

The Good to Know

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POPE FRANCIS - PILGRIM AT THE NATIONAL CATHEDRAL



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Who are the Holy Guardians of the Romanian People's Salvation Cathedral?

Like the watchmen who stand guard at the gates of a city, over 50 Saints supervise with their intercessions the Romanian People's Salvation Cathedral.



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The saints are depicted on the bronze doors providing access to the new Orthodox Cathedral in Bucharest. Welcoming believers on the front doors are the icons of the Saviour Jesus Christ and His Most Holy Mother. On the right and left of the main entrance, the doors have the depictions of the 12 Holy Apostles. Next to the Mother of God, one can observe the icon of Saint Andrew the First-Called since he is the Patron Saint of Romania and also of the National Cathedral. The assembly of Saints depicted on the cathedral's doors also includes over 20 saintly persons from Romania and 7 Dacian Saints.

In a speech delivered in 2017, Patriarch Daniel said that as a gift for the devotion of the Romanian people the National Cathedral belongs to 'the Romanian Saints of all times and places throughout this country.'

Please find on our website the list of the Cathedral's Guardian Saints.

The largest mosaic depicting the More Spacious than the Heavens Icon of the Mother of God was applied last month on the half-dome that stands above the altar of the National Cathedral in Bucharest.

National Cathedral in numbers:

- **Foundation stone was laid and blessed on Nov. 29, 2007**
- **First Divine Liturgy celebrated on the Cathedral's front steps on Sept. 4, 2016**
- **The church is 95% complete**
- **The consecration ceremony was officiated on Nov. 25, 2018**

Although yet unfinished, Romania's National Cathedral has become a tourist attraction and stands as the largest monument ever built honouring all time heroes who died for national and religious freedom in Romania.

"For this reason, we accepted the proposal of the Catholic side

Patriarch Daniel, in his welcome address to the pope, thanked for the for the support that constantly given to the Romanian Orthodox believers in Italy and in other countries, 'where the Roman Catholic Church made available to the Romanian Orthodox communities 426 places of worship, 306 in Italy and 120 in other Western European countries.'

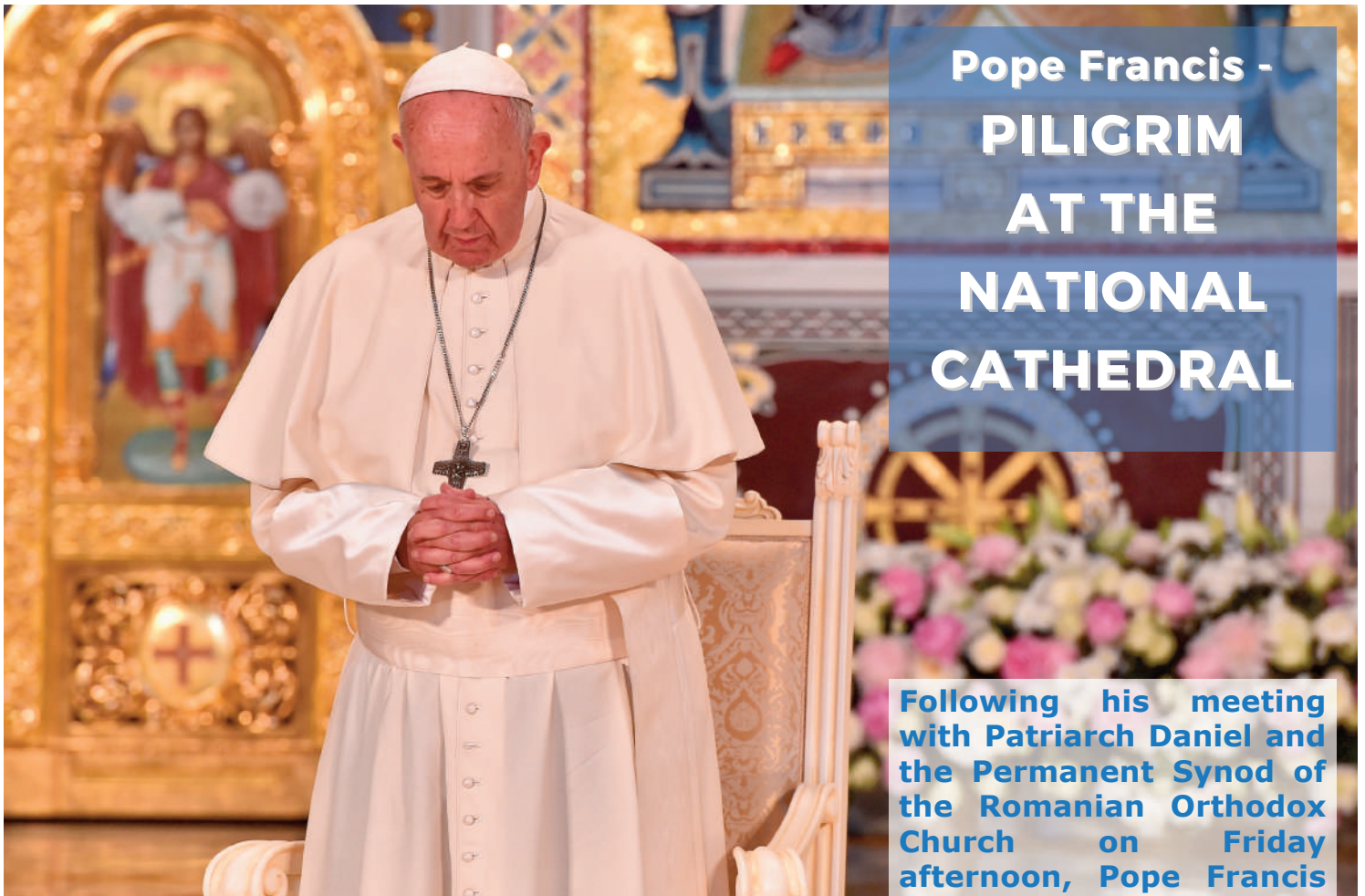
"For this reason, we accepted the proposal of the Catholic side to offer Your Holiness and the Catholic Christians present here in this Cathedral the opportunity to say the prayer Our Father in the Latin language and to sing several Catholic paschal songs."

"This attitude is a sign of gratitude for the liturgical spaces offered by Catholic communities to Romanian Orthodox parishes in Western Europe."



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This financial help was symbolically integrated by the Romanian Patriarchate as part of the total cost of 500,000 euros for purchasing the bells of the National Cathedral.



Pope Francis - PILGRIM AT THE NATIONAL CATHEDRAL

Following his meeting with Patriarch Daniel and the Permanent Synod of the Romanian Orthodox Church on Friday afternoon, Pope Francis drove to the National Cathedral in Bucharest where he was welcomed by thousands.

© Lumina Newspaper / Mihnea Păduraru

His Beatitude Patriarch Daniel presented the pope with a mosaic icon depicting Saint Andrew the First-Called, who is considered the Patron Saint of Romania and of the National Cathedral. After reciting the Our Father in Latin and singing Catholic Easter songs, Patriarch Daniel led the congregation in praying the Lord's Prayer in Romanian.

While exiting the Cathedral, Pope Francis bade farewell from the crowd addressing them the paschal greeting Christ is risen in Romanian: Hristos a înviat! ➔



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BASILICA

We're turning 11.

The youngest member of the Basilica Media Centre was born on Monday, June 16, 2008, with the clear mission to fulfill 'the vocation of the Church to convey the good news of Christ's salvation to the world.'

At the beginning, we operated as a news aggregator website collecting information from all the dioceses of the Romanian Patriarchate, with minimal interventions on the text's form or content.

Later, Basilica.ro followed the trends of online journalism and focused on the quality and the aspect of the articles made public. There were three major website changes (2010, 2012, 2016).

In October 2015 we entered the social media. In 2016, together with the release of the current version of our website, we went through a rebranding process, gaining our own visual identity. At the same time, the original motto – 'The good news shared to all' – was synthesized in 'The Good to Know'. Currently, our editorial strategy aims to cover a wide range of topics relevant to the Romanian public and not only. Social actions of the dioceses, major religious events in the country and abroad, exhortations and messages of hierarchs are supplemented with other themes of public interest, cultural events, art, tourism, ecology and even sports.

The Basilica.ro team seeks to take into account both the life of the clergy and parishes, as well as the stances and initiatives of the Orthodox laity. The hierarchical sermons and theological conferences are interwoven in our news feed with good examples of priests in different communities, but also the opinions of public personalities, youth

activities etc. Following the motto 'The Good to Know', we have recently joined the concept of solution-oriented journalism, offering good practices in the Church or answers to various societal issues.

Orthodox mission in the Diaspora, the events in the sister Orthodox Churches, Pan-Orthodox or ecumenical meetings also represent topics to be duly taken into consideration by any informed Christian, who is present and active in the life of the Church. Approximately 10% of articles are available in English, thus allowing the Basilica News Agency to be followed and cited by the main Orthodox press agencies and not only Orthodox.

Our newer projects include the Basilica.ro Newsletter (in Romanian), the Good to Know online Magazine, "The Portrait of the Romanian Village" Photo Exhibition. From the forthcoming projects, we can reveal the fact that we want to develop new exhibitions and other activities involving photography, as well as a series of video interviews.

The entire activity of the Basilica News Agency is carried out by a team of young journalists: four editors, two photographers and a coordinator.

The Basilica News Agency operates with the blessing of His Beatitude Patriarch Daniel and is financially supported by the Patriarchal Administration, the Printing House of the Romanian Patriarchate, the Basilica Travel Agency and various donations. All services provided by the Basilica News Agency of the Romanian Patriarchate may be used by individuals or institutions free of charge for non-commercial purposes, with the explicit indication of the source.

A missionary work to transmit the love of the Most Holy Trinity to the world

The Patriarch of Romania on Whit Monday pointed out the important missionary activity of the Basilica Media Centre during a meeting with the Patriarchate's journalists held at the Patriarchal Palace.

During the meeting at Europa Christiana Hall, Patriarch Daniel noted that 'it was a blessed choice' to name the radio and TV stations

after the Holy Trinity – Trinitas.

'We always have in the Holy Trinity the source and the model of perfect love,' the patriarch noted.

'Man fulfils his purpose when living in the image of the Holy Trinity, because he was created in the image of the Holy Trinity and was called to the likeness of the Holy Trinity.'

'We congratulate you for this holy, missionary work to transmit the love of the Most Holy Trinity to the world and to illumine people to find the purpose of their lives'



Northern Europe Bishop Macarie congratulates Basilica News Agency: We must communicate truth and good

His Grace Bishop Macarie of Northern Europe conveyed a message of congratulation to the Basilica News Agency on its 11th anniversary, noting the 'the difficult, but necessary and blessed task' carried out by Basilica.ro.

He said that the Romanian Patriarchate's News Agency has the task 'to create an alternative environment in contemporary media,' which 'seems to be increasingly reduced to the function of amplifier of passions, lies, evil and misinterpretation'.



'I appreciate and congratulate the Basilica News Agency on its 11th anniversary, because it is part of a conscious effort to mark this difference, to create an alternative environment in contemporary media. It is a difficult, but necessary and blessed task.

I pray to the Compassionate Lord to bless the staff of the Basilica News Agency and to increase their good work!' ⇨

AUSTRIA

An increasing number of students attend Orthodox Religious Education

In Austria, an increasing number of students are attending Orthodox Religion in school, katholisch.de reports. In the school year 2018/19, there were around 13,600 students at almost 1,000 locations. A year before (2017/18), there were 12,682 students at 912 locations.



USA

Romanian Metropolitan lays foundation stone for new church dedicated to St John Jacob



© mitropolia.us

His Eminence Metropolitan Nicolae Condrea laid the foundation stone for a new church dedicated to one of the most beloved Romanian Saints, Venerable John Jacob (the New Chosebite) of Neamt, on June 17, 2019. The foundation stone laying ceremony was led by His Eminence Metropolitan Nicolae of America on Whit Monday. ➔

© Basilica.ro

Photos depicting the Portrait of the Romanian Village go on display in the US

June 16, 2019 | Several photos of people living in Romania's villages have gone on display for the first time at the Holy Trinity Romanian Orthodox Parish in Troy, Michigan.

The Basilica.ro exhibition was opened on Sunday, June 16, 2019 with the help of the Romanian Orthodox Metropolis of the Americas on the patronal feast of the Troy parish. Titled 'The Portrait of the Romanian Village', the exhibition was presented during an artistic show performed by the children from the Sunday School.

Together with the portraits of Romanian peasants, other folk art objects were displayed to remind Romanians of their roots. In the context of the Solemn Year of the Romanian Village in the Romanian Patriarchate, the Basilica News Agency opened its first photography exhibition under the name of 'The Portrait of the Romanian Village' during a ceremony held at the Palace of the Patriarchate on February 27, 2019 in the presence of His Beatitude Patriarch Daniel. ➔



© mitropolia.us



Metropolitan Nicolae Condrea: UPROOTED FROM NATIVE LAND, ROMANIANS IN AMERICA ARE LOOKING FOR SPIRITUAL ROOTS IN CHRIST'S CHURCH

'Uprooted from their native land, Romanians in America are looking for spiritual roots in the Church of Christ,' the Romanian Orthodox Metropolitan of the Americas, Nicolae Condrea, said in an exclusive interview with Basilica.ro.



© Basilica.ro / Raluca Ene

His Eminence Metropolitan Nicolae Condrea, who has been close to Orthodox Romanians in America for over 17 years, spoke in the Basilica.ro interview about how the mission in the diaspora differs from the ecclesial reality in Romania.

He stressed that building the Church in the soul is a priority, especially because 'being a Christian in today's America, living your Orthodox Christian faith is a challenge that we must understand, assume and struggle to overcome.'

Metropolitan Nicolae expressed his hope that this year's events evoking the Romanian village will be 'an occasion for a return to origins, to remember village traditions and customs, which are rooted in the spirituality of the Romanian people.' The fundamental difference between our mission in the diaspora and the one at home is that it refers to this search for the lost Romanian Orthodox far from the Church and the nation. We were called by God to seek them, therefore we have to learn what pastoral means are needed to accomplish this mission. ➔



Not many are those who confess that they did not go to church in Romania or went only seldom, who therefore did not have a religious life, but who, once they arrived in America, seek a spiritual balance for themselves and their family.

This balance can only be found in the Church.

Three Year Anniversary of the Holy and Great Council of the Orthodox Church

Three years ago, primates and hierarchs of ten local Orthodox Churches gathered on the island of Crete for the Holy and Great Council of the Orthodox Church, a long-awaited meeting of Orthodox bishops.

The Council took place from June 16 to June 26, 2016, at the Orthodox Academy of Crete under the chairmanship of His Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew.



© Basilica.ro

The hierarchs of the Romanian Orthodox Church participated in the works of the Council under the guidance of His Beatitude Patriarch Daniel.

The Holy and Great Council of Crete did not formulate new dogmas or canons, nor

did it bring about changes in the liturgical life. The hierarchs who participated in the Council addressed some of the topical issues and sought solutions to the problems that the contemporary man faces. ➡

Patriarch of Romania consecrates St Spyridon Metropolitan Cathedral in Bucharest

His Beatitude Patriarch Daniel of Romania on Whit Monday, June 17, consecrated St Spyridon's Metropolitan Cathedral in Bucharest following extensive restoration works. Following the consecration service, the Patriarch offered distinctions to those who supported the restoration works.

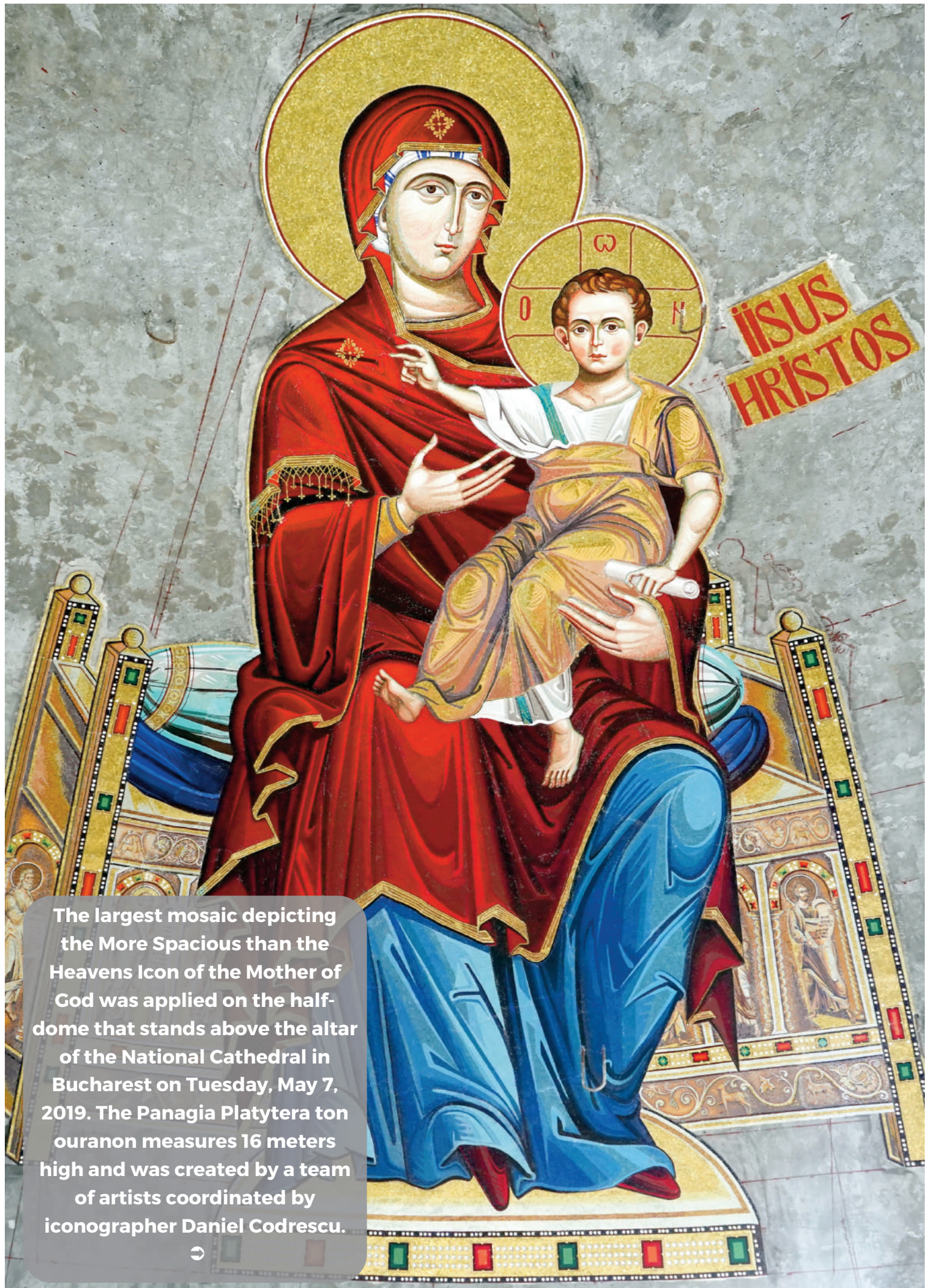


© Basilica.ro / Mircea Florescu

The consecration and the festal Divine Liturgy were attended by the personnel of the Patriarchate's Basilica Media Centre, since the feast of the Holy Trinity is considered a patronal feast of the media centre. St Spyridon 'the New' Church functions as Cathedral for

the Metropolis of Muntenia and Dobrudja and as a patriarchal chapel.

Built between 1852-1858 and first consecrated in 1860, the Church has maintained its original architecture for 149 years. A particle of the relics of St Spyridon is enshrined in the church. ➡



The largest mosaic depicting the More Spacious than the Heavens Icon of the Mother of God was applied on the half-dome that stands above the altar of the National Cathedral in Bucharest on Tuesday, May 7, 2019. The Panagia Platytera ton ouranon measures 16 meters high and was created by a team of artists coordinated by iconographer Daniel Codrescu.



A priest's heartfelt message of support to parents who are reluctant to take their children to church goes viral

When Adelaide-based Greek Orthodox priest, Father Michael Psaromatis, posted a heartfelt message to his parishioners last Friday letting them know that he is fully supportive and perfectly aware of their struggles and efforts to bring their children to church, he never anticipated that within minutes parishioners from all over Australia would take to social media to express their gratitude towards his thoughtful gesture.

"I am aware when you become red-faced, breaking out into sweats when your children start fidgeting and fussing inside the church, and I want you to know, that I have so much respect and admiration on how much



© Fr. Michael Psaromatis/Facebook

you try to keep them quiet and calm during the church service," wrote father Michael, aged 34, and one of the youngest, most forward-thinking priests in Adelaide.

"I admire how you prepared you are when you come in, how hard you try and chase them down the aisle to nullify their noise and movements and I want you to know that I also feel your pain when I see those heads that turn in your direction and the eyes that roll, indicating a shameful dismay at the fact that you cannot keep your children under control and quiet when all you are doing is trying to participate in the Liturgy and hear the sermon." ↻

"Please ignore people's eyes rolling and heads turning when your children are 'playing up' inside the house of God. I want you to know that they are always welcome."

'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.

Don't forget to communicate the Good to Know to others!



**Communicating
The Good to
Know**