



NEWS AGENCY

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previous month

DAYS OF CATHEDRAL'S CONSECRATION
NOVEMBER 25-30, 2018

National Church Assembly urges believers to vote **YES** to marriage referendum!



The National Church Assembly, comprised of all the hierarchs of the Holy Synod, the representatives of clergy and lay believers within the Romanian Patriarchate's dioceses, gathered at its session on September 29, 2018, urges all Romanian Orthodox citizens to attend the referendum and say YES to clarifying the text of article 48 of Romania's Constitution regarding the definition of marriage, that is to replace the ambiguous expression 'freely consented marriage of the spouses' with the clearer and precise formulation, 'freely consented marriage of a man and a woman.' [Full text ►](#)



pg. 4 Works at National Cathedral's iconostasis to be completed by November 1



pg. 5 Joint declaration of Patriarch of Alexandria and Metropolitan of Warsaw regarding Ukraine



His Beatitude Patriarch Daniel celebrates **11th** enthronement anniversary

His Beatitude Patriarch Daniel celebrated on Sunday, 30 September 2018, the 11th anniversary of the enthronement as Patriarch of the Romanian Orthodox Church (30 September 2007).

His Beatitude Patriarch Daniel, the sixth leader of the Romanian Orthodox Church, was born on 22 July 1951, in Dobrești village, Bara commune, Timiș County, as the third child of teacher Alexie and his wife Stela Ciobotea. [►](#)



pg. 3 3,000 Orthodox young people from all over the world attend ITO 2018



Patriarch of Romania chairs constitutive session of National Church Assembly

His Beatitude Patriarch Daniel of Romania chaired Saturday, September 29, 2018, the constitutive session of the National Church Assembly at the Palace of the Patriarchate in Bucharest.

The National Church Assembly is comprised of all the hierarchs of the Holy Synod, the representatives of clergy and lay believers within the Romanian Patriarchate's dioceses.

In his opening speech, the Patriarch of Romania said that 'a new National Church Assembly is established in the Centennial Year,' with a special responsibility in the life of the Church.

'For four years you will be under the blessing, the light, the joy and the great privilege to be persons of the Centennial,' Patriarch Daniel said addressing the new NCA members.

The Patriarch noted that new members were added to some already existing more experienced members.

'There is a beautiful connection between tradition and renewal, between continuity and regeneration,' the Romanian Patriarch said.

Following the election and validation of the mandates for the next period (2018-2022), the NCA members met to elect the Permanent Working Committees and the members of the National Church Council. The decisions of the National Church Assembly become enforceable after their ratification by the Holy Synod of the Romanian Orthodox Church. [Full Story ►](#)

'For four years you will be under the blessing, the light, the joy and the great privilege to be persons of the Centennial.'
- Patriarch Daniel

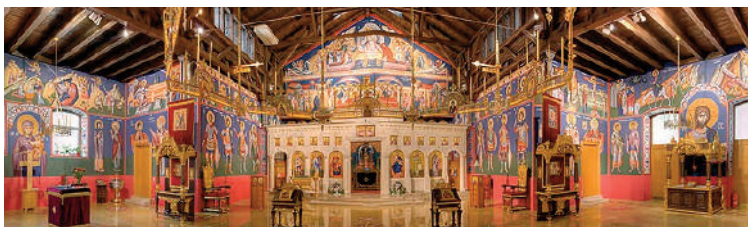


Orthodoxy has become second biggest religion in Austria

Orthodoxy has become the second biggest religion in majority-Catholic Austria.

While intense debate is underway in Austria on the growing Muslim population, Orthodoxy has quietly and discreetly grown into the second largest religious community in the country.

Islam has held the first place in terms of migrants to Austria in recent years. According to 2017 statistics, 700,000 Mus-



lims live in Austria, but the number of Orthodox Christians has edged them out. The latest official figures date back to 2014, when 500,000 Orthodox Christians were counted in Austria.

However, according to the secretariat of the Greek Orthodox Metropolitan of Austria, there is a community of 750,000-800,000 Orthodox Christians in the republic.

According to the Pro Oriente Foundation, the largest group of Orthodox immigrants in recent years has been Romanians, representing 50% of the Orthodox influx, though they are not perceived as classical migrants, as they are moving within the European Union. [Full story ►](#)

Symposium "Celebrating the Great Union" in Sacramento, California

Romanians from Sacramento experienced moments of spiritual joy and Romanian pride at the occasion of the Symposium "Celebrating the Great Union".

Organized by the Holy Resurrection Romanian Orthodox Church of Sacramento, under the auspices of the Romanian Orthodox Metropolia of the Americas and in the presence of HE Metropolitan Nicolae, the Symposium marked the Year of the Centenary of the Great Union with a Te-Deum service, three presentations, an exhibition of photographs from those times, and patriotic songs. [Full ►](#)



3,000 Orthodox young people from all over the world attend ITO 2018 opening ceremony in Sibiu



Over 3,000 young people from all over the world attended Thursday, September 6, 2018, the opening ceremony of this year's International Meeting of Orthodox Youth (ITO 2018).



‘Beloved young Orthodox Christians from Romania and other countries, you are apostles or missionaries of freedom and of ethnic or national unity, but also of the communion between ethnic groups and cooperation among peoples.’

The ceremony included the presentation of each delegation under the name of ‘Flags’ parade in the presence of Patriarch of Romania, Metropolitan of Transylvania, numerous hierarchs, clergymen, state and local officials.



‘We warmly welcome you to Sibiu, the capital city of Transylvanian Orthodoxy, a city chosen and consecrated by our great protector, Saint Andrew Saguna, to be the residence of the historic Metropolitan of Transylvania.’

At the conclusion of the ‘Flags’ Parade, His Grace Bishop Andrei of Covasna and Harghita officiated a Doxology (Te Deum).

The ceremony was followed by an artistic performance held by the Anatoly vocal group in Brasov, the Children Choir of Iresti-Vrancea Parish, the male choir of the St Andrew Saguna Faculty of Orthodox Theology in Sibiu, the Concertino Children Choir in Gura Raului, Marcel Pavel, Vlad Mirita, Iordache Basalic, and many more.

Over 3000 young Orthodox Christians from Romania and other countries gather in Sibiu on Sept. 6-

9 under the motto, ‘Unity. Faith. Nation.’

The event continues the series of meetings organised in Baia Mare in 2013 and 2014, in Cluj-Napoca in 2015, in Bucharest in 2016 and in Iasi in 2017.

ITO’s purpose is creating the context for young people to experience life-changing moments, a context where they can sense the feeling of communion, of belonging, together with young people from other regions, or from abroad. A place where they can share life orthodox-values and where they can become preachers of the Christian message, spreading it in their communities. ▶

Works at National Cathedral's iconostasis to be completed by November 1

The works at the mosaic iconostasis of the Romanian People's Salvation Cathedral will be completed by November 1. The Romanian Patriarchate's Church Painting Committee analysed Friday the stage of the works at the Cathedral's iconostasis and announced their completion within one month. Artists began applying mosaic icons on the iconostasis at the end of June 2018. The mosaic-covered iconostasis will be blessed at the National Cathedral's consecration ceremony that will be led by His Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew on November 25. ▶



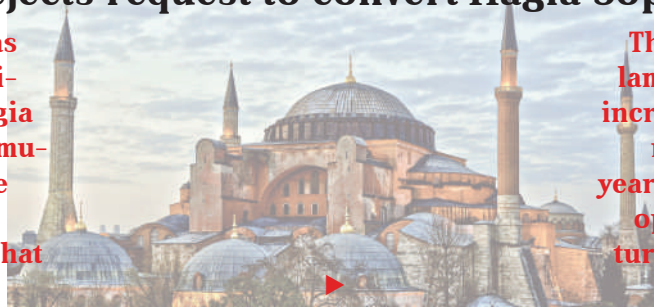
Remains of allegedly poisoned to death Husi Bishop Grigorie Leu exhumed

The body of the former Bishop Grigorie Leu of Husi was exhumed on Wednesday, Sept. 26, to clarify certain medico-legal aspects by experts in forensic medicine from the Institute for the Investigation of Communist Crimes in Romania (IICMER) and Public prosecutor's office. The former Bishop of Husi Grigorie Leu was allegedly poisoned to death during the communist regime in 1949. Attending the event was the current Bishop of Husi Ignatie Trif who officiated a memorial service for his predecessor. ▶



Turkish court rejects request to convert Hagia Sophia into mosque

The Turkish Supreme Court has rejected the request of one religious group to convert the Hagia Sophia Cathedral, currently a museum, into a mosque again. The court rejected the application based on the formal mistakes that appeared in it. ▶



There has been an increase in Islamic activity in Hagia Sophia and increased calls for turning it into a mosque again over the past few years. The ruling Justice and Development Party has been talking of turning the museum into an active mosque again since 2013. ▶

Romanian Patriarch Daniel lays foundation stone of future Orthodox church on Mount Bucegi

His Beatitude Patriarch Daniel of Romania laid the foundation stone of a future Orthodox church dedicated to Romania's national heroes that will be built on Mount Bucegi. The event marked the 90th anniversary of the inauguration of the Heroes' Cross on Caraiman Peak, which was built at the initiative of Queen Marie and King Ferdinand I of Romania. 'This cross required a church,' His Beatitude said during the blessing service on Sept. 15, 2018. ▶



The future church will be dedicated to three important feasts, the Universal Exaltation of the Holy Cross, the Ascension of the Lord (Heroes' National Day), and the Transfiguration of the Lord. In his speech, the Patriarch pointed to the significance of the three patronal feasts and the importance of the sacrifice assumed by Romania's national heroes. In addition, Patriarch Daniel said that this church calls everyone to spiritual elevation. ▶

Joint declaration of Patriarch Theodoros of Alexandria and Metropolitan Sawa of Warsaw regarding the situation of Ukraine



We, the Heads of two Local Churches – who meet on the Polish territory and are conscious of the responsibility for the life of the Holy Orthodoxy in the contemporary world, its peace, unity and maintaining the dogmatic and canonical order, facing the experience that the Orthodoxy in Ukraine lives nowadays – in the spirit of brotherly love, we appeal to all on whom depends the elimination of the church misunderstandings regarding the acquisition of autocephaly by the Ukrainian Church: please, do whatever is within your might to stave off the conflict concerning the question in order to install the church order on the Ukrainian territory.

Celebrating the Divine Liturgy on the feast of the Nativity of the Most Holy Virgin Mary we pray for the unity and peace of the Ukrainian nation. At the same time we send our brotherly greetings to the Heads of the Local Orthodox Churches and the whole plenitude of the Holy Orthodoxy.

†Theodoros II

Pope and Patriarch of Alexandria and All Africa

†Sawa

Orthodox Metropolitan of Warsaw and All Poland

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Many are familiar with the Holy Archdeacon Stephen as the first Christian martyr. The path to martyrdom however was opened by Saint Thecla, a woman disciple of Saint Paul.

6 things you should know about St Thecla

- She was the first female martyr
- She was St Paul's disciple
- She preached the Gospel with the Apostles
- She settled in a desolate region where she helped the sick
- Her prayerful intercession is invoked during tonsure of nuns
- She is also venerated among Muslims

5:15 PM - 24 Sep 2018

7 Retweets 24 Likes

1 7 24

Ecumenical Patriarchate to Allow Second Marriage for Greek Orthodox Priests

The Holy Synod of the Ecumenical Patriarchate has decided to allow a second marriage for Greek Orthodox priests in the event that they are widowed or abandoned by their wife, religious news website Romfea.gr says, cited by eu.greekreporter.com.

The decision, that is considered historic in the Orthodox Church, specifies that a second marriage will not be allowed if the priest wishes to leave his wife and marry another woman.

It is underlined that each case will be examined separately and the bishop of the priest's parish will be sending the specifics to be judged by the Holy Synod of the Ecumenical Patriarchate.

Within the next few days, an official letter with all details and directions will be sent to all competent parties by Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew.

