



ROMANIAN ORTHODOX ARCHDIOCESE IN THE AMERICAS
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The Faith

ELECTRONIC BULLETIN
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MESSAGE FROM THE AUXILIARY BISHOP

Thoughts on the Christian Ethics

C.S. Lewis (1898 -1963) says in one of his books: "If we are to think about morality, we must think of all three departments: relations between man and man, things inside each man, and relations between man and the power that made him." (*Mere Christianity*, ch."The Three Parts of Morality," in *The Complete C. S. Lewis. Signature Classics*, Harper Collins, 2002, p. 47). Thinking about our Orthodox Christian spirituality, we can say with certainty that all the three aspects mentioned by the author derive their inspiration, consistency and vitality from the service of Baptism. First, the Christian model of relations between people is not random but the very perfect love of the Divine Persons within the Holy Trinity. Our harmony and fairness originates from the harmony of the divine perfection and is a reflection of it. We are baptized in the name of the Holy Trinity, so that as God is one in substance/being and three in Persons, likewise, we humans, being planted in the same baptismal faith, could be born again, in the light of Christ, fully equal, as sons of God. We recite the same creed and unite ourselves with the same Christ; we worship the same Holy Trinity - Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Secondly, through baptism, man's inside -the true and mysterious church -is entirely restored: in the service of baptism, the catechumen is "anointed with the oil of gladness [...], for healing of soul and body, to the hearing of faith, that he may walk in the way of Thy commandments." Then, the newly baptized is clothed "with the garment of righteousness," and the baptismal "robe of light,"

receiving through the seal of the gift of the Holy Spirit "divine sanctification, through life-giving Chrismation." Thus, the harmony and the unity of the senses and of the spiritual and bodily powers are restored, and healing is about to be achieved. Thirdly, the newly baptized person's whole life is re-founded, not randomly, but in the perspective of eternal and divine life. In the Apostle Reading we hear: "*Reckon yourselves to be dead indeed to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus our Lord.*" The Gospel says, "*Go ye therefore and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit; Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.*" The meaning of the Christian life is not due to chance and vague but is clearly related to the man's vocation as being "bearer of God and His message." Through Baptism, we are rebuilt on the foundation and in the light of faith in the Triune God. Thus, we are offered the opportunity to participate in the divine life, while still being here. Therefore, knowing that 2011 is dedicated to the Sacrament of Baptism, let us deepen this reflection on our Christian life in all three aspects - the relations to our neighbor, our inner life, and the relations with our Creator - so that, indeed, the faith in which we have been grafted can be fully reflected in each of them.

+ IOAN CASIAN

Auxiliary Bishop of the Romanian
Orthodox Archdiocese in the Americas



His Grace Ioan Casian,
Auxiliary Bishop



NEWS FROM THE ROMANIAN PATRIARCHATE



*The Patriarch Teoctist Aula Magna
of the Patriarchal Palace in Bucharest*

Rediscovering the Holy Sacraments of Baptism and Matrimony

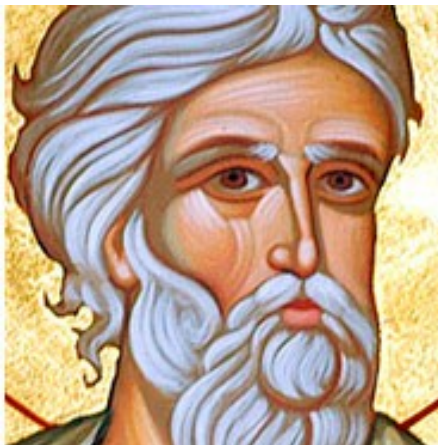
The priests of the Archdiocese of Bucharest attended on June 8, 2011 the spring semestral pastoral-missionary conference with the theme "2011 - Homage Year of the Holy Baptism and of the Holy Matrimony in the Romanian Patriarchate," which took place in the *Patriarch Teoctist Aula Magna* of the Patriarchal Palace under the chairmanship of His Beatitude Patriarch Daniel - Basilica Press Agency reports. In his introductory remarks, entitled "The Baptism and Matrimony - Sources of the Blessed Life," Patriarch Daniel underlined that "because today we live in a world that is confronted with the phenomenon of secularism, pluralism and religious syncretism, it is crucial for us to know more and better what it means to be baptized, that is to be Christian, to bear the name of Christ." Three keynote speakers presented then their lectures. The first one who took the floor was Rev. Fr. Vasile Crețu, lecturer at the "Patriarch Justinian" Faculty of Orthodox Theology in Bucharest. He discussed the theme of theological and existential meaning of the sacrament of Holy Baptism. The speaker emphasized that today many Christian communities are undergoing a spiritual blockage. This requires us to discover and retrieve the deep theological and existential meaning of certain ges-

tures and ritual formulas. Recovering the priceless liturgical and cultural values of our Orthodox faith will prevent us from losing our identity and wandering "in the wilderness of ignorance and religious indifference." It is through understanding the meanings of the truths of faith that we can discern better the deep meanings of the acts of worship, through which the Christian is made worthy to partake of the uncreated grace of God, which is essential for the salvation of every believer," said Fr. Crețu. In his essay about the Sacrament of Matrimony, Father Marian Dobre, from the Parish of Moara Săracă, explained the place of the Sacrament of Matrimony among the other seven Sacraments of the Orthodox Church. "If through the sacraments of Baptism, Chrism, Eucharist and Penance, man is brought into direct relationship with Christ and only indirectly into a serving relationship with others, through the Sacrament of Marriage man is placed mainly in a close relationship with one of his neighbors," said Fr. Dobre. The last lecture was presented by Father Silviu Tudose, assistant professor at the Faculty of Theology in Bucharest. In his presentation, he showed some unorthodox practices and liturgical deviations concerning baptism and marriage.

Source: www.basilica.ro



Patriarchal demand that the feast of St. Andrew become a national holiday



His Beatitude Patriarch Daniel of Romania has sent a letter to the Standing Bureau of the Chamber of Deputies, requesting the Parliament to declare the feast of St. Apostle Andrew, on November 30, a public national holiday, Basilica Press Agency reports. The demarche of the Romanian Patriarchate expresses the wish of the Romanian Orthodox clergy and faithful, that

is reflected in numerous letters to the Holy Synod. Patriarch Daniel considers that the promotion of legislative initiatives in this regard would underline the importance of the First-Called Apostle has in the spiritual life of the Romanian people. November 30 has already been a church holiday in Romania, since 2001.

Source: www.basilica.ro

Book on the Ecumenical Patriarchate in Turkish

The «İletişim» Publishing House has recently released the volume "The Ecumenical Patriarchate. Historical, Political, Religious and Juridical Aspects," in Turkish language. The book appears in the context of Turkey's efforts to join the European Union and aims to provide the readers with accurate information about the history of this religious institution and its relations with the Turkish state. It also aims to offer a better understanding of the highly controversial term "ecumenical,"

from the title of the Patriarchate and its Primate. The term has been deliberately distorted and avoided and thus led to an attitude of hostility towards the Patriarchate within modern Turkish society. At the official launch of the book, held on May 24, 2011, at the Patriarchal Palace in Phanar, His All-Sanctity Bartholomew expressed his hope that the volume would help eradicate this situation. Sources: www.ziarullumina.ro; www.ana-mpa.gr



*His All-Sanctity Patriarch Bartholomew
at the launching of the book*



Skulls of Third Century Christian Martyrs Discovered in Turkey

The skulls of eight Christian martyrs of the third century were recently discovered under the ruins of a church in Lagonisi, near the ancient Greek city of Halicarnassus (at the site of modern Bodrum in Turkey), reports www.tourkikanea.gr, taken by orthodoxbeacon.com, quoted by "Ziarul Lumina." Presenting clear signs of torture, the remains of these Christian martyrs between 40-45 years old, present some unusual features: the martyrs' bodies are missing and their skulls are pierced with nails. These are signs that they have died as a result of persecution. Professor Mustafa Shahin also said that the Christian missionar-

ies were martyred during a public execution. They were killed by nails through the head, and then cut off from their bodies, probably to be shown as an example to the world. "This is a practice of cruelty and horror that was applied during the Roman era at the expense of trying to spread Christianity," said Professor Shahin. The eight skulls have been transferred for research in the Department of Archaeology of Burdur involving anthropologists. Based on historical sources and inscriptions found in their graves, the experts are trying to identify who those third century martyrs are.

Sources: www.ziarullumina.ro
www.turkikanea.gr

WORLD ORTHODOXY



*One of the eight skulls discovered near
the ancient Greek city of Halicarnassus*



A "Semester of Faith" at the Hellenic College

This autumn, Hellenic College of Brookline, MA, is offering the students a "Semester of Faith". Those interested in a short term study here, will be able to pursue college-level courses (such as Introduction to Orthodoxy,

Byzantine Music, etc.) which will enable them to enrich their spiritual life and to taste the beauty of living in an Orthodox Christian community". Scholarships available. Information at tel. (866) 424-2338 or (617) 850-1285.

AMERICAN

ORTHODOXY





LIFE OF THE ARCHDIOCESE

Consecration of the church of St. Dimitrie the New Monastery in Middletown, NY



The church of St. Dimitrie the New Monastery in Middletown, NY



Aspects of the celebration



Over 600 faithful from the Orthodox parishes of the northeastern United States, but also from Romania and Canada, attended Sunday, June 5, 2011, the consecration service of the new church of the monastery under the patronage of St. Dimitrie Monastery in Middletown, NY. The day was also blessed by the presence of the holy relics of St. Nectarios, which were brought at the Monastery by a delegation led by His Grace Varsanufie Prahoveanul, Auxiliary Bishop of the Archdiocese of Bucharest. The celebration began Saturday evening with the services of Vespers and Matins performed by Bishop Varsanufie along with many priests. His Grace spoke about the life and miracles of St. Nectarios and offered to the brotherhood of the Monastery, on behalf of His Beatitude Patriarch Daniel, a beautiful icon of St. Nectarios. On Sunday morning many faithful from all around the USA and Canada were present for the consecration service and the Divine Liturgy, performed by HE Archbishop Nicolae, HG Bishop Varsanufie of Prahova, and HG Bishop Ioan Casian of Vicina, surrounded by an impressive assembly of priests and deacons. According to the Orthodox tradition, all of them, men and women, were aloud to enter the holy altar and kiss the Holy Gospel and the newly consecrated holy table. They were also able to venerate the holy relics of St. Nectarios. At the end of the Liturgy, HE Archbishop Nicolae spoke about the meaning of this moment and explained the ritual of the consecration of the church. After the Divine Liturgy, *Gramatas* (official documents of recognition) of founders, benefactors and donors were offered to those who donated for the building of the church. At the end, His Eminence Nicolae thanked all the guests and organizers of the event. The celebration marked the fulfillment of the founders' dream, Dumitru Minciu, the donor of the land, and Archiman-

drite Vasile Vasilachi who had the idea to found a Romanian Orthodox monastery on the property, and willed an important amount of money for the building of the church. He was supported by Archbishop Victorin Ursache, the primate in that time, and by the parish council of St. Nicholas Church. After the death of Archbishop Victorin in 2001, His Eminence Nicolae Condrea, the new primate of the Romanian Orthodox Church of the Americas, took the initiative of his predecessor, supporting Father Vasile Vasilachi's efforts in this regard. In 2003, Father Vasile Vasilachi passed away, too. The task of continuing the project went to the new parish priest, Father Ioan Casian Tunaru, currently auxiliary bishop of the Archdiocese. He realized an architectural project and obtained the necessary construction permits. In the meantime, three monks came from Romania to establish a new monastic community under the patronage of St. Demetrius the New, protector of Bucharest. The construction works started in 2007 and went on with building and roofing the church in 2008. After obtaining the necessary funds, in 2010, the interior works were done. The year 2011 brought the completion of the last works, the construction of a paved access road and the landscaping. Through the efforts of the faithful and of the two monks of the monastery, Father abbot Vincentiu and Father Paisie, a place for Fr. Vasilachi's remainings was prepared. The chandeliers, as well as the new iconostasis (all brought from Romania) were installed for the consecration of the church. A wooden carved cross was placed in front of the church. Eight years after the death of Father Vasile Vasilachi, his dream came true. May God rest his soul in peace!

Source: www.romarch.org

Archdiocese Summer Camp 2011

The Romanian Orthodox Archdiocese in the Americas announces the eighth edition of the Orthodox camp for children. The camp will be held this year in Emlenton, Pennsylvania (110 All Saints Road, Emlenton, PA 16373) and will give the opportunity to 80 children of 7 years and up to participate. The summer camp will take place between August 20 and September 2, 2011. The "Sacraments of Holy Baptism and Holy Matrimony and the youth today" will be this year's theme. The program includes participation at morning and evening services, painting icons on glass, music and Romanian language

classes, reading and opened discussions, sport activities like swimming, volleyball, soccer, hiking and more. There will be two weeks in two age categories: August 20 and 26 - ages 14 to 18 years old, and August 27 and September 2 - ages 7 to 13 years old. Price: \$ 250.00/ children for a week. This includes accommodation, meals and participation in all provided programs. The deadline for registration is July 21, 2010. More information about the camp and the proposed projects will follow. For details please contact: Fr. Daniel Adrian Ene 1 (585) 705-9288.



The Orthodox youth camp in Emlenton, Pennsylvania



Holy Trinity Romanian Parish in Troy, MI celebrated 30 years since church consecration

On Sunday June 12, 2011, the feast of the Descent of the Holy Ghost, the faithful of the Holy Trinity Romanian parish in Troy, MI celebrated the 30th anniversary of the Church consecration. At the Divine Liturgy were present three hierarchs: HE Archbishop Nicolae, HE Metropolitan Nicholas of the Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Detroit, and HG Auxiliary Bishop Irineu from the Romanian Orthodox Episcopate in America. The parish priest, Fr. Calin Barbolovici, and Hierodeacon Sebastian joined the hierarchs in serving the liturgy. After the Gospel reading, Metropolitan Nicholas spoke about the gifts of the Holy Spirit which bring unity in diversity, manifested at this service by the presence of the three hierarchs from different jurisdictions. At the end of the service, Archbishop

Nicolae spoke about the event of the Descent of the Holy Spirit on the Apostles. Every Christian is looking for the same event at each Divine Liturgy; everyone is called to become an Apostle, a witness of the Orthodox Faith to the world. Archbishop Nicolae also thanked everyone for attending this event. In his closing remarks, Father Calin remembered some of the most important moments in the parish history, and especially the event of the consecration of the new Church that took place on the 14th June 1981. All the founders, servants and benefactors were remembered. Through their work and generosity, the dream of the Romanian community of having a church on a nice and peaceful land was accomplished.

Sursa: www.romarch.org



Archbishop Nicolae, Fr. Barbolovici and the faithful of Holy Trinity Church



Archdiocesan Council Meeting



Holy Trinity Church in Troy, MI

The Archdiocesan Council will convene on Friday, July 15, 2011, at 9.00 am, in the church of Holy Trinity Parish in Troy, MI, under the chairmanship of Archbishop Nicolai. Agenda includes an analysis of the semestral reports of the

Archdiocese's missions or departments, such as the Publications and Education Department. The reports of the Diocesan Centre sectors and financial reports for the first six months of 2011 will be also presented, reviewed and approved.



First meeting of the elders and monks of our Archdiocese

The first meeting of abbots and monks of the Romanian Orthodox Archdiocese will take place on Saturday, July 9, 2011, at the Monastery of the Protection of the Mother of God of Wentworth, QC, with the blessing and the presence

of His Eminence Archbishop Nicolae Condrea. Administrative, economic and financial issues will be discussed. Some cultural, liturgical, spiritual and disciplinary aspects of the monastic life will be also debated.



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