

Consecrations of New Bishops in Our Sister Old Calendar Church of Romania

OVER A PERIOD of two days, 17-18 October 2004 (Old Style), two new Bishops were Consecrated at the Holy Monastery of the Transfiguration of the Savior, in Slătioara, Romania.

Following a kind invitation, our Holy Synod in Resistance, in the person of His Grace, Bishop Ambrose of Methone, representing His Eminence, Metropolitan Cyprian of Oropos and Fili, President of the Holy Synod, took part in this important and historic event in the life of our Sister Old Calendar Church of Romania, in which all six members of the Holy Synod of the Romanian Hierarchy under His Eminence, Metropolitan Vlasie participated.



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I. On Saturday, 17 October 2004, Bishop Iosif (Mogârzan) of Botoșani, a nephew according to the flesh of Metropolitan Vlasie, was Consecrated. His Grace



comes from an extremely prolific family in Moldavia, seven of whose children, seventeen in number, are now monastics (Hieromonks, Hierodeacons, or nuns). He dedicated himself to the monastic life, when still very young, at the Monastery in Slătioara, where in due course he was Ordained a Hieromonk. After the repose of the retired Bishop Cozma (†2002), he took over construction of the half-finished monastery



begun by the deceased Hierarch, a task which he brought to an auspicious conclusion. He is now Superior of the Brotherhood there.

2. On Sunday, 18 October 2004, His Grace, Bishop Flavian (Bârgăoanu) of Ilfov, the well-known and much loved and revered Abbot of the large Monastery of the Dormition of the *Theotokos* in Bucharest, was also Consecrated.

The new Bishop was born in Moldavia, near the Slătioara Monastery. During

the 1970s he studied nuclear physics at the University of Bucharest. During the same period, he was admitted to the Brotherhood of the Holy Monastery of the Dormition of the *Theotokos*, in the region



of the Romanian capital, under the spiritual guidance of the ever-

memorable Bishop Evloghie (†1979), by whom he was Ordained a Hieromonk.

In 1984, the monastery was disbanded and completely destroyed by the Communist authorities, and Father Flavian, its Superior, was arrested and imprisoned for two years, being thus vouchsafed to receive the glorious crown of a Confessor.

After his release, in 1986, he went to the Slătioara Monastery; following the fall of the atheistic régime, at the end of 1989, he returned to Bucharest. There, with God's help, he succeeded in rebuilding the ruined monastery of his repentance on the same site as



the old monastery, but incomparably larger and grander, with an impressive and magnificent *Katholikon* [main Church—*Trans.*], a marble workshop, a print shop, and other admirable facilities. More than fifty new Brothers have been accepted into this monastery, while an equal number of other monks reside in the five sketes affiliated with it.

As well, Father Flavian founded the large Convent of the Nativity of the *Theotokos* in Valea Roşie, in the region of Călăraşi, in which there reside seventy nuns, and with which various sketes are likewise affiliated.



The Consecration of His Grace, Bishop Flavian, was celebrated with especial splendor. In addition to the other Hierarchs and the newly-Conse-

crated Bishop Iosif, His Eminence, Bishop Pho-tii of Triaditza, from Bul-garia, along with nearly sixty Priests and ten Deacons, took part in the Divine Liturgy, which was held in the open air. A large throng of Faithful was present, many of them spiritual children of



the new Bishop from Bucharest. Also in attendance were numerous dignitaries, among whom were the leader of the Romanian New Generation Party, the Mayor of the city of Bacău, members of Parliament, and others.

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We pray that the now eight-member Holy Synod of our Sister Old Calendar Orthodox Church of Romania—which is expected to gain a ninth member by the end of the current year with the election and Consecration of another Hieromonk—, renewed and reinforced by two worthy new members, will continue its multifaceted spiritual work in this martyric country, where broad horizons for pastoral work, witness, and ministry are opening up.

We deem it a special blessing from the Divine Builder of the Church that the bonds of our unity in Christ with the Romanian anti-ecumenists have become even stronger through the participation of the Holy Synod in Resistance in the Consecrations of new Hierarchs in Romania.

May the Light of the Divine Transfiguration, through the intercessions of our Lady *Theotokos*, strengthen and guide the new Prelates, His Grace, Bishop Iosif of Botoșani and His Grace, Bishop Flavian of Ilfov, in their lofty duties.

