

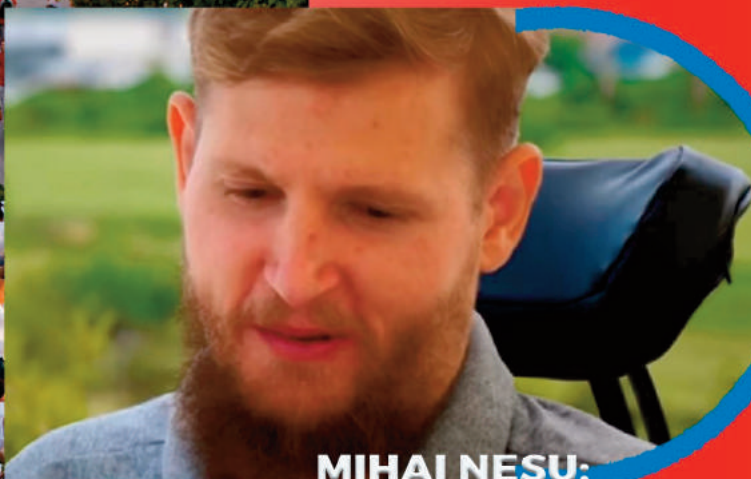
The Good to Know

YEAR III • NO. 7 / 2019



**FR. MARIUS
BĂRĂSCU**

1,400 YOUNG PEOPLE MEET IN IAȘI



**MIHAI NEȘU:
ORTHODOXY IS
THE PERFECT MAP**



SIMONA HALEP: THE MOTHER OF GOD IS ALWAYS ON MY MIND

Fr. Marius Gabriel Bărăscu

Fr. Marius Gabriel Bărăscu of Parava, Bacău County, died in a tragic car accident on August 7, the day before his 35th birthday, leaving behind his wife Petronela, and four children: Anastasia, 9, Irina, 7, Sofiana, 4, and Nicolae, 18 months. The Archdiocese of Bucharest decided, at the initiative of His Beatitude Patriarch Daniel, to provide financial support to Fr. Marius' grieving family. The Archdiocese is providing \$1,184 (5,000 lei) to Fr. Marius' wife and children. "It's not a one-off case. The Archdiocese of Bucharest constantly provides financial support for clerics and families who need help," said Fr. Ionuț Iodăchescu – Archdiocese of Bucharest. The priest was buried in Parava by His Eminence Archbishop Joachim of Roman and Bacău. ➔



The Orthodox Archdiocese of Roman and Bacău has initiated the process of purchasing a home in Bacău for the wife and four young children of the newly-reposed priest Fr. Marius Gabriel Bărăscu.

In addition to purchasing the home, utilities and other expenses "necessary for the good development of their family life" will also be covered by the Sascut Deanery of the Archdiocese.

The parish of the Dormition of the Theotokos (Lazaret) in Bacău will continually provide food, clothing, and supplies, and the Hârja Association of St. Stephen the Great will provide a monthly stipend to cover the costs of a nanny once Petronela goes to work.





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Rwandan young man baptized by Met. Teofan on top of Ceahlău Mountain

The young Rwandan Catechumen Teophile Niyigena was christened by His Eminence Metropolitan Teofan of Moldavia and Bukovina at the Transfiguration of the Lord Monastery on top of the Ceahlău Mountain.

The Sacrament of Baptism took place on the monastery's patronal feast, August 6, 2019.

Teophile's godfather is lawyer Andrei Vladareanu, who is known for his efforts to support Orthodox mission in Africa.

Vladareanu met Teophile during a pilgrimage to Georgia earlier this year. ➔

Romania's population keeps shrinking mainly due to declining birth rates

Romania's population declined by 5,365 people in June this year due to demographic factors, especially because of declining birth rates, according to data from the National Statistics Institute (INS). By comparison, the population dropped by 2,636 people in the same month of 2018. A total of 14,506 babies were born in Romania in June 2019, 1,486 fewer than in May and also 2,154 fewer compared to the same month of 2018, News.ro reported. Meanwhile, in the same month, 19,871 deaths were registered in Romania, 1,632 fewer than in May and 575 more than in June 2018. ➔



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Metropolitan of Cluj, message on the feast of Saint Moses:

"We urge the parish communities in the Archdiocese to have the proper attention towards the Roma communities who are poorer, more distressed, more tried, and always to help them".

Orthodox monasteries featured on new Romanian passport

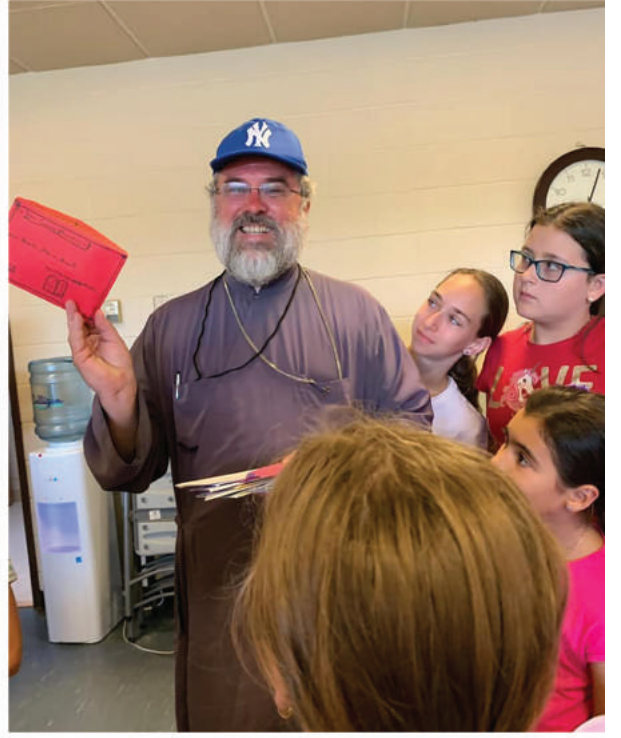


Quote of the month

"Maybe there are some who want to drown us, coming around us with all kind of "boats", behaving like "pirates" who want to tear us from the Ship, which is the Church. Christ always sends us this message: Take courage and don't be afraid!

- Bp. Ignatie of Husi ➔





Summer

on **Basilica.ro**

The week





amps

in the project
in pictures



← The Week in Pictures

For more than a year, the *Basilica.ro* photographers have been refreshing your newsfeed at the beginning of each week with a selection of pictures from all over the Orthodox world.

The project began in July 2018 and aimed to present the most interesting photographs in the Orthodox world covering a variety of topics, from church holidays to social, cultural events and spiritual life.

Following the example of the most relevant news agencies, *Basilica.ro* offers you "The Week in Pictures", including quality photos taken at recent events throughout the world to highlight the beauty and the significance of Orthodoxy today.

The Week in Pictures started as an Instagram story project, and then it took over our website and all the other social networks where the Basilica News Agency is present.

With the passing of the twelve months of the news in pictures, the interest of our followers for this type of articles has increased.

According to Google Analytics, our readers enjoyed the most the April 30 - May 5, 2019 article.

Our Instagram followers seem to have loved our selection of pictures from August 5-11, 2019.

The Week in Pictures is available in Romanian and English on our website.

Follow us on Instagram : @basilica.ro



Romanian Patriarch Daniel celebrates 68th birthday

His Beatitude Daniel, Patriarch of Romania, celebrated on Monday, 22 July 2019, his 68th birthday.

The official celebration of Patriarch Daniel or the Patriarch of the National Cathedral as many could call him maybe superficially is on 30 September. However, there are many other "cathedrals" built under the Patriarch's guidance, even though they are not publicized to the same extent.

It is obvious that the construction of the Romanian People's Salvation Cathedral, the national ideal His Beatitude received from his predecessors, is a landmark among Patriarch Daniel's achievements.

The new Orthodox Cathedral is actually the crown of tens of other major projects including the canonization of 33 Romanian Saints, the establishment of four dioceses for Romanians abroad, investing over 200 million euros in social and philanthropic activities, the establishment of the Basilica Media Centre and many more.



Simona Halep: 'The Mother of God is always on my mind'

After receiving the highest distinction of the Romanian Orthodox Church, Wimbledon 2019 Champion Simona Halep spoke about her devotion to the Mother of God in an exclusive interview with Basilica.ro. The tennis player confessed that her love for God and the Theotokos was inspired

by her family. 'I have never refrained from professing my faith in public,' said the winner of the 2019 Wimbledon tournament, who always thanks God for her achievements and makes the sign of the holy cross on the tennis court.

Basilica.ro: What Saint is dearer to you and you call in prayer more often when you need help?

Simona Halep: The Mother of God is always on my mind!

Basilica.ro: In the writings of the Holy Fathers, sports terms are used to describe spiritual feats or struggles, especially because discipline and perseverance are necessary in both areas. How much did they weigh in achieving your sports performance?

Simona Halep: Discipline is the most important aspect of performance. Perseverance is necessary to be able to go forward after each failure.

Basilica.ro: You are very attached to your family. You have dedicated the Wimbledon trophy to your mother. How much do you think that a healthy relationship with one's parents helps in the formation of a young person?

Simona Halep: To be able to accomplish great things in this life, you need the full support of your parents. Without them I think you do not have the necessary inner strength.

Basilica.ro: In order to take care of the physical health, not just of the spiritual health, the Church proposes various sports competitions for children in parishes and dioceses. What do you think of these Church initiatives?

Simona Halep: A special initiative. Sport is good for health and for mental relaxation. We all need positive energy and sport really helps!

The Church appreciated the achievements of Simona Halep in professional tennis and recognized her merit of publicly confessing the faith by awarding her the "Patriarchal Cross" for the laypersons.

Patriarch Daniel said that Simona Halep is for many young people a symbol of diligence, perseverance and hope.

"I am very faithful," she confessed during the award ceremony at the patriarchal residence on Thursday, July 18.

"I believe in God very much. I know that without God I could not have come here," Simona Halep said.





Greek Orthodox Archbishop Makarios leads anti-abortion rally in Sydney

20 August 2019 | Greek Orthodox Archbishop Makarios addressed a 10,000-strong crowd that braved the Sydney winds on Tuesday at the 'Stand For Life' protest at Martin Place in opposition to the proposed bill to decriminalise abortion, currently before New South Wales Parliament. Earlier in the day, a pro-choice rally had taken place. Organised in part by a number of Christian lobby organisations, Archbishop Makarios spoke to a charged yet peaceful crowd alongside a number of leaders from various Christian denominations, as well as state and federal politicians. ➔

Greek Synod proposes Elder Gervasios of Patras to the Ecumenical Patriarchate for canonization

27 August 2019 | The Orthodox Church could soon know the joy of a new saint among the hosts of millions who have already been revealed as holy God-pleasers. Meeting in Athens on Tuesday, the Holy Synod of the Greek Orthodox Church announced that it would submit a packet of documents proposing the canonization of Elder Gervasios (Paraskevopoulos) of Patras. ➔



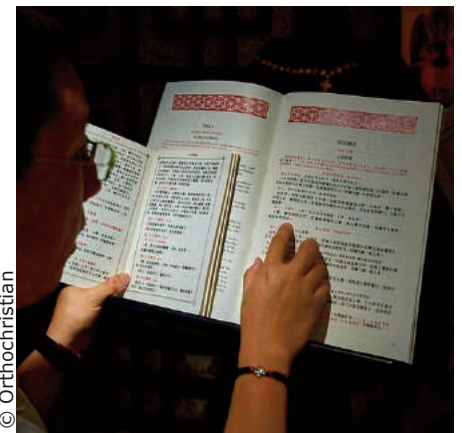
21st anniversary of autocephaly of Czech and Slovak Orthodox Church

The Orthodox Church of the Czech Lands and Slovakia celebrated on Tuesday, 27 August 2019, its 21st anniversary since the bestowing of autocephaly.

The history of this Church dates back to the 9th century legacy of Sts Cyril and Methodius, the enlighteners of the Slavs.

[Full story ➔](#)

**SUNDAY OCTOECHOS
PUBLISHED IN
CHINESE LANGUAGE**



A new liturgical book has been published in the Chinese language for the enrichment of the daily prayer and liturgical life of the Orthodox faithful in China.

The latest text from the China Orthodox Press is a Chinese-language publication of the Sunday Octoechos.

[Full story ➔](#)

Your support is needed for a future Romanian Monastery in the heart of Ireland

©Metropolis of Southern and Western Europe



The Romanian Orthodox Metropolis of Southern and Western Europe is kindly requesting your support for the purchase of a future Romanian monastery in the heart of Ireland: The property is located in the very heart of Ireland, in Shannonbridge

[Full story ➔](#)

Ship owner, philanthropist Martinos selected as new civil governor of Mt. Athos

A fost ales noul guvernator civil al Comunității monastice semi-autonome din Muntele Athos în persoana unui cunoscut proprietar de vase maritime și mare filantrop: Athanasios Martinos. Alegerea lui a fost apreciată de Patriarhul Ecumenic, dar și de Patriarhii de Alexandria și Ierusalim și de Arhiepiscopul Greciei.

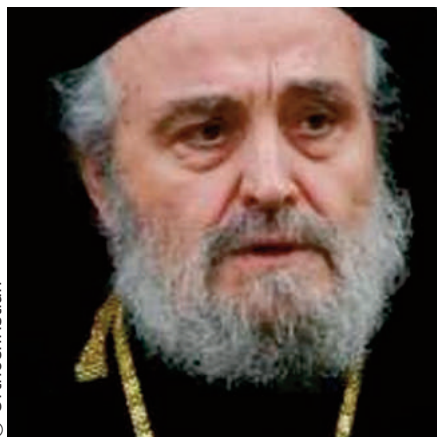
[Integral pe site ➔](#)

941 canonical Orthodox bishops in the world

There are 941 canonical Orthodox bishops in the world, The Society for Orthodox Christian History in the Americas reports. Today there is an Orthodox bishop for every 236,000 Christians. That's a big change from the time of Nicaea, when the ratio was somewhere between 5,000 and 20,000 to one.

[Full story ➔](#)

Former Orthodox Patriarch of Jerusalem rehabilitated by Synod



©Orthochristian

The Holy Synod of the Patriarchate of Jerusalem, Chaired by Patriarch Theophilos, at its Meeting of July 12/25, 2019, lifted the degradation of Monk Eirinaios and restored Him to the Episcopal Office, which he formerly held, and to the degree of the Former Patriarch of Jerusalem, attributing thus the full owed respect to His Office.

[Full story ➔](#)

Saint Antipas's soul icon to be officially celebrated every year in Finland



©Valaam Monastery

The feast of the Tenderness or Sweet-Kissing icon of the Mother of God at Valaam Monastery will be celebrated every year in Finland on January 11, one day after the feast of Saint Antipas of Calapodesti, who brought the icon to the monastery in 1865. St Antipas found this icon in a decommissioned cell in Mount Athos, where he lived for over 19 years.

➔

SUCEAVA Street to be named after 90-year-old Archbishop Pimen

Suceava Mayor Ion Lungu announced the naming of a city street to honour the eldest Romanian Orthodox hierarch, Archbishop Pimen. Called 'a devoted and diligent hierarch' by Patriarch Daniel, His Eminence Archbishop Pimen of Suceava and Radauti celebrated on 25 August 2019 his 90th birthday.

[Full story ➔](#)



IAȘI: 1.400 YOUNG PEOPLE IN THE CITY



1,400 young people arrived in Iași on Friday, August 23, 2019, to take part in the Moldavia local Meeting of Orthodox Youth with the theme 'Young man in the city.'

The young participants were welcomed at the metropolitan cathedral by Metropolitans Teofan of Moldavia and Bukovina and Serafim of Germany, Central and Northern Europe.

The theme - The young man in the city - was based on the Adrian Papahagi's book (Christian in the city).

Professor Adrian Papahagi spoke to the young people during a conference at Palas Garden, having as co-speaker Fr. Visarion Alexa.

The two speakers urged the youth to love and rejoice. Fr Alexa and Prof. Papahagi told them to assume Christian life in the city, in society, in the world they live in.

The program included smart talks inspired by TEDx conferences, and a concert of old Romanian music presented by the Anton Pann Ensemble.

At the end of the meeting, the Metropolitan of Moldavia and Bukovina noted that young Christians in the city are like a clean blood that feeds the inner body that has too many impurities, or like unpolluted oxygen.

You testify that it is possible! You can be young and Christian at the same time. You can also go to church and be full of joy. You can be a servant of God and at the same time, totally free. A freedom that others do not have.

- Metropolitan Teofan



Full story [➔](#)

MIHAI NEȘU: ORTHODOXY IS THE PERFECT MAP



© Huff

The former Romanian football player Mihai Neșu held a teleconference call about success from a Christian perspective with the over 1,400 young people who gathered in Iași at the end of August for a local Youth Meeting.

The former FC Utrecht defender stressed that Orthodoxy is 'the perfect map to succeed in life,' adding that youth can find the key to success in the church doctrine, the teachings of the Holy Fathers and of the spiritual directors. During the call, Nesu was asked what called him to Orthodoxy. 'The restlessness of my soul.' 'I thought there had to be something more than the things I had when I was playing football: money, cars, etc. (...) After losing them all, I thought it had to be something more.' Nesu recalled that he went to various monasteries and talked with people of various religions and confessions and concluded that Orthodoxy is the only faith that has remained unchanged for 2000 years. 'It is the perfect map to succeed in life.'

"I am happier than before the accident

Mihai Nesu recalled the challenges that followed after his car accident and explained how all proved to be a blessing to him.

'I couldn't do anything about my suffering,' the former footballer confessed modestly, referring to his accident in May 2011.

"But God, over time, after about 3-4 years like this, changed my nature and the things around me a little. I started to meet people, to make more friends that are useful to me every day and who now form the team of the Mihai Neșu Foundation, which does extraordinary things for children with disabilities."

"From my suffering God has done something very good, but without much participation from me. My only wish was to find what was useful to my soul. I allowed God to work as He knows best, and here He managed to turn this suffering into a wonderful thing."

"My life has transformed from something that could mean what some people say, tragedy or curse, into a blessed life. I can say that I am happier now than before the accident."

"Let us all meet in heaven!

The young people cheered the former sportsman and burst into applause at the end of the teleconference, chanting his name as they would have done in a football stadium. Visibly moved, Mihai Nesu told the ITOM participants that he is glad to see so many young people 'on the good path, close to the Church.'

'May we all go there where God wants us to be, to holiness, and may we meet each other in heaven,' Mihai Nesu said.



Full story ➔



Fanouropita - Greek cake for lost items



Fanouropita is a Greek fasting-appropriate cake brought as an offering to Saint Phanourios for helping people find lost things and not only. St Phanourios is also interceded for finding one's way in life, for finding a spouse, for receiving inner peace or other things. Numerous stories abound about how the saint became associated with finding lost items. In fact, his name comes from the Greek word "fanerono" or, to reveal— so there's a clue, perhaps. According to the tradition, Phanourios lived in Roman times and refused to give up his Christian faith. He was persecuted for his beliefs and ultimately forced to face 12 separate tortures by the Romans— persevering until his death.

Why do we bake the fanouropita?

The explanation comes from the life of the Saint. When he was martyred, being wrongly accused of wanting to take the place of the emperor, he was allowed to make his last prayer.

Saint Phanourios prayed that any person who will make 'a cake with oil and sugar or a pie and give it to the poor, may be listened to in any sorrow they would have.' The saint also prayed that this sacrifice be for the forgiveness of the sins of his mother, who had died a pagan.

The Saint's mother is said to have been a tough, and hard woman especially towards the poor, and behaved inhumanly and the Archangel Michael, along with Saint Phanourios, tried to help her change but couldn't. God answered the saint's prayers and entrusted him that whoever would call upon his name for help, would receive God's help. ➔



'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**