

The Feast of the Transfiguration of our Savior in Romania

THIS year, at the inter-Orthodox celebration of the Transfiguration of our Savior in Romania, in which the Sister Old Calendar Churches of Greece, Romania, and Bulgaria took part, two Hierarchs from the Holy Synod in Resistance were present as official representatives of its President, His Eminence, Metropolitan Cyprian of Oropos and Fili.

To be exact, His Eminence, Bishop Chrysostomos of Sydney and New South Wales, who is currently residing in his *Metochion* in Petalidi, Messenia, Greece, and His Grace, Bishop Ambrose of Methone, together with two lay brethren in Christ, Ioannis Katis and Christos Giatrakos, traveled to the historic men's Monastery in Slătoria in Moldavia for this celebration of community and love in the Light of the Grace of our Transfigured Savior, which divinely transfigures the souls of His genuine servants.



- **Taking** part in Great Vespers and also the night service of Matins of the Dominical Feast on Friday, 5 August 2006 (Old Style), were all of the Romanian Bishops under His Eminence, Metropolitan Vlasie: Bishops Demosten of Neamț, Ghenadie of Bacău, Sofronie of Suceava, Teodosie of Brașov, Iosif of Botoșani, Flavian of Ilfov, and Antonie of Ploești, as well as His Eminence, Bishop Photii of Triaditza and the two Bishops from Greece.

- **On Saturday**, 6 August 2006 (Old Style), everything contributed towards the truly festive atmosphere that prevailed at the open-air Divine Liturgy: the eleven Hierarchs, hundreds of Priests, dozens of mellifluous-voiced Deacons, excellent chanters, countless pilgrims, the shining sun, and especially and primarily the wondrous Relics of the Holy Confessor and Hierarch Glicherie (+ 1985), that



vessel of Uncreated Grace, who distinguished himself in struggles of Faith and virtue throughout the whole of his long and martyric earthly life.



Visits were made to Churches on the afternoon of the Feast Day.

• **On Sunday**, 7 August 2006 (Old Style), another festive Hierarchical Divine Liturgy sealed the joyful communion of love between the anti-innovationists of Romania and Greece. At the newly-built splendid Church of the New Martyr John in Suceava, His Eminence, Metropolitan Vlasie concelebrated with His Eminence, Bishop Chrysostomos of Sydney and His Grace, Bishop Ambrose of Methone. Taking part, also, were the Romanian Bishops Demosten, Ghenadie, Sofronie, Teodosie, and Antonie, as well as many clergy, with a large crowd of pious Romanian Orthodox in attendance thronging the immense Church.



After the Divine Liturgy, the Grace-imbued Holy Relics were venerated of the wondrous St. John the New of Trapezoundi—one of the first of the New Martyrs—which are kept at the old Church dedicated to him in Suceava.

On the same day, the Holy Relics of the wonderworking St. Paraskeve the New of Epivatini were also venerated at the Church dedicated to her in Iași, the capital of Moldavia. A pilgrimage was then made to the Church of the Holy Three Hierarchs at the Monastery of Cetățuia, where the Holy Metropolitan Glicherie had been Ordained a Deacon.

During the return from Iași to Fălticeni, a visit was made to the flourishing Old Calendar men’s Monastery of St. Menas, where the Bishops were given a warm welcome.



• **On Monday**, 8 August 2006 (Old Style), a visit was made, among others, to the newly-built Old Calendar Convent of the Holy Myrrhbearing Women in Găgești, the founder and spiritual guide of which was Bishop Pahomie of Vrancea, who reposed in the Lord

a few months ago. Seventeen sisters are currently living here, and just two weeks before this visit, the Convent Church had been consecrated. The order, cleanliness, and aesthetic beauty of the place, which manifestly reign in this marvelous Convent, refresh and soothe the soul. The Sisterhood primarily engages in iconography and embroidery.

• **On Tuesday**, 9 August 2006 (Old Style) a visit was made to the Old Calendar Convent of the Nativity of the *Theotokos* in Valea Roșie, where the founder and spiritual guide is His Grace, Bishop Flavian of Ilfov. Here as well, the spiritual and material progress indicates the virtue of the large Sisterhood under Mother Teodosia



and the subsequent rich blessing of God.

• **On Wednesday**, 10 August 2006, the Bishops from Greece visited the large men's Monastery of the Dormition of the *Theotokos*, in the outskirts of Bucharest, where they were lovingly welcomed and given lavish hospitality by the Brotherhood under His Grace, Bishop Flavian.

Late on Wednesday afternoon, Vespers and Matins were served



at the Church of St. Niphon, Patriarch of Constantinople—which is the *Metochion* in Bucharest of the Holy Monastery of Sts. Cyprian and Justina in Fili, Attika—for its Feast Day.

• **There**, on Thursday, 11 August 2006 (Old Style), His Eminence, Bishop Chrysostomos of Sydney concelebrated with Their Graces, Bishops Flavian and Ambrose, three Priests, two Deacons, and the participation of many Faithful.

On Thursday afternoon, the return flight was made to Greece, with a wealth of impressions from the great and inestimable blessings of these holy days with our Orthodox brothers and sisters in Romania!

