

The Good to Know

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2019 OFFICIALLY DECLARED
AS SOLEMN YEAR OF THE
ROMANIAN VILLAGE

160TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE UNION OF THE ROMANIAN PRINCIPALITIES



On this issue:

- Banat Metropolitan celebrates his name day with homeless people
- Patriarch Kirill's 10th enthronement anniversary
- Funeral service to farewell Romanian engineer Eugeniu Iordăchescu

President Iohannis declares Iași a Historical Capital of Romania

On Wednesday evening, January 23, 2019, President Klaus Iohannis handed over to Mayor Mihai Chirica a copy of the decree promulgating the law that declares Iași as Historical Capital of Romania. A ceremony was held at the Palace of Culture in Iași on the occasion of the 160th anniversary of the Union of the Romanian Principalities in 1859.



Romania President commemorates Ruler Prince Alexandru Ioan Cuza in Iasi



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Romania's President Klaus Iohannis attended a memorial service officiated at the Three Holy Hierarchs Monastery in Iasi for Alexandru Ioan Cuza, one of the founders of the 1859 Union of the Romanian Principalities who contributed to the modernization of Romanian society and of state structures.



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THE 160TH ANNIVERSARY OF ROMANIAN PRINCIPALITIES' UNION

January 24, 2019 | His Beatitude Patriarch Daniel officiated a Te Deum thanksgiving service at the Patriarchal Cathedral in Bucharest marking the 160th anniversary of the Union of the Romanian Principalities of Moldavia and Wallachia.

The service was attended by Romania's President Klaus Iohannis, the President of the Romanian Academy Ioan-Aurel Pop, the State Secretary for Religious Affairs Victor Opaschi, patriarchal auxiliary bishop Varlaam of Ploiesti, the assistant bishop to the Archdiocese of Bucharest Timotei of Prahova, state officials, academicians, clergy, theology professors and students. Following the religious service, the Head of State and the Patriarch of Romania took part in a flower-laying ceremony at the Alexandru Ioan Cuza Memorial on the Hill of the Patriarchate. The events continued with a communication session organized by the Romanian Academy and the Romanian Patriarchate at Patriarch Teoctist Hall of the Patriarchate's Palace.

The opening speech was held by President Klaus Iohannis who noted that 'the example of the elites and the message of their actions 160 years ago is still our guide and show us that in times of trouble genuine state persons must rise to the great challenges and act for the benefit of the citizens.'



” a patriotic, cultural and spiritual event

His Beatitude Patriarch Daniel addressed those present stressing that the Union of the Romanian Principalities was the foundation of the modern Romanian state.

The Patriarch noted that the communication session is 'a patriotic, cultural, and spiritual event, based on the necessity of a thorough knowledge of the historical past of the Romanian people, but also a sign of homage and gratitude for the memory of Prince Alexandru Ioan Cuza, Metropolitan Nifon of Wallachia, Metropolitan Sofronie Miclescu of Moldavia, and of all founders of the Romanian Principalities' Union.'

2019 was officially declared as Solemn Year of the Romanian Village, and Commemorative Year of Patriarchs Nicodim Munteanu and Iustin Moisescu, and of the translators of church books

The year 2019 was officially declared as Solemn Year of the Romanian Village (of diligent priests, teachers and mayors), and Commemorative Year of Patriarchs Nicodim Munteanu and Iustin Moisescu, and of the translators of church books in the Romanian Patriarchate.

The ceremony took place at the end of the Divine Liturgy officiated on New Year's Day at the Patriarchal Cathedral in Bucharest. ➡



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FUNERAL SERVICE TO FAREWELL ROMANIAN ENGINEER WHO SAVED CHURCHES DURING COMMUNIST REGIME

Engineer Eugeniu Iordăchescu, who devised an ingenious method to save Romanian churches threatened with destruction during the communist era, was farewelled on Sunday, January 6, 2019.

Eugeniu Iordăchescu, whose building relocation method rescued 12 churches that would have been otherwise slated for demolition by order of Nicolae Ceaușescu in the 80s, died on January 4 at the age of 89.

A funeral was held for Engineer Eugeniu Iordăchescu at Bellu Cemetery in Bucharest.

The service was officiated by His Grace Timotei of Prahova, assistant bishop to the Archdiocese of Bucharest, who read out Patriarch Daniel's condolence message.

'Engineer Eugeniu Iordăchescu, PhD, will remain in the conscience of the Romanian Orthodox Church as the saviour of some churches condemned to destruction by the communist regime,' the message reads.

In 2016, Iordăchescu was awarded the "Patriarchal Cross for Laypersons", the highest distinction in the Romanian Orthodox Church. ➡



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BANAT METROPOLITAN CELEBRATES HIS NAME DAY WITH HOMELESS PEOPLE

January 7, 2019 |

His Eminence Metropolitan Ioan of Banat honoured his spiritual protector, Saint John the Forerunner, by joining several homeless people at one of Timișoara's housing charity shelter. 'There is nothing exceptional. This is normality for me and we should do such actions as often as possible, because, you see, these people are abandoned, they are homeless people,' Metropolitan Ioan said.

The 35 needy people housed in the charity shelter were offered food and over 250 clothing items.



© Press Alert

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One should not pass by the suffering Romania with eyes closed.

'I look and see a free mattress and I think that maybe that would have been my place if I had no chance in life, to be able to attend school. So we cannot pass by the suffering Romania with our eyes closed,' His Eminence noted.

'I could not look at the sun's rays if I did not look over these people. I could not preach, speak, if my words were not sustained by deeds.'

Metropolitan Ioan of Banat is famous for his charity work. On Christmas Eve, he offered a new house to a family with a delicate financial situation in Satchinez.

ROMANIAN ARCHDIOCESE OF TIMIȘOARA INVESTED \$1 MILLION+ IN PHILANTHROPIC SERVICES IN 2018

In addition to its spiritual role, the Romanian Orthodox Church is a great philanthropic force in the Orthodox nation. For example, the Archdiocese of Timișoara in western Romania spent more than \$1 million in social endeavors last year alone. It was reported at the diocesan assembly on January 19 that 13,725 people were

helped through the diocese's various programs. Among the activities highlighted at the assembly were work in the field of the protection of the rights of children, people with disabilities, people living with HIV/AIDS, the elderly with no one to take care of them, families with



© Archdiocese of Timișoara

high social risk, and religious assistance in hospitals, prisons, children's homes, old folks' homes, and the army. The total amount invested in the Archdiocese's philanthropic work was \$1,110,000. ➔



BUCHAREST

**Believers
commemorate
National Poet
Mihai Eminescu**

Romania's National Poet Mihai Eminescu was prayerfully commemorated during a memorial service officiated at the poet's tomb at Bellu Cemetery in Bucharest on his 169th birth anniversary. Mihai Eminescu, born on January 15, 1850, in the village of Ipotesti, near Botosani, in North-Eastern Romania, is considered Romania's greatest poet.



**Rev. Ioan Moldoveanu
- new dean of
Bucharest Faculty of
Orthodox Theology**



© Lumina Newspaper

The Reverend Dr Ioan Moldoveanu was appointed new dean of the Patriarch Justinian Faculty of Orthodox Theology, following a resolution of the Senate of the University of Bucharest made in December 2018. The new dean earned his PhD degree at the Aristotle University of Thessalonica in 1999.



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© Diocese of Maramureş and Sătmar

New Icon of Panagia blessed at Baia Mare: THE PROTECTRESS OF ROMANIAN VILLAGE

January 1, 2019 | A new icon of the Mother of God the Protectress of the Romanian Village was blessed at Baia Mare marking the beginning of 2019, declared a Solemn Year of the Romanian Village by the Holy Synod of the Romanian Orthodox Church.

The icon was blessed by His Grace Bishop Justin of Maramureş and Sătmar on New Year's Day and enshrined at the Holy Trinity Diocesan Cathedral of Baia Mare.



Moldavia Metropolitan uses ST JOSEPH THE MERCIFUL'S CROSIER at festive Divine Liturgy

January 26, 2019 | His Eminence Metropolitan Teofan of Moldavia and Bukovina carried the crosier that belonged to his predecessor, Saint Joseph the Merciful, during the festive Divine Liturgy celebrated on the first official feast day of the Saint.



© Tudorel Rusu/Doxologia

Metropolitan Nifon attends festivities dedicated to **PATRIARCH KIRILL'S 10TH ENTHRONEMENT ANNIVERSARY**

His Eminence Hon Metropolitan Nifon, Archbishop of Targoviste and patriarchal exarch, attended the festivities held in Moscow to mark Patriarch Kirill's 10th enthronement anniversary, on Jan. 30 – Feb. 2, 2019.



© Patriarchate of Moscow

The main event was the patriarchal Divine Liturgy celebrated at Christ the Saviour Cathedral in Moscow on February 1, presided over by His Beatitude Patriarch John X of Antioch and All East. Prayers were offered in Church Slavonic, Arabic and English.



© Patriarchate of Moscow

At the end of the Divine Liturgy, Patriarch Kirill delivered a speech noting the contribution of the entire Russian Orthodox Church to his 10-year patriarchal stewardship.

The Patriarch of Moscow said that during these years he 'felt the power of the prayers of the bishops, clergy, monastics and lay people.'



'I have felt and realized that it is these prayers that have sustained my feeble strength and helped me to carry out my ministry with a complete awareness of my responsibility before God and people for all that happens in the life of the Church and in the spiritual and moral life of our contemporaries.'

In Brief:



Alexandroupolis Metropolitan Anthimos offered coffee to students who attended Liturgy



© Orthodoxy



© Romfea

Four stolen frescoes were repatriated to Cyprus

117 people convert to Orthodoxy in Congo



© Metropolis of Congo

Number of Orthodox believers in Waldkraiburg is raising. Romanian community the largest



© Romanian Metropolis of Germania

Romania's national heroes were commemorated in Wien on Jan. 24



© Romanian Diocese of Italy

A plaque was unveiled in Florence commemorating Prince Al. I. Cuza



© Orthodox Church of Uganda

47-year old African Bishop passed away following severe illness



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Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew prays for

A SUCCESSFUL ROMANIAN PRESIDENCY OF EU COUNCIL

His Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew has sent a letter to His Beatitude Patriarch Daniel after Romania took over the Presidency of the Council of the European Union on January 1, 2019.

In his letter signed on January 12, 2019, at Constantinople, His Holiness expressed his wholehearted commendation 'for this great honour and responsibility' offered to the country shepherded by His Beatitude Patriarch Daniel to exercise its first mandate at the rotating presidency of the EU Council.

The Ecumenical Patriarch offered prayers for the successful efforts of Romanian state officials 'to consolidate a more coherent European spirit of unity and solidarity, for the benefit of Europe and the wellbeing of all its citizens.' ➔



© Nikos Manghinas / Ecumenical Patriarchate

Your Beatitude,

With Romania taking over the Presidency of the Council of the European Union, we take this opportunity to express our wholehearted commendation for this great honour and responsibility offered to Your Beatitude's beloved country.

We pray that your country's noble ruler and governmental authorities may receive strength from on High to fulfil their tasks on behalf of the Romanian people and that all their efforts to consolidate a more coherent European spirit of unity and solidarity may be successful, for the benefit of Europe and the wellbeing of its citizens.

While assuring You, our beloved brother, of our support, we convey to you once again heartfelt congratulations and our warmest wishes for the New Year, blessed by the Lord, and we greet Your Beatitude with a holy kiss, remaining, with much fraternal love and honour,

Your Honourable Beatitude's beloved brother in Christ,

†Bartholomew,

Archbishop of Constantinople – New Rome and Ecumenical

ARCHBISHOP OF ALBANIA HONOURED WITH BOTSIS FOUNDATION HONORARY AWARD FOR PROMOTING HELLENIC CULTURE

January 17, 2019 |

His Beatitude Archbishop Anastasios of Albania received an honorary award of the Athanassios Botsis Foundation for the Promotion of Journalism during a ceremony held at Sarogleio Palace in Athens on Thursday, January 17, 2019.

The award was handed over to the Albanian Archbishop by His Excellency, Prokopis Pavlopoulos, President of the Hellenic

Republic, for His Beatitude's inspiring activity. In his speech, Archbishop Anastasios thanked President Pavlopoulos for the honour and stressed the need to cultivate love together with the ideals of democracy and freedom.

The same day, Archbishop Anastasios of Albania met with the Archbishop of Greece in Athens. ➔



BESSARABIA METROPOLITAN MEETS WITH US AMBASSADOR TO THE REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA

© Metropolis of Bessarabia



This was the first time when Ambassador Hogan met with Metropolitan Petru after taking up his diplomatic mission in the Republic of Moldova. During the meeting the two parts discussed topics related to the collaboration between the US Embassy to the Republic of Moldova and the Orthodox Metropolis of Bessarabia. His Eminence wished the Ambassador a successful diplomatic mission, while also referring to the realities of religious life in the Republic of Moldova.

His Eminence Metropolitan Petru of Bessarabia welcomed His Excellency the Ambassador of the United States of America to the Republic of Moldova, Derek J Hogan, at his residence in Chişinău, on Wednesday, January 23, 2019.

Metropolitan Petru presented aspects of the history of the Orthodox Church in Bessarabia. US Ambassador Derek J. Hogan thanked for the warm welcome, while expressing his wish to have further meetings and to develop joint projects.

PHOTOGRAPHY EXHIBITION

THE PORTRAIT OF THE ROMANIAN VILLAGE

PALACE OF THE PATRIARCHATE

27.02
-
09.03
2019

ANDREEA ACATRINEI, GINA BULIGA, MIOARA CHIPĂRUŞ, MIRELA DRĂGHIŢĂ, RALUCA ENE, MIRCEA FLORESCU, DANIEL GHINDEA, DANIEL MANDACHE, SORIN ONIŞOR, CEZAR GABRIEL POPESCU, SILVIU-FLORIN SALOMIA, IONUŢ TANCIU, MĂDĂLINA URSU

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Metropolitan expresses hope that villages may revive, Romanians return home:

At the end of the Great Blessing of Waters, Metropolitan Andrei of Cluj expressed his hope that the Romanian village will be revived and that "Romanians living abroad will return home".

His Eminence noted low birth rates and emigration among the main causes of rural depopulation. "Almost five million Romanians went to other lands. They left for objective reasons, for their daily bread. But, slowly, this became a trend, and we strongly wish for it to change its course and that Romanians may return home", His Eminence said Jan. 6.



Romanian Patriarch Daniel at IOTA:

THE UNITY OF THE CHURCH IS THE GIFT OF GOD AND A CO-RESPONSIBILITY OF THE CLERGY AND THE LAY FAITHFUL

The Inaugural Conference of the International Orthodox Theological Association began on Wednesday, January 9, 2019, with a Te Deum Service officiated by the Metropolitan Teofan of Moldavia and Bukovina at the Metropolitan Cathedral in Iași. The Opening Ceremony took place at the National Theatre of Iasi, starting 18:30. On this occasion, the message of His Beatitude Daniel, Patriarch of the Romanian Orthodox Church, was read out by His Eminence Teofan.



© Doxologia

Three points from Patriarch's message - 'The unity of the Church is the gift of God and a co-responsibility of the clergy and the lay faithful'

1. Understanding the unity of the Church, its realisation and manifestation in the concrete life of the Church must be a permanent concern, both theologically and spiritually, as well as in the pastoral-missionary field.

2. The understanding of Orthodox dogmatic theology as a science of salvation and service to the unity of the Church was the main concern of the great Romanian theologian Dumitru Stăniloae, who in his work has re-orientated and renewed the academic Orthodox theology, often influenced by Western scholasticism, liberating it from this influence by intensifying the connection of contemporary theology with the theology of the Holy Fathers, with the liturgical and mystic-ascetic (philocalical) spirituality of the Church.

3. Therefore, today, the theological reflection on panorthodox ecclesial unity must be deepened also in relation to the concrete life of the present ecclesial communities. In this sense, the academic chair and the altar of the Church must be in constant cooperation, the professor of theology and the shepherd of souls are co-responsible for the defence, preservation and cultivation of local and panorthodox ecclesial unity. [Full text ↗](#)

'The Good to Know' is the online magazine of the Basilica News Agency.

This project initially started in 2017 was named 'The Basilica monthly review,' and was published at the beginning of every month until its rebranding this year.

This periodical will be published online only, being available in PDF format for downloading or reading. Every issue will be published on the Issuu platform for a more engaging and interactive reading experience.

Containing a summary of the religious events in the entire Orthodox world, 'The Good to Know' online magazine can be freely printed out and distributed for more thorough information and spiritual benefit.

The magazine features a selection of articles that invite our readers to peruse the full content of our website, each article being connected to the information on the basilica.ro website through a back-link. 'The Good to Know' online magazine will be published both in Romanian and English.

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**Communicating
The Good to
Know**

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