Conform Articolului III, Secțiunea 1, Congresul Episcopiei va fi compus din:

- Episcopul
- Episcopul-Auxiliar(i)
- Vicarul
- Preotul paroh și preotul sau preoții asistenți
- Doi delegați mireni aleși de Adunarea Generală a fiecărei parohii pentru Congresul Episcopiei pentru anii 2019-2020
- Doi delegați din partea fiecărei organizații auxiliare a Episcopiei
- Preoți de sub jurisdicția Episcopiei care nu au parohie, diaconi, stareți și starețe, dacă sunt acreditați de Consiliul Episcopesc
- Membrii Consiliului Episcopesc în funcțiune, ca și președinții organizațiilor auxiliare “ex-officio”

Dacă delegații mireni aleși legal nu pot participa la Congresul Episcopiei, alternanții (supleanții) lor aleși legal de către Adunarea Generală a fiecărei parohii vor reprezenta parohia. Nicio adăugare, substituie ori delegație ad-hoc nu va fi recunoscută de către comitetul de acreditare.

+ NATHANIEL

Arhiepiscop de Detroit și al Episcopiei Ortodoxe Române din America

PROGRAMUL

JOI, 29 AUGUST

7:00 pm Ședința Consiliului Eparhial

VINERI, 30 AUGUST

9:00 am Conferința Clerului

1:00 pm Prânz /Inregistrare

2:00 pm Invocarea Duhului Sfânt și Convocarea celui de al 87-lea Congres

6:00 pm Vecernia

7:00 pm Cină

SÂMBĂTĂ, 31 AUGUST

9:00 am Ședința Congresului - Sesiunea a II-a

SÂMBĂTĂ, 31 AUGUST (cont.)

11:30 am Sesiunea Specială Electorală

1:00 pm Prânz

2:00 pm Ședința Congresului - Sesiunea a III-a

6:00 pm Parastas urmat de Vecernia Mare

7:30 pm Cină

8:30 pm Eveniment social

DUMINICĂ, 1 SEPTEMBRIE

8:00 am Utrenia

9:30 am Procesiunea clerului în Catedrală

10:00 am Sfânta Liturghie Arhierească

1:00 pm Banchetul festiv în încheierea Congresului sărbătorind cea de a 90-a aniversare a Episcopiei



CONGRESUL EPISCOPIEI ESTE CONVOCAT ÎN SESIUNE SPECIALĂ ELECTORALĂ

*În conformitate cu Articolele I, II și III, ale Regulamentelor
Episcopiei Ortodoxe Române din America, chemăm în sesiune specială electorală*

CONGRESUL EPISCOPIEI

În Scopul Alegerii de un (1) Episcop-Auxiliar

**în ziua de Sâmbătă 31 august 2019 la orele 11:30 am ora Coastei de Est
la Catedrala “Sfântul Gheorghe,” 18405 W 9 Mile Road, Southfield, Michigan**

Conform Articolului II, Secțiunea 1(a) și Articolului I, Secțiunea 10, consiliul Episcopesc a nominalizat (propus) spre alegere pe:

Preacucernicul Părinte Vicar Dan Hoarște

Nicio propunere pentru funcția de Episcop-Auxiliar nu poate fi făcută în timpul ședinței (Articolul I, Secțiunea 15).

Conform Articolului III, Secțiunea 1, Congresul Episcopiei va fi compus din:

- Episcopul
- Episcopul-Auxiliar
- Vicarul
- Preotul Paroh și Preotul sau Preoții asistenți
- Doi (2) delegați mireni aleși de Adunarea Generală a fiecărei Parohii pentru Congresul Episcopiei pentru anii 2019-2020
- Doi (2) delegați din partea fiecărei organizații auxiliare a Episcopiei
- Preoți de sub jurisdicția Episcopiei care nu au parohie, diaconi, stareți și starețe, dacă sunt acreditați de Consiliul Episcopesc
- Membrii Consiliului Episcopesc în funcțiune, ca și președinții organizațiilor auxiliare “ex-officio”

Dacă delegații mireni aleși legal nu pot participa la Congresul Episcopiei, locțiitorilor aleși legal de către Adunarea Generală a fiecărei Parohii vor reprezenta Parohia. Nicio adăugare, substituie ori delegație ad-hoc nu va fi recunoscută de către Comitetul de acreditare.

+ NATHANIEL

Arhiepiscop de Detroit și al Episcopiei Ortodoxe Române din America

CANDIDAT PROPUȘ PENTRU FUNCȚIA DE EPISCOP VICAR PREACUCERNICUL PĂRINTE DAN HOARȘTE

Părintele Dan Hoarște s-a născut în data de 13 iunie 1982, în orașul Făgăraș, Brașov, România, într-o familie creștin-ortodoxă. Educația primită de la părinții și bunicii săi a jucat un rol semnificativ în a-i stârni dragostea față de Dumnezeu și față de Biserică. La vârsta de 14 ani, în septembrie 1996, și-a început studiile la Liceul Teologic „Sfinții Martiri Brâncoveanu” în Făgăraș, România. Cu toate acestea, după doar un an de studiu, în iunie 1997, familia lui a decis să se stabilească pe continentul american pentru a începe o nouă viață în Statele Unite.

Ajungând în zona Detroit, au participat la Sfânta Liturhie, în prima lor duminică în America, la Parohia Ortodoxă Română Sfinții Apostoli Petru și Pavel din Dearborn Heights, devenind membrii ai acestei parohii. Sub îndrumarea preotului paroh, Preacucernicul Părinte Romey Rosco, tânărul seminarist s-a integrat rapid în viața parohială ca elev al Școlii Duminicale, ajutor în altar, cântăreț, membru al corului, membru al Filialei AROY. Tot prin intermediul parohiei a fost trimis ca elev la Tabăra de vară de la Vatra Românească, unde s-a reîntors în anii următori ca membru al personalului voluntar.

Pr. Dan a absolvit în iunie 2000 liceul „Dearborn High” din orasul Dearborn, Michigan, cu distincții înalte (fiind al șaselea din cei 280 de elevi). Aici a activat la nivelul mai multor organizații și programe: Studenți Împotriva Deciziilor Dăunătoare (SADD), Clubul de Franceză, Clubul Micilor Întreprinzători și Societatea Națională de Onoare (NHS). A urmat și a absolvit ulterior, în mai 2004, cursurile Universității din Michigan, obținând Diploma de Licență, cu specializarea Istorie, Științe Politice, și Franceza.

În timpul anilor facultății, a continuat să fie membru activ al parohiei, predând la clasa de liceu a Școlii Duminicale și extinzându-și, totodată, implicarea în cadrul Episcopiei. Fiind delegat al Conferinței Naționale AROY pentru mai mulți ani, a fost ales pentru prima dată ca membru al Comitetului Național al organizației în anul 2001, pentru ca, mai apoi, în anul 2003, să fie ales ca cel de-al 37-lea Președinte Național pentru două termene consecutive. În această poziție, a fost implicat activ în programele tinerilor din Episcopie, reprezentând Organizația Națională AROY în consiliul Episcopiei și asistând la înființarea de noi filiale AROY în parohii din întreaga țară.

În septembrie 2004, primind binecuvântarea Înaltpreasfințitului Părinte Arhiepiscop Nathaniel, a intrat la Facultatea de Teologie „Sfânta Cruce” din Brookline, Massachusetts, pentru a-și continua studiile teologice

care fuseseră întrerupte cu șapte ani înainte. În această perioadă, complementar studiilor educaționale și formării spirituale, a fost numit Ecleziarh al Capelei facultății, a lucrat în biroul Decanului Studenților ca Organizator de Evenimente și reprezentant al studenților în consiliul profesoral, a fost ales președintele clasei și a fost implicat în mod activ în organizarea de retrageri spirituale, conferințe și proiecte de ajutorare a celor nevoiași. În anul 2006, a fost parte din echipa misionară a OCMC în Tanzania, unde a participat ca instructor catehetic la tabara Episcopiei Ortodoxe de Bukoba. A absolvit Facultatea de Teologie „Sfânta Cruce” în mai 2008, obținând o diploma de „Master of Divinity” cu cea mai înaltă distincție

(locul 2 în rândul absolvenților). A continuat cu studii suplimentare în cadrul aceleiași instituții până în decembrie 2008.

Ca urmare a finalizării studiilor la „Sfânta Cruce”, Pr. Dan a acceptat, cu binecuvântarea Arhiepiscopului Nathaniel, funcția de Asistent Pastoral la Catedrala Ortodoxă Greacă Buna Vestire din Atlanta, Georgia (deservind acel post din martie 2009, până în iunie 2010), unde a asistat clerul parohiei în necesitățile pastorale, liturgice și educaționale, în special în cadrul activităților cu tineretul.

În iunie 2010, a fost acceptat în programul de studii doctorale în Teologie Patristică în cadrul Institutului Pontifical Oriental din Roma, Italia, obținând o bursă integrală din partea Consiliului Pontifical pentru Promovarea Unității Creștine prin intermediul Comitatului său de Colaborare Culturală. Și-a urmat cercetarea doctorală sub îndrumarea Profesorului Edward Farrugia, SJ, activând în câmpul dogmaticii/liturgica și alegând ca titlu al tezei sale, *“Spirit and Spiritedness in St John Damascene’s Octoechos Antiphons.”*

Pr. Dan a fost hirotonit diacon în data de 29 septembrie 2012, de către Arhiepiscopul Nathaniel, la Catedrala Ortodoxă Română Sf. Gheorghe din Detroit/Southfield, Michigan, iar mai apoi preot, de către același ierarh, în data de 23 decembrie 2012, în parohia Sfinții Apostoli Petru și Pavel din Dearborn Heights, Michigan.

După hirotonire, în timpul anilor de cercetare doctorală, cu binecuvântarea Înaltpreasfințitului Arhiepiscop Nathaniel și cu permisiunea Preasfințitului Siluan al Episcopiei Ortodoxe Române a Italiei, a asistat liturgic în Parohia Ortodoxă Română Sf. Sava din Buzău din Perugia, Italia. În timpul șederii sale în Roma, a participat la diverse conferințe academice și retrageri spirituale, la care a fost invitat ca interlocutor. Astfel,

a fost reprezentantul ortodox la Conferinței Ecumenice organizată în Assisi în ianuarie 2013 cu ocazia împlinirii a 50 de ani de la promulgarea documentului Vatican II *Unitatis Redintegratio*. În martie 2013, a prezentat un studiu asupra muzicii liturgice în cadrul Conferinței Liturgice de Reînnoire la „Sfânta Cruce” din Brookline, MA. De asemenea, în timpul săptămânii de Rugăciune Ecumenică, a fost invitat ca vorbitor în mai multe seminarii din Roma și în parohii din întreaga Italie.

În martie 2013, Pr. Dan a fost numit de către Arhiepiscopul Nathaniel în postul de Director al Departamentului de Tineret al Episcopiei și Director al Taberei Vatra pentru seniori. În luna septembrie a aceluiași an, a fost numit Editor de limba română a Revistei *Solia-The Herald*. La Congresul Anual al Episcopiei, în septembrie 2014, la recomandarea Arhiepiscopului Nathaniel, Pr. Dan a fost confirmat de către Congress în funcția de Vicar al Arhiepiscopului cu responsabilități ce includ asistență misionară și pastorală a parohiilor din Canada.

Cu binecuvântarea Arhiepiscopului, pe lângă serviciul din cadrul Cancelariei și complementar implicării zilnice în cadrul administrației episcopiei, Pr. Dan efectuează vizite în parohii cu ocazia aniversărilor și hramurilor acestora. A fost delegat de către Arhiepiscop să prezideze adunările generale în diverse parohii, având ca scop rezolvarea problemelor administrative. De asemenea, a slujit în diferite parohii ca preot paroh interimar îngrijindu-se de administrarea și viața spirituală a comunităților parohiilor: Parohia Buna Vestire din Grand Rapids (Ian. – Martie 2016), Parohia Sfânta Cruce din London, ONT (Ian – Feb 2017) și Parohia Sf. Atanasie din Aurora, IL (Sept 2017 – Oct 2018).

În data de 6 iunie 2019, Parintele Dan Hoarste și-a susținut cu succes teza de doctorat în cadrul Institutului Pontifical Oriental din Roma, unde a obținut titlul de Doctor în Teologie cu calificativul „Summa Cum Laude”.

Sfântul Teolipt ... *Cont. de la pag 17*

3,20] trec de la sărbătoare la sărbătoare, „merg din putere în putere și pun urcușuri în inima lor” [Ps 83,6.8], iar sufletele lor se înalță din grijiile pământești și gândurile lor privesc neconținut țintă spre cer [Col 3,2]. Căci, așa cum cel ce vine dintr-un loc aflat sus într-unul aflat jos și privește cu totul la cele de jos, tot așa, și cel ce privește neconținut la cer, își înalță cugetul în lucruri și înțelesuri duhovnicești. *Și fiți atente, rogu-vă.*

Ieri, am prăznuit Înălțarea Domnului nostru. Astăzi, sărbătorim venirea Duhului. Ieri, am fost ridicați cu cugetul de pe pământ și am urcat la ceruri, unde a intrat ca Înainte-mergător al nostru Hristos [Evr 6,20].

Astăzi, pământul se face cer și focul Mângâietorului îi aprinde pe apostoli ca pe niște făclii și luminează marginile lumii. Ieri, apostolii priveau țintă spre cer [FA 1,10]. Astăzi, șezând în casă, primesc Duhul Care șade peste fiecare dintre ei [FA 2,3]. Ieri, firea noastră a fost urcată la ceruri și a fost adusă lui Dumnezeu și Tatăl, vrăjmășia s-a destrămat și împăcarea s-a realizat. Astăzi, Duhul dăruie prin apostoli darurile Sale cerești celor de pe pământ și pacea și împăcarea noastră cu Dumnezeu primește încredințare.

Ieri, s-a făcut făgăduința venirii Mântuitorului, căci zice [Hristos]: „Dacă nu Mă duc, Mângâietorul nu va veni la voi” [In 16,7]. Astăzi, făgăduința ajunge la capăt, căci „împlinindu-se Cincizecimea, toți apostolii erau adunați împreună. Și s-a făcut pe neașteptate un vuiet din cer și li s-au arătat împărțite limbi ca de foc și au șezut pe fiecare dintre ei. Și proceau în limbi străine mărețiile lui Dumnezeu [FA 2,1-4]. O, taine înfricoșătoare! O, lucruri uimitoare! Hristos Se face mijlocitor între Dumnezeu și oameni [1Tim 2,5], desființează vrăjmășia, câștigă pacea, unește cele distanțate [Ef 2,14]. A luat trup și a dat Duh. A urcat firea noastră și a coborât Duhul Său.

Umblând pe pământ, desțelenind și înnoind cu cinstita cruce, ca și cu un plug, inimile împădurite sălbatic de necredință și păcat ale oamenilor, a aruncat semințele cunoașterii lui Dumnezeu și ale virtuții în inimile noastre. Și, urcând la ceruri, a dăruit ucenicilor Săi, ca unor lucrători ai Evangheliei Lui, Duhul Său ca pe o seceră și i-a trimis în toată lumea [Mt 28,19] să secere mântuirea oamenilor, să-i adune pe cei împrăștiați în felurite opinii și să-i închidă în hambarele unei singure credințe și unei singure Biserici [cf. Mc 4,26-29; Lc 10,2]. Și, așa cum secera taie partea de sus a spicului care se întinde în văzduh, pe care o aduce în mâinile celui care-l seceră, lăsând partea sa de jos și aproape de pământ ca nefolositoare și netrebnică, drept pentru care ea se va afla mistuită de foc, tot așa și Duhul Sfânt, Care a grăit în apostoli, a deosebit pe credincios de necredincios și pe cel rău de cel bun.

Căci, câți au primit din propovăduire roada credinței, aceștia, tăiați fiind de Duhul Sfânt din necredință și din rudenția părinților lor, au venit la credința lui Hristos și s-au botezat în numele Tatălui și al Fiului și al Duhului Sfânt [Mt 28,19]. Dar, câți au crescut sădiți în pământul necredinței și s-au alipit de pofta lumii, aceștia au rămas în cugetul lumii, pregătindu-se pe ei înșiși, prin rătăcirea vieții, drept materie a focului veșnic [Mt 13,30].

Duhul Sfânt e și seceră și foc: seceră ca Unul care taie și deosebește pe cei răi de cei buni; foc ca Unul care mistuie tot păcatul. Căci, de aceea s-au arătat peste apostoli împărțite limbi ca de foc [FA 2,3], ca să înveți ușurimea și purtarea în sus a lucrării Duhului și puterea Sa de a mistui toată răutatea și a lumina sufletele alese. „Și a șezut peste fiecare dintre ei” [FA 2,3]. De ce a șezut? Ca să-și facă în noi salaș [In 14,23] pe care, avându-l dintru început, l-am pierdut».

Din Viața Parohiilor ...

Cont. de la pag 18



Sfințirea bisericii Parohiei Sf. Trei Ierarhi din Mountlake Terrace, Seattle, WA, 17 - 18 mai 2019.



Slujire Arhierească de Praznicul Sfintei Treimi la Parohia Sf. Maria din Anaheim, CA, 17 iunie 2019.