



Each monthly edition features select stories published on the Basilica web site during the previous month



Russian Orthodox Church Delegation received with polychronion | Holy relics of St Seraphim of Sarov arrive at the Romanian Patriarchate

Thursday evening, October 26, the delegations of the Churches of Russia and Romania arrived on the Hill of the Patriarchate. His Eminence Archbishop Sergiy of Solnetchnogorsk carried the reliquary containing a particle of the holy relics of Saint Seraphim of Sarov to the outdoor altar of the Patriarchal Cathedral. The convoy was followed by the Patriarchs of the two sister Orthodox Churches, Their Beati- tudes Kirill and Daniel.

Following a litany including the polychronion for the two patriarchs, the Patriarch of the Romanian Orthodox Church delivered a speech in which he thanked the Russian Patriarch for attending the celebrations on the patronal feast of the Patriarchal Cathedral in Bucharest and for bringing a particle of the holy relics of Saint Seraphim of Sarov.

We thank you, Your Beatitude, beloved brother in Christ and con- celerant, for coming at the great feast of Bucharest's Cathedral, the feast of Saint Demetrius the New, Pat. Daniel said.

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Four Primates of Auto- cephalous Orthodox Churches concelebrated the Divine Liturgy on the feast of St Demetrius the New

Friday morning, October 27, thousands of believers prayerfully hon- ored Saint Demetrius the New, Protector of Bucharest and of the Patriarchal Cathedral.

His Beatitude Russian Patriarch Kirill presided over the festive Divine Liturgy in the celebration of Their Beati- tudes Patriarch Daniel of Romania, Archbishop Anastasios of Albania and Metropolitan Rastislav of Czech Lands and Slovakia. After the gospel reading, His Beatitude Patriarch Kirill delivered a homily addressing the faithful present on the Hill of the Patriarchate in which he noted that their piety *is a witness that Romanian Orthodoxy is flourishing today.* ►► **Full story**



25,000 prayerfully process with relics of St. Paraskeva in Iasi



Approximately 25,000 faithful Orthodox Christians and over 100 priests prayerfully processed through the downtown streets of Iasi, bearing the relics of their greatly-beloved St. Paraskeva, as well as relics of the holy Martyr Thekla, as part of the "Way of the Saints" pilgrimage on . ►► **Full story**

Ecumenical Patriarch at Arctic Circle Assembly: 'We have to change how we perceive and treat the world'

At the invitation of Ólafur Ragnar Grímsson, former President of Iceland, His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew delivered the keynote address to the Arctic Circle Assembly before a gathering of 2,000 participants from governments, corporations, universities and ecological institutions.

The Ecumenical Patriarch spoke on the importance and influence of religion on raising awareness on the ecological crisis of our time, under- lining that spiritual leaders, scientists and politicians cannot avoid engaging in dialogue with one another on climate change.

"In order to change what we see," His All-Holiness declared, "we have to change how we see it. We have to change how we perceive and treat the world, how we use our knowledge and skills to sustain and enhance it." His Holiness recalled the persecution of Christians in the Middle East, the destruction of the homes and churches in the region, pointing also to the danger of diminishing Christian presence in the area. ►► **More**

First statement after election | Bishop Ignatie asks for God's help in his new ministry

On Thursday, October 5, following his elec- tion as Bishop of Huși by the Holy Synod, His Grace Ignatie held his first speech in which he thanked God and asked Him to bless his new ministry. *You gave me tremendous credit by electing me titular bishop of this blessed diocese. I know that the expectations of Your Eminences and Your Graces are directly proportional to the stringent, responsible and consistent demands that such dignity implies.* ►► **Full story**

What did the Patriarchs of Russia and Romania discuss during their private meeting?

Thursday evening, October 26, Patriarch Kirill of Moscow and Patriarch Daniel of Romania had a private meeting at the Patriarchal Palace in Bucharest. During the meeting, the two Primates of Orthodox Churches exchanged their views on church issues and the relations between the two Patriarchates, the Press Service of the Russian Patriarchate reports.

His Beatitude Patriarch Kirill referred to the future events on the occasion of the centenary of the Moscow Council of 1917-1918, marking the restoration of the Russian Patriarchate and the enthronement of Patriarch Tikhon, and to commemorate the persecutions against the Orthodox Church during communism. On this occasion, Patriarch Daniel was invited to visit Moscow and to attend the celebrations.

The topics discussed included the following: *Situation of Christians in the Near East, Means to help persecuted Christians, Situation in Ukraine, Mission for peace of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church.* The participants also considered the further development of common Orthodox interaction and exchanged evaluations of the Council of Primates and representatives of Local Orthodox Churches which took place in 2016 in Crete.

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Kentucky county clerk Kim Davis supporting traditional marriage on Romanian tour



Kim Davis, the Kentucky county clerk who refused to sign same-sex marriage licenses in the wake of the Supreme Court's Obergefell v. Hodges decision in 2015, was on a speaking tour in Romania, sharing her experiences in the battles surrounding same-sex marriage and freedom of religion in the U.S.

The 9-day trip came as a petition signed by more than 3 million Romanians, calling for marriage to be constitutionally defined as between one man and one woman, awaits final approval in the Senate, after which a public referendum can be held.

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Permanent Committee on Consensus and Collaboration of the WCC met on Rhodes

From responding to divisions within churches and communities, to addressing fair representation within the World Council of Churches (WCC), the Permanent Committee on Consensus and Collaboration (PCCC) of the WCC met from 2-6 October in Rhodes, Greece, hosted by the Ecumenical Patriarchate, through the hospitality of H. E. Metropolitan Kyrillos of Rhodes.

Co-moderated by H.E. Metropolitan Prof. Dr Genadios of Sassima and Bishop Simo Peura (Evangelical Lutheran Church of Finland), the PCCC received information about the ongoing work of the WCC Faith and Order Commission and handled several items such as consensus, preparations for the WCC 11th Assembly, membership matters, "fair and adequate" representation, constitutional changes, and prayer and "common prayer" in the ecumenical movement.

The programme included also several visits to holy places and archaeological sites in Rhodes as well as encounters with local Orthodox communities. PCCC members absorbed the history of the island of Rhodes as well as the vivid life of today's Orthodox Church, reports ecupatria.org.



The Committee's members shared experiences and activities from their church life, included some common challenges of responding to divisions within churches and communities, violence, including the recent massacre in Las Vegas (USA), racism, increased militarization, and incidents of corruption in governments, as well as accounts of reconciliation, cooperation and hope.

In addition they described instances in which societies used to inter-religious cooperation had begun to experience growing radicalization and increasing inter-religious tension. Participants discussed religious freedom as an issue of high concern for Christians in Indonesia, a country with millions of Christians living among the largest Muslim population in the world.

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Orthodox Primates attend Doxology on Patriarch Daniel's 10th enthronement anniversary



Saturday, October 28, His Eminence Teofan, Metropolitan of Moldavia and Bukovina, officiated a Doxology at the Patriarchal Cathedral in Bucharest to celebrate the 10th anniversary of patriarchal ministry of His Beatitude Daniel.

The event was attended by Their Beatitudes Patriarch Kirill of Moscow and all Russia, Archbishop Anastasios of Albania, Metropolitan Rastislav of Czech Lands and Slovakia, as well as by hierarchs from Romania and abroad. One of the common images that illustrates the Church and its work in the world is that of a ship at sea, Met. Teofan said at the end of the service. *The sea*, he explained, is *the*

world around, which sometimes is still and often agitated. Having Christ Himself as its Founder, Providence, Leader, the ship of the Church finally crosses the sea of history to the eternal Kingdom of God.

His Eminence went on to refer to the main achievements of His Beatitude Daniel during his patriarchal ministry, while presenting him with an icon depicting the Mother of God, and with a flower basket.

Patriarch Daniel thanked His Eminence Teofan for the gifts and congratulations, expressing his gratitude to all those who have served the Church during the past ten years. *We thank God for all the boun-*

ties He poured out upon our Church during these past ten years. We thank the hierarchs of the Holy Synod, together with whom we made the most important pastoral and missionary decisions, and who contributed to the improvement of legislation of our Church, by drafting a new Statute and several church regulations.

We also want to thank our collaborators, the clergy, monastics, and faithful, the central and local state authorities, who supported us in our ten-year work. Particularly we want to thank all those who contributed to the construction of the new National Cathedral, the Romanian People's Salvation Cathedral.

By the help of God, we hope to see it completed next year and to perform the consecration of its altar.

When the Cathedral's iconography will be completed, Patriarch Daniel said, we will invite His Beatitude Patriarch Kirill to perform the consecration service, following the example of Moscow's Christ the Saviour Cathedral, which was fully rebuilt in a few years on the place where the former cathedral was dynamited in the time of Stalin.

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