



NEWS AGENCY

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REVIEW



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Metropolitan Joseph Naniescu, Lay-ascetic George Lazăr, officially declared Saints by Patriarch Daniel in Iași



Metropolitan Joseph Naniescu and the lay-ascetic George Lazăr were proclaimed Saints of the Church by Patriarch Daniel in a ceremony at the Metropolitan Cathedral in Iași. After celebrating the Divine Liturgy on the Feast of Annunciation, His Eminence Archbishop Ioachim of Roman and Bacău read out the synodal tomos on the glorification of Metropolitan Joseph of Moldavia by which he was proclaimed a Saint under the name of Holy Hierarch Joseph the Merciful.

Next, Bishop Ignatie of Huși read out the second synodal tomos on the canonization of the venerable lay-ascetic George Lazăr as Saint George the Pilgrim. ▶

Metropolitan Teofan: 'The saints canonized today show us how a hierarch of the Church should be and at what spiritual height a believer can rise in the family life.'

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Patriarch Daniel attends Parliament joint sitting to mark 100th anniversary of Bessarabia's Union with Romania

His Beatitude Patriarch Daniel attended Tuesday the solemn sitting of the two chambers of Romania's Parliament to mark the 100th anniversary of the Union of Bessarabia with the Mother Land.

Romania's Parliament endorsed a Declaration for the celebration of the Union between Bessarabia and the Mother Land, Romania, in 1918.

"We consider today a mission of honour of the current and the next generation from both banks of the Prut River to honour with piety the memory of the 1918's generation that strived for the making of the Great Union," the Declaration specifies. ▶



Finnish Orthodox Church condemns initiative to legalize euthanasia ▶ pg. 2



2018 Palm Sunday Procession in Bucharest

Thousands of believers, hundreds of priests, deacons, and monastics attended March 31 the traditional Palm Sunday Procession in Bucharest. His Beatitude Patriarch Daniel gave a speech about the significance of the Entry of the Lord into Jerusalem and stressed that we are all on a pilgrimage to the Kingdom of Heaven:



“Pilgrimage is not a simple journey; it is a missionary, social liturgical act. It is a missionary act because we share with the world the joy of our faith in the Crucified and Risen Christ. It is a social, spiritual act because it brings people together in a community and offers them hope in an environment that is increasingly lacking peace and joy”, Patriarch Daniel said. ►

Finnish Orthodox Church condemns initiative to legalize euthanasia

The Council of Bishops of the Finnish Orthodox Church under the Ecumenical Patriarchate recently expressed its official opinion on the civil initiative to legalize euthanasia, at the request of the Parliamentary Committee on Social and Health Issues, reports the site of the Finnish Church.

Reflecting Orthodox Tradition, the Finnish Church stated its disapproval of the practice of euthanasia.

“In Orthodox theology, death is seen as a mystery which cannot be fully understood and exhaustively explained,” the bishops’ statement reads. ►



5 Patriarch Daniel quotes on pilgrimage as a missionary, social act

Pilgrimage is the manifestation of Christian love, of ecclesial communion and community.

It is a social, spiritual act because it brings people together in a community and offers them hope in an environment that is increasingly lacking peace and joy.

Pilgrimage is communion in procession, a gathering in motion, a symbol of the Church on a mission, which through prayers and hymns, asks for God’s blessing upon the whole city.

A pilgrimage is a spiritual event for all who participate in it with faith, piety, and love of God and the Church. In a place of pilgrimage, we find not only what the place has to offer, that is the holy church, relics, and divine services, but also what pilgrims bring with each other, namely their piety, zeal, patience, kindness, their way of being and meeting with God and with different people, some who have never known each other until that moment.

Pilgrimage to the holy relics of the Saints is an elevating opportunity to increase Christian communion and joy, in the spirit of brotherly love and of spiritual growth in piety and holiness. ►

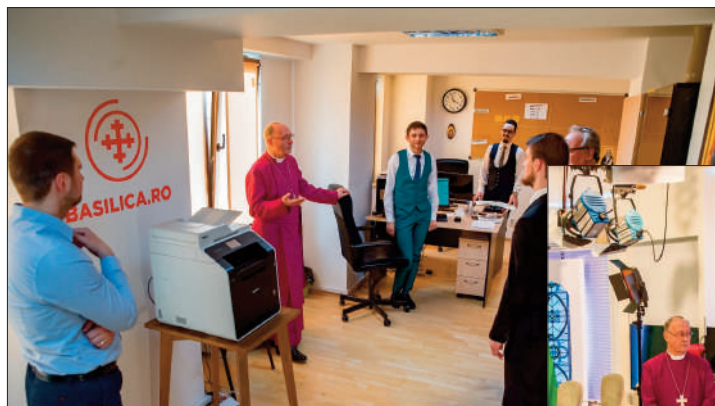
Russian Orthodox Church adds nine Romanian Saints to its calendar



During this year’s first working session held on on March 7, 2018, at St Daniel Monastery in Moscow, the Holy Synod of the Russian Orthodox Church approved the proposal of Metropolitan Hilarion of Volokolamsk, Chairman of the Moscow Patriarchate’s Department for External Church Relations, to add to the Russian Church calendar several saints glorified by the Romanian Orthodox Church during 1950-2017.

The calendar of the Romanian Orthodox Church includes several important Slavic Saints, with Saint Matrona of Moscow being the latest Russian Saint whose veneration was established in Romania by synodal decision.

In Pictures: CEC President visits **Basilica Press Centre** for first time



The President of the Conference of European Churches (CEC), Bishop Christopher Hill, visited Thursday afternoon, March 15, 2018, the Basilica Press Centre of the Romanian Patriarchate. In the context of the meeting of the CEC delegation with His Beatitude Patriarch Daniel, Anglican Bishop Christopher Hill and Finish Orthodox Priest Heikki Huttunen, Secretary-General of the CEC, visited March 15 the Trinitas Radio and TV studios, as well as the editorial office of the Basilica News Agency.

After visiting the studios and offices of the Romanian Patriarchate's Media Centre, the members of the CEC delegation expressed their appreciation for the media ministry of the Romanian Orthodox Church.

Bp Christopher Hill said he had never met such an organized church media centre as the one of the Romanian Patriarchate. During the talks, the Anglican bishop pointed to the importance of promoting common welfare and dialogue.



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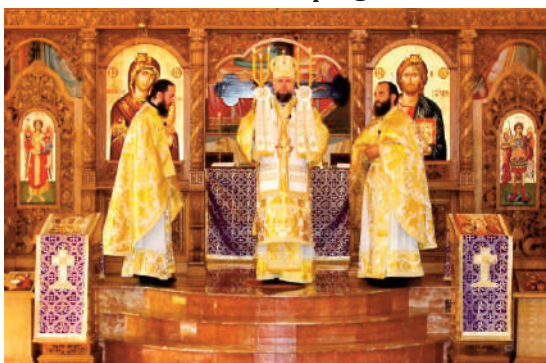
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Sunday of Orthodoxy celebrated in Chicago

Sunday of Orthodoxy was celebrated in a special way this year in Chicago. At Ss. Constantine and Helen Romanian Cathedral of Chicago, the Divine Liturgy was served by HE Metropolitan Nicolae and the clergy of the Cathedral.

At the time of the sermon, HE Nicolae spoke of the significance of Sunday of Orthodoxy, resuming the main ideas of the Pastoral Letter of the Romanian Orthodox Church Holy Synod prepared this year by HE Nicolae.

After the Divine Liturgy, children from the Sunday School of the Cathedral organized a procession with holy icons



from the church to the social hall.

A program dedicated to the Centenary of the Great Union prepared by children and adults followed, reminding the moment of the Assembly of Alba Iulia on 1 December 1918, and some of the personalities who contributed to the fulfillment of this historic act.

In the evening, hierarchs, priests and Orthodox believers in the Chicago area gathered at the Greek Orthodox Parish of Ss. Constantine and Helen in Palos Hills, Illinois for the Pan-Orthodox Vespers.