



NEWS AGENCY

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REVIEW



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previous month

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

Feast of Saint Demetrius the New Thousands flock to venerate Bucharest Patron Saint



Thousands of believers flocked to venerate Bucharest's Patron Saint Demetrius the New at the patriarchal Divine Liturgy presided over by His Beatitude Patriarch Daniel last Saturday, October 27.

Concelebrants for the Divine Liturgy included several Romanian hierarchs, but also Metropolitan Naum of Ruse as representative of Bulgaria, St Demetrius's homeland, and Bishop Qais of Erzurum on behalf of the Antioch Patriarchate. The Patriarch pointed to the life of St Demetrius the New and that of St Callinicus of Cernica, whose holy relics joined the festivities in Bucharest. ▶

Holy Synod glorifies 20th century Bessarabian Bishop Dionysius Erhan

During its autumn regular session, Thursday, October 25, the Holy Synod of the Romanian Orthodox Church resolved to glorify the 20th century Bessarabian Bishop Dionysius Erhan whose relics were found incorrupt earlier this year during the consolidation works at Suruceni Monastery in the Republic of Moldova.

The canonization proposal was submitted by the Bishops' Synod of the Metropolis of Bessarabia. Full story ▶



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Religion is key part of identity for most Romanians



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Ecumenical Patriarchate issues announcement regarding situation of Ukraine



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Prayers offered at Colectiv Club in commemoration of fire victims



The Holy Synod calls for **Moscow** and **Constantinople** to resolve **Ukrainian issue** together

The Holy Synod of the Romanian Orthodox Church met Thursday, October 25, in the Patriarchal residence in Bucharest under the chairmanship of His Beatitude Patriarch Daniel.

The Synod addressed several matters, including the pressing issue of the ecclesiastical situation in Ukraine.

In particular, the Holy Synod approved last month's appeal from the Metropolitan Synod of Bessarabia for the canonization of Bishop Dionisie Erhan of Ismail and Cetatea Alba (1934-1943), who will be celebrated annually on September 17.

The Synod decided to dedicate 2019 as the Solemn Year of the Romanian Village (priests, teachers, and heads of households), and the Year of the Memorial of Patriarchs Nicodim Munteanu, Iustin Moisescu, and of the Translators of Liturgical Books.

2020 will be dedicated as the Solemn Year of Ministry to Parents and Children and the Commemorative Year of Romanian Orthodox Philanthropists.



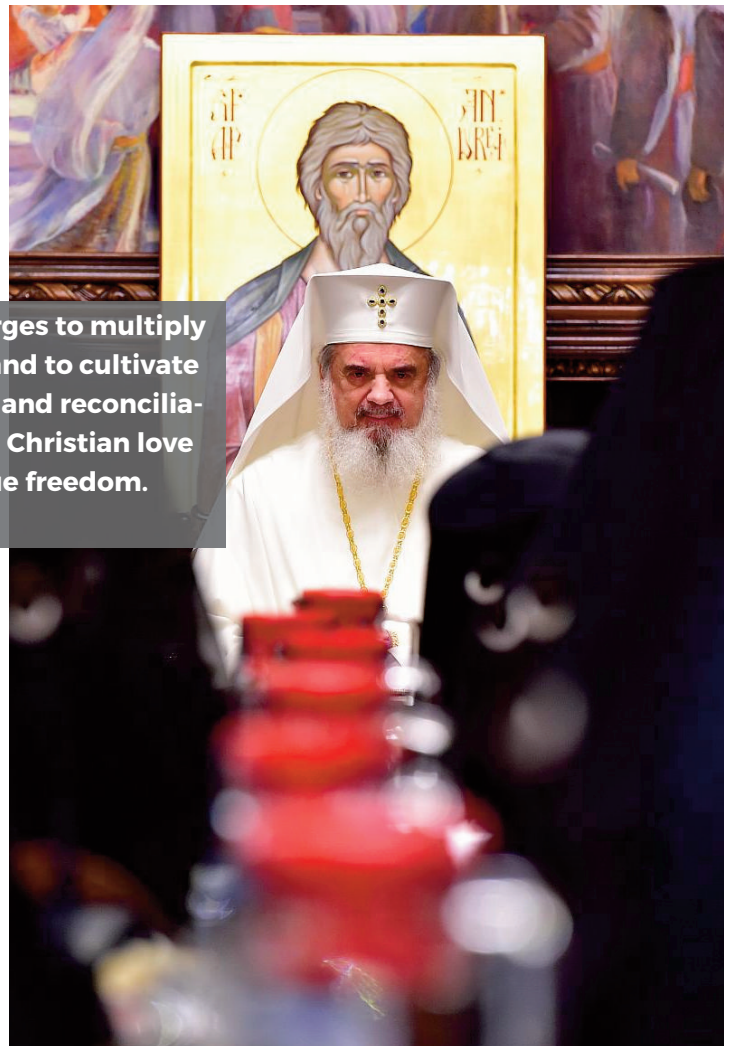
The Synod also highlighted the financial support of Diocesan centers to schools in the 2017-2018 school year. The total amount of support provided by the Church's 29 dioceses amounted to \$ 1,205,124 (RON 4,939,643.57).

And addressing the situation in Ukraine, the Romanian Holy Synod states:

Taking into account the recent developments in the situation with the Church in Ukraine, the Holy Synod reiterates its recommendation of May 24, 2018 for the Ecumenical Patriarchate and the Moscow Patriarchate to arrive at a solution together, while preserving unity of faith and administrative-pastoral freedom, the latter representing a characteristic feature of Orthodoxy.

The Holy Synod also underlines the fact that unity is preserved through co-responsibility and cooperation between the Local Orthodox Churches, by cultivating dialogue and synodality at the pan-Orthodox level, this being a permanent necessity in the life of the Church. The unity of the Church is a holy gift of God, but also a great responsibility of the hierarchs, clergy, and lay believers. That is why the Holy Synod urges to multiply prayer for unity, and to cultivate through dialogue and reconciliation the fraternal Christian love that offers true freedom. ▶

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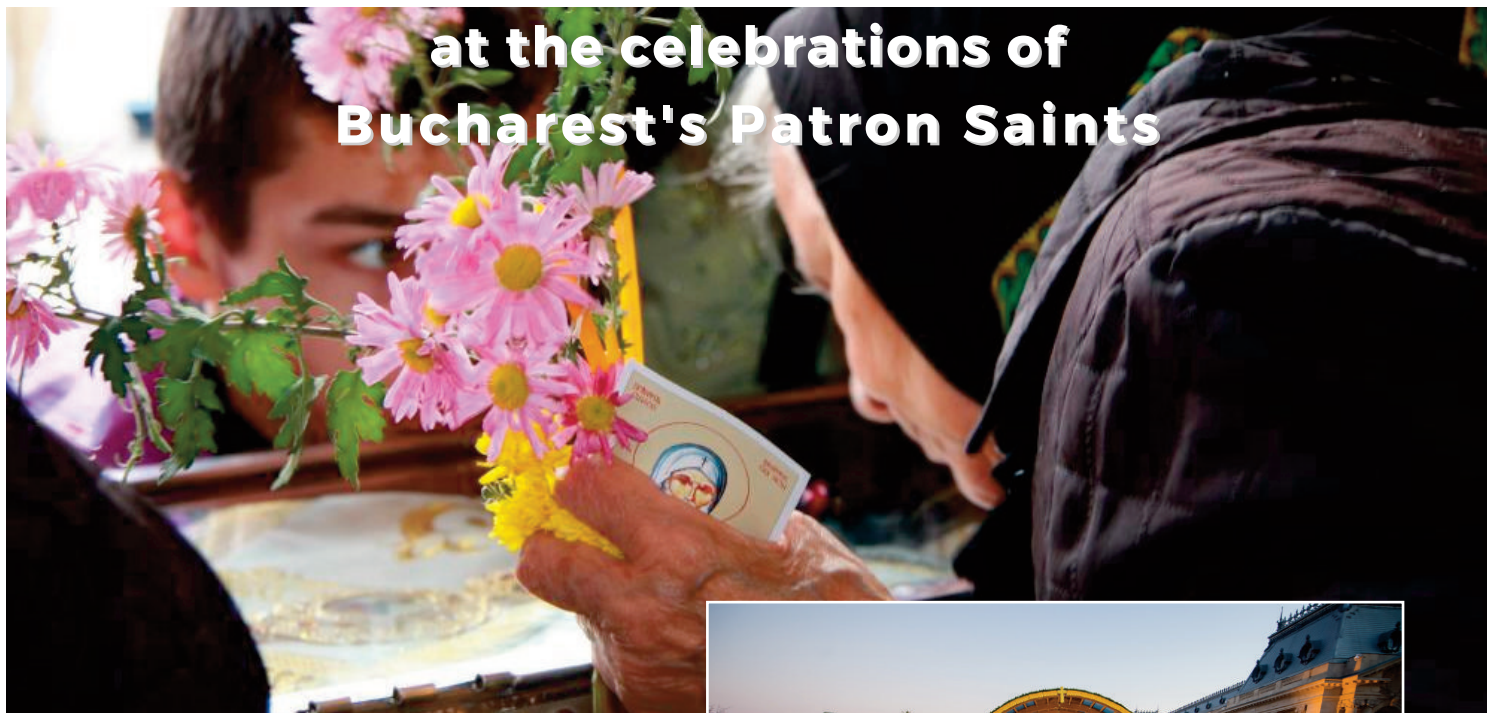
Tomis Archbishop celebrates **Divine Liturgy of St James** at **Constanța Cathedral**



His Eminence Archbishop Teodosie of Tomis on Tuesday, October 23, celebrated the Divine Liturgy of Saint James at the Orthodox Cathedral in Constanța. The Liturgy of Saint James is considered to be the oldest surviving liturgy developed for general use in the Church. The Jacobite Liturgy is commonly celebrated two times a year, on October 23, the feast day of Saint James, and on the Sunday before the Nativity of the Lord. [Full Story ▶](#)

What advice did the hierarchs offer the pilgrims

at the celebrations of Bucharest's Patron Saints



The traditional pilgrimage organized every year by the Romanian Patriarchate and the Archdiocese of Bucharest on the Feast of Saint Demetrius the New, Protector of Bucharest, took place on October 25-29, 2018.



‘A profound and complete celebration of the Great Union Centennial can only be achieved through common prayer, spiritual joy and peace, since all these are gifts that God pours out upon us.’

This year, with the Patriarch’s blessing, the relics of Romania’s first glorified saint Callinicus of Cernica joined the festivities.

Here are the main recommendations addressed by the Romanian hierarchs to the pilgrims:

‘Let us love the Saints and venerate sacred things, and holy relics, even when we are mocked for doing this’



‘The living faith, true faith that works through love and good deeds is the salvific faith. It is not formalism, routine, superstition, fundamentalism or surface attitude.’

Prayers offered at Colectiv Club in commemoration of fire victims

Three years after one of Romania's worst fire which occurred during a free concert performed at the Colectiv nightclub in Bucharest, priests and believers offered their prayers for the rest of the souls of the victims.

Rev. Ioan Armasi, an Orthodox dean in Bucharest, together with an assembly of priests went Tuesday morning to the Bucur Square where the club was located to commemorate the 64 mostly young people who lost their lives in the fire. Romania's President Klaus Iohannis joined the victims' family members in paying homage to those who ended their lives tragically in 2015.

His Excellency laid flowers at the wooden memorial cross erected in the memory of the 64 victims. Earlier on Tuesday a memorial service was officiated at the Colectiv victims' monument at St Nicholas Brosteni Church.

The Colectiv nightclub fire was a deadly fire in Bucharest, Romania, on 30 October 2015, which killed 64 people (26 on site, 38 in hospitals) and injured 146.



Religion is key part of identity for most Romanians

74% of Romanians consider that their nationality is defined by Christianity, according to a Pew Research Center survey conducted in 2015-17 and published on Monday.

Romania has ranked fifth among 34 European countries in terms of the percentage of their populations that consider religion a key component of their national identity, behind Armenia (82%), Georgia (81%), Serbia (78%) and Greece (76%). Also, a staggering 95% of Romanians believe in the existence of God, and 98% of adults identify as Christians.

The results of the same survey show that 50% of Romanians consider religion is very important in their lives and 40% pray daily.

The survey was conducted by Pew Research Center between 2015 and 2017 among nearly 56,000 adults (ages 18 and older) in 34 Western, Central and Eastern European countries.



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Ecumenical Patriarchate issues announcement regarding situation of Ukraine



Presided by His All-Holiness, the Ecumenical Patriarch, the Holy and Sacred Synod convened for its regular session from October 9 to 11, 2018, in order to examine and discuss items on its agenda.

The Holy Synod discussed in particular and at length the ecclesiastical matter of Ukraine, in the presence of His Excellency Archbishop Daniel of Pamphilon and His Grace Bishop Hilarion of Edmonton, Patriarchal Exarchs to Ukraine, and following extensive deliberations decreed:

1) To renew the decision already made that the Ecumenical Patriarchate proceed to the granting of Autocephaly to the Church of Ukraine.

2) To reestablish, at this moment, the Stavropegion of the Ecumenical Patriarch in Kyiv, one of its many Stavropegia in Ukraine that existed there always.

3) To accept and review the petitions of appeal of Filaret Denisenko, Makariy Maletych and their followers, who found themselves in schism not for dogmatic reasons, in accordance with the canonical prerogatives of the Patriarch of Constantinople to receive such petitions by hierarchs and other clergy from all of the Autocephalous Churches. Thus, the above-mentioned have been canonically reinstated to their hierarchical or priestly rank, and their faithful have been restored to communion with the Church.

4) To revoke the legal binding of the Synodal Letter of the year 1686, issued for the circumstances of that time, which granted the right through oikonomia to the Patriarch of Moscow to ordain the Metropolitan of Kyiv, elected by the Clergy-Laity Assembly of his eparchy, who would commemorate the Ecumenical Patriarch as the First hierarch at any celebration, proclaiming and affirming his canonical dependence to the Mother Church of Constantinople.

5) To appeal to all sides involved that they avoid appropriation of Churches, Monasteries and other properties, as well as every other act of violence and retaliation, so that the peace and love of Christ may prevail. ▶

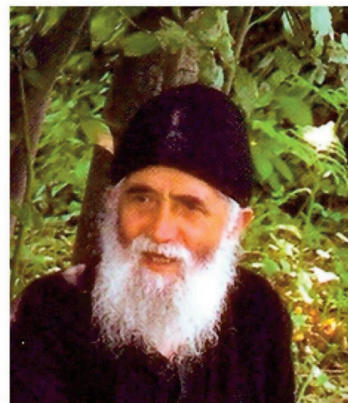
Archbishop Chrysostomos returns to duties after surgery

His Beatitude Archbishop Chrysostomos of Cyprus returned to his official duties this morning, feeling strong and renewed following his two-week stay in London, where he had undergone laparoscopic surgery to remove two tumors on his liver. ▶



A church dedicated to St Paisios to be built in Australia

The foundation stone for the first Greek Orthodox church dedicated to St Paisios the Athonite in Australia was laid in Perth on October 26 with the blessing of Archbishop Stylianos, Primate of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of Australia, by His Grace Bishop Nikandros of Dorylaeon. ▶



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