



NEWS AGENCY

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REVIEW



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New assistant bishop Teofil ordained to be a support for Romanians in Spain and Portugal



During the first episcopal consecration ever held in the new Presentation of Blessed Mary Orthodox Cathedral in Madrid, the Very Rev. Archimandrite Teofil Roman was ordained Sunday, April 15 to the Episcopate for the Romanian Orthodox believers living in Spain and Portugal.

Through synodal resolution, His Grace Teofil of Iberia was appointed assistant bishop to the Romanian Orthodox Diocese of Spain and Portugal.

The hierarchal Divine Liturgy was led by His Eminence Metropolitan Andrei of Cluj, Maramures and Satmar, delegate of the Romanian Patriarch Daniel. The event was attended by officials as well as numerous believers from Romania and Spain. ▶

Bp Teofil of Iberia: 'I am convinced that the Lord has chosen me to receive this great and holy mission not for my righteousness, but for the faith and intercession of His Church that is constantly praying Him to bring forth workers to His harvest'.

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Thousands attend Paschal midnight service in Bucharest

Thousands attended the Paschal midnight service officiated by His Beatitude Patriarch Daniel in Bucharest.

Concelebrants for the service were His Grace Varlaam of Ploiesti, assistant bishop to the patriarch, and His Grace Timotei of Prahova, assistant bishop to the Archdiocese of Bucharest.

At midnight, the patriarch distributed to the believers the Holy Fire, which was brought the same day from Jerusalem by a delegation of the Romanian Patriarchate. After the good news of Christ's Resurrection was proclaimed, the believers chanted the Paschal hymn Christ is risen! ▶



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In Pictures: 2018 Paschal Midnight

'The Resurrection of Christ is the foundation of the resurrection of all humans. For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive, Saint Paul teaches in his first epistle to the Corinthians. The life of all the mankind is therefore directed towards resurrection, while the present physical universe is directed to a new heaven and a new earth in which death will no longer be.'



Office at the Romanian Patriarchate



'Since the feast of Holy Easter is the celebration of life's victory over death and the triumph of joy over sorrow, we are called to

offer merciful love, peace and joy to those around us, especially to the orphans, the sick, the poor, the grieving, and the lonely. On the feast of Holy Pascha, we wish you all good health and salvation, peace and joy, addressing you the Easter greeting: Christ is Risen!'

[More photos on our website ►](#)

Ecumenical Patriarchate to initiate dialogue with sister Churches on Ukrainian Autocephaly

Following its working session on April 19-20, 2018, the Holy Synod of the Ecumenical Patriarchate released a communiqué stating that it has decided to begin a dialogue and coordination with its sister autocephalous Orthodox Churches on the matter of creating an autocephalous Ukrainian Orthodox Church. The communiqué refers to the petition received from ecclesiastical and civil authorities – representing millions of Ukrainian Orthodox Christians – that requests the bestowal of autocephaly. ►



Syria: Joint statement issued in memory of abducted Aleppo bishops



'We are in the fifth anniversary of the kidnapping of our brothers the archbishops of Aleppo, Youhanna Ibrahim and Paul Yazigi. Their abduction gives a glimpse of what the human being of this East has been through. Seven years ago, the crisis broke out in Syria. In other places, some labeled it the Arab Spring, but it is far from the symbolism of Spring. To date, many are suffering deeply for the absurdities of wars, shedding their pure blood in defense of the land to prevent terrorism and takfirism, which we have not known until recently. Today, the criminal kidnapping of both of our highly respected bishops is before us. We are ashamed of the indifference we see toward this issue...' [Full text ►](#)

Abp Ieronymos: Elder Joseph is a member of the choir of contemporary venerable fathers together with Sts Paisios and Porphyrios

Attending the presentation of a book about the renowned athonite monk Joseph of Vatopedi (d. 2009) was Archbishop Ieronymos of Athens who said that 'Elder Joseph is a member of the choir of contemporary venerable fathers together with Saints Paisios and Porphyrios'. Vatopedi Monastery organized Thursday, April 19, the launch of the volume signed by abbot Ephraim entitled 'Geron Joseph of Vatopedi (1.9.1921-1.7.2009),' reports the Archdiocese of Athens on its official website.

The event took place at Christos Lambrakis Hall of the Athens Concert Hall in the presence of the Head of the Greek Orthodox Church and numerous hierarchs, state officials, artists, clergymen and laypersons.

In his opening address, Archbishop Ieronymos recalled the life of Elder Joseph of Vatopedi, stressing his spiritual feats.

'Elder Joseph the Younger was a worthy spiritual son of the Blessed Elder Joseph the Hesychast. He imitated his ascetic feats of obedience, fast, the love of spiritual struggle, prayer, humility, and with his blessing he acquired the charismata of the Holy Spirit, especially that of theology,' the Archbishop said. [Full article ►](#)

Patriarch Daniel offers Myrrh-bearing Women as models for professing the faith in the risen Christ

■ His Beatitude Patriarch Daniel has sent a message for the Sunday of the Myrrh-bearing Women, April 22, 2018, expressing his gratitude for Christian women and mothers.

The patriarch offers the Myrrhbearers as ‘true models inspiring women to live a holy, self-sacrificing life in the Family, the Church, and the Society.’

‘Through faith and devoutness, through diligence and generosity,’ the Romanian Patriarch said, ‘we can preserve and cultivate harmony and good-understanding in the family, defend and promote the values of Christian family, as well as educate children in the love of the Church and the nation.’

In his message, Patriarch Daniel remembers renowned women who ‘through their effort and sacrifice contributed to the achievement of the Great Union’: Queen Marie of Romania, Ecaterina Teodoroiu, and Elena Alistar.



‘They opened the way to professing the faith in the Resurrection of our Saviour Jesus Christ for all right-believing women, from the holy women martyrs, the venerable women, the holy empresses and to the Christian mothers who give birth and bring up their children in the faith and love of God and the neighbour’.

[Full message ►](#)

Metr. Teofan urges believers to attend Romanian referendum on marriage definition



At the end of the Divine Liturgy celebrated Monday at St George Church in Botosani, Metropolitan Teofan of Moldavia and Bukovina urged the believers to attend the Romanian referendum on marriage definition.

‘If God blesses us and the country’s authorities will listen to the people’s voice to organize the referendum on family protection, may none of those here present miss such an event,’ His Eminence said April 23.

‘May you bring at least fifty other persons together so that the desire of the good willing people in this country be evident,’ the Metropolitan of Moldavia and Bukovina added.

In his sermon delivered at the end of the 23 April Divine Liturgy, Metropolitan Teofan also referred to the life and martyrdom of St George.

[Full story ►](#)

95% of the Romanians believe in God, survey reveals

About 95% of the Romanian citizens believe in God, but only 21% go to church every week, says a survey on the religious belief in Romania, conducted by Friedrich Ebert Romania Foundation, cited by Agerpres. According to the same study, 27% of the Romanians say the referendum to re-define the family concept is necessary.

The results show that there is a “significant difference” in Romania between the affirmation of faith and the actual religious activity.

“Thus, although there is an active strong religious minority, it has a rather diminished role for most part of the society, as declared faith is not converted to concrete social and political actions,” says the survey.

If 95% of the Romanians say they believe in God, 89% of them consider themselves religious, while 33% are “religious practitioners”. 44% say they are praying on a daily basis. ►



Ecumenical Patriarch offers solutions to the ‘Dilemma of the Century: Technology vs. Politics’

On 12 April 2018, Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew addressed the 21st Eurasian Economic Summit that took place in Istanbul, with the support of the Marmara Foundation, on the theme: “Dilemma of the Century: Technology vs. Politics. Beyond Dilemmas”.

In his address, the Patriarch said:

“Our world today is undoubtedly changing with rapid pace. The cause of these astonishing changes is the amazing development of technology and biotechnology, and the revolution of information and its multifaceted branches—an event which constitutes the greatest worldwide cultural revolution in the history of humanity”.



‘In one way or another, whatever is scientifically and artificially feasible, does not necessarily mean that it is also essential and good.

For this reason, it is erroneous to hold the view that nothing but self-deception exists outside of science; when, actually, it is not at all self-deceiving to expect solutions from outside of science when it is unable to provide them.

At this point, we would also like to make an additional observation: Never before has the human being possessed so much knowledge, and simultaneously, never before has he acted so destructively against his neighbor and nature.

We are keenly aware, but instead act as though we are unaware’

German state orders crosses mounted in government buildings



Bavaria’s state premier, Markus Söder, has ordered that crosses be hung up in all state buildings in the southern German state.

Söder called the move an “avowal of Bavarian identity.”

Bavaria’s freshly-sworn-in state premier has stamped a Christian identity on the state’s public buildings as one of his first acts in office, reports Deutsche Welle.

Markus Söder on Tuesday announced that a cross would be hung in every public building from June 1.

„A clear commitment to our Bavarian identity and Christian values. Today in the Cabinet we decided to hang a cross in each state authority from June 1. Immediately after the meeting I hung a cross at the entrance of the State Chancellery”, premier Markus Söder wrote on his Twitter page.

Only Holy Relics survive fire that ravaged Greek Parish in Australia

A fire tore through St. Panteleimon’s Greek Orthodox Church in the sea-side town of Glenelg North in Southern Australia on Tuesday, leaving the parish community without a home for their Holy Week and Paschal services.

In what parishioners are calling a miracle, only the gold-plated reliquary containing a piece of the holy relics of the church patron St. Panteleimon, kept in the church altar, survived the flames unscathed.

“In the altar where we keep them, everything else was pretty much burnt and the only thing that was left

was the little box of the relics not damaged, not even ashes on it, it was just sitting there,” said parish council president Nick Kapolos.

A local Catholic church has offered the use of its facilities for the Greek community’s Paschal services.



Most-liked tweet of the month

