



## **ROMANIAN ORTHODOX ARCHDIOCESE IN THE AMERICAS**

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# **THE FAITH ELECTRONIC BULLETIN**

**AUGUST 2010**

### **A. MESSAGE FROM THE HIERARCH**

- **Words at the Feast of the Dormition of the Mother of God**

The Feast of the Dormition of the Mother of God crowns the feasts dedicated to the Holy Virgin Mary, and this not only because it is the last one of the ecclesiastical year, but also because it reveals to us the fulfillment of the mission of our Lord's Mother. This matter is strongly suggested in the dismissal hymn of the feast:

*"In giving birth you preserved your virginity, in falling asleep you did not forsake the world, O Theotokos; you passed over into life, being the Mother of Life, and by your prayers you deliver our souls from death."*

Here we understand how the Virgin gave birth to the Giver of Life becoming thus the Mother of Life. We also understand how by the immaculate birth of the Savior of the world, St. Mary became the mother of all who believe in Him. In this manner, the Lord's Mother fell asleep but did not forsake the world, for in her capacity of Mother is with us and listens to our prayers and raises them toward the Throne of the King of the heavens. Like the Mother of God, every mother brings children into the world, not only for this world, but for also for the eternal Kingdom. Therefore our mothers have the holy mission to give us bodily life and spiritual life by bringing us to the holy Baptism. The Baptism is followed by Christian education so that every child may receive the faith and to grow in the care of the Church, the Mother of the children of God and the Bride of Christ.

The feast of the Dormition of the Mother of God reminds us of the value of this life, but also of the eternal life. In this life we work out our salvation, and our present deeds earn an eternal value for us and for our offspring. My encouragement at this glorious Feast is the address mothers: to be attentive to our children and to give them life, but also faith. Let us liken ourselves to the Lord's Mother in this offering of life and to raise our prayer for our children toward God. Such is the manner we fulfill our parental mission on earth and we shall rejoice together with all the mothers and the Mother of God at our passing from this life toward that the life fulfilled in the heavens.

**+NICOLAE,**

**Archbishop of the Romanian Orthodox Archdiocese in the Americas**

### **B. WORLD ORTHODOXY**

- **50 years from the passing into eternity of St. John Jacob (5 August 1960)**

Fifty years have passed since the passing into eternity of St. John Jacob (5 August 1960), the patron saint of the church and Theological Seminary of Neamt Monastery. On this occasion during the days of 4 & 5 August 2010 many participants will be present at the festal celebrations of St. John Jacob the Hozevite of Neamt, where His Eminence TEOFAN, the Metropolitan of Moldavia and Bucovina, will be surrounded by a sobor of hierarchs, priests, and deacons. At this occasion there will also be the dedication of the homage album in honor of St. John Jacob the Hozevite. At the activities there will be guests representing the Metropolitanate of Moldavia and Bucovina, the Archdiocese of Roman and Bacau, the Neamt County Council, the Neamt Cultural Department, and the Neamt County School District, as well as the Local Council. This process, as well as all other activities taking place at the Theological Seminary of the Neamt Monastery, is expected to be an opportunity to honor St. John Jacob for his holy life and for his remarkable contribution toward the development and pursuit of Orthodox spirituality, as a firm response to the provocation of the contemporary world.

- **Summer University of the Romanian Orthodox Metropolitanate of Western Europe**

With the blessing of His Eminence Metropolitan Joseph, the Center for Study and Prayer – Holy Cross in Dordogne, France will again be the host of the second edition of the Summer University of the Metropolitanate, a formation program for the clergy and faithful of the Deanery of France. The program, taking place in August 2010, will offer the participants more information about the present-day problems in the realm of bioethics, ecology, and the inter-Christian dialogue, and it will bring witness about how to live in society in relation to the Church. Of those who will offer lectures and contributions we mention Mr. Luc Barbulesco (professor and researcher), Mr. Adrian Lemeni (former state secretary minister for religions, and theology professor), Fr. Ion Sauca (the director of the Bossey Institute in Bossey, Switzerland), and numerous priests from across France. Mrs. Helene SEJOURNET, associate of the University will offer a daily workshop of singing and memorization of significant passages from the Gospel. Beginning this year, the program also organizes a kindergarten as part of offerings. Further information can be found at: [www.centresaintecroix.net](http://www.centresaintecroix.net), by email at: [univ.2010@mitropolia.eu](mailto:univ.2010@mitropolia.eu), or by telephone at: 0033(0)5.53.63.37.70

### C. AMERICAN ORTHODOXY

- **AFR: themed resources available**

Are you looking for theme-based resources? Ancient Faith Radio [AFR] is pleased to offer their "Collections" podcast line-up, bringing together on-demand audio from podcasts and specials both old and new around a particular theme. Among the many themes available are: *Abortion and the Sanctity of Life* -- A collection of seven podcasts and talks about the view of abortion in the Orthodox Tradition. *Sola Scriptura* - A collection of 40 podcasts on the role of the Bible and Tradition in the Orthodox understanding. *The Role of Mary in Orthodox Christianity* -- Forty-eight episodes explaining the Orthodox Christian view the Virgin Mary and how it differs from other Christian traditions? Ancient Faith Radio seeks to deepen and enrich the faith of Orthodox Christians around the world with streaming audio programming and on-demand podcasts. We

feature liturgical music from a variety of Orthodox traditions, as well as prayers, readings, lectures, and interviews. Ancient Faith Radio is a division of Conciliar Media Ministries operating under the auspices of the Antiochian Orthodox Archdiocese of North America. Its ministry is pan-Orthodox and serves all jurisdictions. For more information on Ancient Faith Radio, visit <http://ancientfaith.com>.

- **IOCC: "Kits for kids" campaign launched**

Looking for a great back-to-school service project that will provide kids around the world with supplies that they desperately need? International Orthodox Christian Charities (IOCC) is challenging its supporters to assemble 10,000 school kits by September 2010 as part of its "Kits for Kids" campaign. Parish youth leaders and Sunday School teachers can use "Kits for Kids" as a powerful way for children to learn how to serve others while providing supplies for some of the millions of children who lack items as basic as pencils and paper. Complete instructions for assembling an IOCC School Kit can be accessed at [www.iocc.org/schoolkits](http://www.iocc.org/schoolkits). "The kits are so valuable, especially from the simple perspective of the kids getting something new and clean and useful that they could call their own," said an Orthodox priest in Haiti who works at a school that is supported by IOCC and who recently received a shipment of school kits. IOCC, which has sent tens of thousands of school kits to children in need throughout Eastern Europe and the Middle East, through a partnership with Church World Service (CWS), is reporting very low supplies of school kits at the warehouse in Maryland where they are stored. Become part of the "Kits for Kids" campaign today! Help IOCC get 10,000 school kits to 10,000 children who need them desperately all over the world! Complete instructions are at [www.iocc.org/schoolkits](http://www.iocc.org/schoolkits). You can help people around the world by making a financial gift to IOCC. To make a gift, please visit [www.iocc.org](http://www.iocc.org), call toll free at 1-877-803-IOCC (4622), or mail a check or money order payable to IOCC, PO Box 630225, Baltimore, MD 21263-0225. IOCC, founded in 1992 as the official humanitarian aid agency of the Standing Conference of Canonical Orthodox Bishops in the Americas (SCOBA), has implemented over \$330 million in relief and development programs in 33 countries around the world.

- **Kursk Root Icon to visit St. Tikhon's Monastery for patron feast day August 13-14**

With the blessing of His Eminence, Metropolitan Hilarion, First Hierarch of the Russian Orthodox Church Outside of Russia, the 700-plus year old Kursk Root Icon of the Mother of God will visit Saint Tikhon of Zadonsk Monastery here on the evening of August 12 until after the celebration of the Divine Liturgy on August 13, the monastery's patron feast day. Metropolitan Jonah and Bishop Tikhon of Philadelphia and Eastern Pennsylvania will be present and concelebrate the Divine Liturgy. The Kursk-Root Icon of the Mother of God was discovered on September 8, 1259, by a hunter outside the town of Kursk, Russia. He found the icon lying face down by the root of a tree. Lifting it up, he discovered that the icon was similar to the Novgorod "Znamenie" Icon. Simultaneously, as the hunter lifted up the holy icon from the earth, a spring of pure water gushed forth. Deciding not to leave the icon in the forest, the hunter placed it in a small, ancient chapel. The

icon was transferred to the city of Ryl'a and placed in a new church erected in honor of the Nativity of the Most Holy Theotokos. But the icon soon disappeared and returned to the place in which it first appeared. The people of Ryl'a made several attempts to return the icon to their city, but it repeatedly returned to its former place. Everyone then realized that the Theotokos preferred the place of the icon's appearance. The special help granted by the Mother of God through this icon is associated with many important events in Russian history. Several copies of the icon were made, which also were glorified. Abbot Sergius and the monastic brotherhood invite the faithful to join them, to worship with them at the Vigil and Liturgy, and to be inspired and blessed by the truly miraculous presence of the Kursk Root Icon of the Mother of God.

#### **D. LIFE OF OUR ARCHDIOCESE**

- **Transfiguration of our Lord – Toronto, Ontario, Canada**

At the invitation of the His Eminence Sotirios, the Greek Metropolitan of Canada, His Grace John Cassian will participate together with other Orthodox hierarchs from across Canada, in the festal celebrations of the Transfiguration Church of Toronto. Friday, 6 August 2010 starting at 9 am the Hierarchical Divine Liturgy will be celebrated at Transfiguration Church located at 40 Donlands Ave, Toronto, Ontario. His Eminence Sotirios invites all Orthodox hierarchs of Canada every year to these festivities for an opportunity discuss issues related to our mission in Canada.

- **Summer Camp at Emlenton, PA – August 21 – September 4, 2010**

Our archdiocese announces the seventh edition of the orthodox camp for children. The camp will take place this year again in Emlenton, Pennsylvania (110 All Saints Road, Emlenton, PA 16373) between the dates of *Aug 21 and Sep 4, 2010*. The theme of this year's camp is *The Life of the Savior Jesus Christ "Commandment or Encouragement: Let the children come...(Matthew 19:14)"* The tuition cost is **\$400/camper** for the two weeks. The due date for registrations is August 2, 2010. For further details please contact Fr. Daniel Ene 585-705-9288 or Mrs. Florina Radu at 917-916-0612. For information and registration form download please visit the webpage:

<http://www.romarch.org/news.php?id=2198>

#### **E. LIFE OF OUR PARISHES**

- **DEANERY OF EASTERN USA**

- St. Dimitrie Monastery, Middletown, NY**

Sunday, 8 August 2010 at 3 pm St. Dimitrie Monastery in Middletown, NY will serve the Mystery of Holy Unction. Fr. Vincent and Fr. Paisie, along with Fr. Andrej of St. Nicholas Church in NY, along with brother priests from the Russian and Greek Churches in the Middletown area will co-celebrate. For further information please contact the monastery directly at 845-386-3998.

- **DEANERY OF CENTRAL USA**

**-Ss. Constantine and Helen Cathedral, Chicago, IL**

The Cathedral organizes a summer camp during the dates of 16 August and 21 August 2010 at Rainbow Christian Camp (approximately 3 hrs from Chicago). All children between the ages of 7 and 15 are invited to participate. The activities include: iconography, Church music, athletics (swimming, volleyball, soccer), and games. The tuition is only \$100 per camper, and it includes room and board, and the activities. Contact person: Mrs. Violeta Vancea 847-942-8632 or [violetavancea@yahoo.com](mailto:violetavancea@yahoo.com). The registration deadline is: 1 August 2010.

• **DEANERY OF EASTERN CANADA**

**-Holy Cross Monastery, Toronto, Ontario, Canada**

Holy Cross Monastery in Toronto organizes a Pilgrimage to Monasteries in Romania between 11 October and 22 October 2010. At this time we do not have any clear information as to the cost of this trip, but we will offer all details by the end of the August. However, we would be very happy if you registered so that you may rejoice along with us in this pilgrimage. For information call the monastery at 647-436-9786 or visit our website: [www.holycrossmonastery.com](http://www.holycrossmonastery.com). Thank You!

**-St. Andrew Church, Mississauga, Ontario, Canada**

St. Andrew Church of Mississauga invites all Romanian Orthodox Parishes in the Toronto area on 15 August 2010 at the festal celebration of the Dormition of the Mother God (the 2<sup>nd</sup> feast of our parish). The banquet will take place at 1039 Dundas St. W, Oakville, ON L6M 4L8 (Ss. Peter & Paul Serbian Orthodox Church). On Sunday, 15 August 2010 at 9:45 am His Eminence Archbishop Nicolae and His Grace Bishop Ioan Casian of Vicina, surrounded by a sobor of priests and deacons will celebrate the Hierarchical Divine Liturgy. Also on 15 August in the afternoon, we will hold the 4<sup>th</sup> edition of the Churches Cup of Soccer. We invite all parishes of our archdiocese to send teams to represent them. The champions will win \$1500 for the parish they represent. We look forward to hosting you!

**EDITORIAL TEAM:**

**General Editors:** Fr. Daniel Ene – Romanian, Fr. Timothy Sas – English.

French Translations: Fr. Nicolai & Presbytera Rodica Buga

**Section A** - Message from the Hierarchs: His Eminence Archbishop Nicolae & His Grace Vicar Bishop Ioan Casian, **Section B** – World Orthodoxy: Fr. Nicholas Apostola & Fr. Nicolai Buga, **Section C** – American Orthodoxy: Fr. Peter Preble, **Section D** – Life of our Archdiocese: Fr. Daniel Ene, **Section E** – Life of our Parishes: Eastern USA – Fr. Nicolae Clempus, Central USA – Fr. Julian Anitei, Western USA – Fr. Nikodim Bibart, Eastern Canada – Fr. Teofil Arsene & Fr. Lucian Puscaiu, Western Canada – Fr. George Bazgan & Fr. Nicu Liuta.