



NEWS AGENCY

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REVIEW



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Bishop Timotei of Sătmar ordained to eagerly fulfil 'the mission of the Good Shepherd'



The Very Rev. Archimandrite Timotei Bel was ordained Sunday, 24 June 2018, to the Episcopate during the Divine Liturgy celebrated at the monastery of St John the Forerunner founded by him at Scărișoara.

His Eminence Metropolitan Andrei of Cluj, Maramureș, and Sălaj presided over the festive Divine Liturgy and officiated the episcopal consecration, urging the newly-ordained Bishop Timotei of Sătmar to fulfil eagerly 'the mission of the Good Shepherd'.

By synodal resolution, His Grace Timotei of Sătmar was appointed Assistant Bishop to the Diocese of Maramures and Sătmar.

The bishop said that he will ask for God's help to fulfil this calling and to show himself worthy of the honour he was called to. ▶

Bishop Timotei of Sătmar: 'In my entire ministry, I tried to be one who unites and not one who divides. Thus I will do from now on too'.

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Basilica News Agency celebrates 10th anniversary

Saturday, 16 June 2018, the Romanian Patriarchate's Basilica News Agency celebrated its 10th anniversary of online media ministry.

The Basilica News Agency was established as department in 2007. However, the Basilica.ro website was launched on 16 June 2008, thus the first Orthodox newswire in Romania began its activity.

The Basilica News Agency (BNA) is one of the five departments of the Basilica Media Centre of the Romanian Patriarchate together with Trinitas TV, Radio Trinitas, Lumina Newspaper, and the Patriarchate's Press Office. ▶

*Communicating
the Good to know
for 10 years*

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Romanian Patriarchate's Spokesperson Vasile Bănescu tells Romanian Christians not to be afraid

During a RVE Timisoara radio program the spokesperson of the Romanian Patriarchate, Vasile Bănescu, has sent a message of encouragement and solidarity to all Christians in Romania saying, 'Do not be afraid, because the Truth that is Christ Himself is always with us!' 'I want to send a message to all our Christian brothers and sisters in Romania. They must look at everything that is happening around us today! They must have eyes to see and ears to hear. We must take an elegant attitude, but a firm attitude, to this ideological pressure meant to sideline this people's

natural Christian values and to replace them with false values, with an ideology.'

'Their attempts, beyond intimidation, aim at inducing fear in the face of some possible repercussions if you do not subject yourself to the ideology. Do not be afraid, because we know this from our Saviour. He is with us. Do not be afraid, as He says, because the Truth who is Christ Himself is always with us.'

During the radio show, Vasile Bănescu spoke about the complaints filed against him at the Na-

tional Council for Combating Discrimination (CNCD) regarding some statements about the pregnancy among young women in Romania. ▶



Five-hour talks at the Phanar on the autocephaly of the Ukrainian Church



A delegation of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church (Moscow Patriarchate) met Saturday, 23 June 2018, with Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew at his residence in Constantinople, where they held a five-hour meeting regarding the autocephaly of the Ukrainian Church. Four members of the Standing Holy Synod of the canonical Ukrainian Orthodox Church (UOC) went to the Phanar to discuss the initiatives made for the issuing of the tomos of autocephaly and to report the UOC stance on this matter.

The Ukrainian Bishops presented the current situation of the church life in Ukraine to His Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew. During the meeting, the Ecumenical Patriarch received the official invitation of HB Metropolitan Onuphry to appoint a representative to attend the festivities in honour of the 1030th anniversary of the Christianization of Rus that will take place at the end of July.

The communique states that the talks took place in an 'open, constructive and fraternal' atmosphere. After the five-hour meeting, statements were given to Ukrainian journalists present at the event. **Full story ▶**

DMOPC18: Jean-Claude Larchet calls for abstinence from social media during fasting periods

Chania, Crete, 18.06.2018 – During the first day of the International Conference on Digital Media and Orthodox Pastoral Care in Crete (DMOPC18), the renowned theologian Jean-Claude Larchet said that during the fast seasons Christians ought to reduce their activity on social platforms. Larchet said that social networks 'have invaded the lives of contemporary people and especially of today's youth.' He said that there is a social pressure to compliance to social media, since 'one is almost obliged to have so as not to



be excluded from various social, administrative or economic groups or circles.' The addiction to social media, Larchet said, 'often remains unperceived in less serious cases, since habit is capable of making what is not normal appear to be so. For most users, the use has become abusive,' he noted Monday, June 18. ▶

Patriarch Daniel re-consecrated 517-year old Dealu Monastery, 'an important landmark of Romanian national identity'



Marking its 517th anniversary, His Beatitude Patriarch Daniel re-consecrated Sunday, 10 June 2018, the church of Dealu Monastery referring to it as 'an important landmark of Romanian national identity and unity'.

The Patriarch of Romania said that this monastic settlement is 'the holy place keeping as in a reliquary the honourable head of Ruler Prince Michael the Brave, who made the first union of the Romanian Principalities, Wallachia, Transylvania, and Moldova, in 1600.' The monastery's church was restored during 2010-2018. ▶

Patriarch Daniel blesses foundation stone of military church at Ministry of National Defence

His Beatitude Patriarch Daniel of Romania blessed Friday, June 15, the foundation stone of a new military church that will be built at the Ministry of National Defence of Romania, in the presence of DefMin Mihai Fifor.

Addressing those present, Patriarch Daniel spoke about how important it is to build a church for a specific community.

'The blessing of the church site, and the consecration of the church building itself represent a new gate to heaven, as we mentioned in the prayers of blessing of the foundation stone,' His Beatitude said.

'The opening of a new gate to heaven is a great blessing for those who had the desire to build a church, for those who contribute to its construction, and for all those who will come and pray in this church,' the Patriarch added.



SVOTS donates \$13k to non-profit partner Pro Vita in Romania

A delegation from St. Vladimir's Seminary (SVOTS) presented last week a gift of \$13,000 to the Pro Vita Association for the Born and Unborn in Romania.

The presentation of the gift fulfills a promise the Seminary made to tithe 10% of the total funds raised on #GivingTuesday to Pro Vita, the Seminary's non-profit #GivingTuesday partner for 2017. Last year's campaign from September through November yielded a total of \$126,000.

SVOTS President Archpriest Chad Hatfield with Fr. Nicolae Tanase from Pro Vita Institute President of SVOTS Archpriest Chad Hatfield traveled to Romania along with the Seminary's Director of Web Services Alexandru Popovici, a native of Romania, to officially present the gift to Pro Vita. Full ▶

African king baptized on Mt. Athos

An African king traveled to Holy Mt. Athos recently to be baptized into the holy Orthodox Church.

It was initially reported by the Union of Orthodox Journalists only that an African king was baptized by Hieromonk Dionysius of Koutloumousiou Monastery with the Christian name of David.

The king was subsequently identified as Tribal King Tchiffi Zae Jean Gervais of the Krou chieftains in Côte d'Ivoire. ▶



Romanian Confessor under communist regime Archimandrite Mina Dobzeu laid to rest at Huși Cathedral



Archimandrite Mina Dobzeu, a Romanian confessor of faith in communist prisons, was laid to rest at the Huși Cathedral Saturday, June 9, 2018.

The hierarchical Divine Liturgy and the funeral service were held earlier at the Sts Peter and Paul Cathedral in Huși.

The services were led by His Eminence Metropolitan Teofan of Moldavia and Bukovina, having as concelebrants Archbishop Teodosie of Tomis, Bishop Ignatie of Huși, Bishop Antonie of Bălți, and the Assistant Bishop to the Archdiocese of Suceava and Rădăuți, Damaschin of Dorna.

At the end of the Divine Liturgy, the local Bishop Ignatie spoke about Elder Mina, 'who proved to be a worthy servant of God, an authentic confessor in times of persecution, and a great intercessor in times hostile to our Church. ▶



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