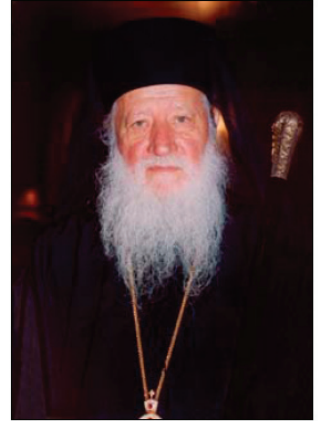


## The Departure to the Lord of Bishop Pahomie of Vrancea of Our Sister Old Calendar Church of Romania

**T**HE REPOSE of His Grace, Bishop Pahomie of Vrancea of the Old Calendar Church of Romania, at the age of seventy, on 11 May 2006 (Old Style), filled with grief all of those Orthodox who knew him as a struggler for the Faith, Abbot and Superior of a number of monasteries, spiritual Confessor of many believers, and a man of kindness, love, and meekness.



The departed Hierarch, in the world Ioan Moraru, was born in Transylvania in 1936 and, at fifteen, entered the Monastery of Rimeș as a Novice under Elder Evloghie (Oța), who had arrived a few years previously from the Holy Mountain.



The monastery Brotherhood decided to join the Old Calendar movement in 1954, and the young Monk Pahomie wholeheartedly accepted the hardships that awaited them for this step taken in confession of the Faith.

Indeed, the Fathers were expelled from the monastery of their repentance and were replaced by a New Calendar Sisterhood.

The Monk Pahomie was Ordained a Deacon the following year, in 1955, by the Confessor Bishop Galaction (Cordun), who had just recently joined the Old Calendar Church. A short while later, he was arrested and imprisoned. He remained incarcerated for a total of more than five years over the course of his three periods of imprisonment in the most terrible places of confinement in those years in Romania. By the Grace of



the Lord, however, he ultimately survived on account of his extraordinarily strong constitution.

His Elder, Abbot Evloghie, was Consecrated a Bishop in 1955 and was imprisoned for a total of fourteen years, while the remaining Brothers of the Monastery of Rimeț succumbed under the threat of expulsion and joined the Patriarchate.

After his release in 1963, Fr. Pahomie went to Cucova, where there had formerly existed a monastery belonging to the Old Calendar, which was demolished during the persecutions of 1935. Its soil was permeated by the blood of five Martyrs, who were assassinated there because of their dedication to the sanctified order of the Festal Calendar and Orthodox Tradition. In this sacred place, Fr. Pahomie, with indescribable sacrifices and hard work and under the constant threat of persecution, established a monastic Brotherhood, which resided in the small and confined monastery buildings dedicated to the Holy Trinity until the fall of the Communist regime in December of 1989.



Since then, the monastery has been rebuilt with a large Church, cells, refectory, bell tower, guest quarters, workshops, etc., and now numbers around forty Brothers.

Abbot Pahomie was Consecrated a Bishop in 1992, to the great joy of the Antinnovationist Flock of the Church of Romania.

Bishop Pahomie was an exemplary monk, always modest, humble, meek, and considerate, with unparalleled industry and perseverance in his holy goals. Owing to his great love and his pastoral experience and wisdom, he became a spiritual Father to a great multitude of believers in the region of his monastery, where he also built two more monasteries for nuns.

He loved Greece and visited our homeland a number of times, especially as a Bishop, for the Patronal Feast Day celebrations of the Holy Monastery of Sts. Cyprian and Justina, Fili, Attika.

During Great Lent this year, he fell seriously ill and was diagnosed with an incurable form of liver cancer. He endured his exhausting illness, which lasted a few months, with patience, spiritually prepared for his journey to eternity. He grew exceedingly thin, and finally departed to the Lord on Wednesday afternoon, 11/24 May 2006,

in the fifth week of the period of Pentecost.

The funeral service was celebrated at the Monastery of the Holy Trinity in Cucova on the Sunday of the Blind Man, 15/28 May 2006, which was his Nameday! The entire Hierarchy of



our Sister Old Calendar Church of Romania under His Eminence, Metropolitan Vlasie took part, along with around fifty Priests and ten Deacons. His Grace, Bishop Ambrose of Methoni represented His Eminence, Metropolitan Cyprian of Oropos and Fili, President of the Holy Synod in Resistance, while two Priests from the Eparchy of the Old Calendar Church of Bulgaria represented His Eminence, Bishop Photii of Triaditza.

The service lasted seven hours (6 A.M. to 1 P.M.) and was held in the open air; throughout its entire duration, thousands of Faithful approached to give a final kiss to their especially beloved departed Bishop, who was buried in a tomb inside the monastery's Cathedral.

God willing, his work will be continued by his two disciples and younger Assistant Bishops, Teodosie of Braşov and Antonie of Ploieşti, who are Brothers of the same monastery.



May God grant him rest with the Confessors of the Faith and genuine workers of His Vineyard, and vouchsafe him the same glory in Heaven as the most saintly Confessor, Metropolitan Glicherie.

Eternal be the memory of His Grace, Bishop Pahomie!

