

New Bishops Consecrated in Romania

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On November 4, 5, and 6, 2007 (Old Style), our Sister Church in Romania Consecrated, with immense joy, three new Bishops, further to serve the Romanian Old Calendarists in that country. The Old Calendar Orthodox Church of Romania, after decades of horrendous persecution under the Communist régime (and this, sadly, with the implicit and explicit collaboration of the New Calendarist Patriarchate in Bucharest), has flourished since the fall of Communism. Though historically centered primarily in Moldavia, Old Calendarist communities can be found throughout Romania.

Estimated to number between six hundred thousand (by official sources) and one million (by others), their magnificent parish churches, in traditional Romanian style, serve immense numbers of families, and crowds of twenty thousand faithful are not unusual at special gatherings in the Church's center at the Transfiguration Monastery in Slătioara. The Church is especially distinguished by its monastic endeavors, with some forty monasteries, convents, and sketes throughout the country. (*See the Holy Synod, with new Bishops, below.*)





Left to right, Their Graces, Bishop Evloghie and Bishop Glicherie, His Eminence, Metropolitan Vlasie, and His Grace, Bishop Dionisie in the courtyard of the historic Monastery of the Transfiguration.

The three new Bishops were elected unanimously by the Holy Synod of the Old Calendar Orthodox Church of Romania, under the Presidency of its Archbishop and Metropolitan, His Eminence, the Most Reverend Vlasie. The candidates were selected from among the most accomplished and revered of the younger monastics in the Church, two from the historic Monastery of the Transfiguration in Slătioara (founded by St. Glicherie, the first spiritual leader of the Romanian Old Calendarists), the other from the beautiful Dormition Monastery in the Romanian capital of Bucharest.

Bishop Glicherie—who, like the other candidates, was Consecrated at a huge gathering of the clergy and faithful at the Transfiguration Monastery in Slătioara—entered the monastery in Slătioara after graduation from high school. There, he received his monastic and theological training, as well as training in Church music, under the guid-



ance of the First Hierarchy of the Church today, who was then a monastic at the Transfiguration Monastery. He is distinguished by his obedience, spiritual sobriety, and—in keeping with his name (“Glicherie,” from the Greek *γλυκύς* [*glykys*], or “sweet”)—sweetness of disposition. He was Consecrated Bishop of Jassey (Iași). (*See at left.*)

The second Bishop Consecrated was *Bishop Dionisie*, also a spiritual son of Metropolitan Vlasie. After ten years in the Transfiguration Monastery, where he received his monastic and theological training, he was sent to the Danube Delta, in Southern Romania, where he established a monastery dedicated to St. Athanasios the Athonite. He, too, is especially distinguished by his obedience and humility, as well as his intellectual gifts. He was Consecrated Bishop of Galați. His Grace’s brother according to the flesh is a married Priest and he has a sister who is a nun.



The third Consecration in succession was that of *Bishop Evloghie*, who was Consecrated Bishop of Sibiu, where he established the Pro-



tection Skete with the blessing of his spiritual Father, Bishop Flavian of Ilfov. Like his spiritual Father, Bishop Evloghie studied Nuclear Physics at the University of Bucharest, where he received his degree with highest honors. (Bishop Flavian was imprisoned for his Old Calendarist confession by the Communist régime—again, with the complicity, shamefully enough, of the New Calendarist Patriarchate—before completing his degree.) On graduation from university, Bishop Evloghie was offered a full fellowship to pursue doctoral studies at

Cambridge University in England. However, he unselfishly declined the offer, heeding a call to serve the Old Calendar faithful in Romania. His Grace also has a sister who is a nun.

These Consecrations were of particular joy to our community in Etna, since we have spiritual connections with, and firm ties to, the monastic institutions in which these new Bishops were trained. Archbishop Chrysostomos and Bishop Auxentios are especially close to Metropolitan Vlasie and Bishop Flavian, whom they first met twenty-seven years ago, when they visited the Old Calendarists while they

were still suffering under the Communist yoke. As well, Metropolitan Vlasie's nephew, who teaches law at the Alexander I. Cuza University in Iași (one of Romania's foremost academic institutions), and his wife became close friends with the Archbishop when he was teaching Byzantine history and consumer behavior, as a Fulbright Scholar, at the university in Iași.

Later, when His Eminence returned to direct the Fulbright program in Romania under the auspices of the U.S. Department of State, the Dormition Monastery in Bucharest, under the Abbacy of Bishop Flavian, became his monastic home during his tenure there. It was thus that, before undertaking the new Consecrations, Metropolitan Vlasie called His Eminence and asked for his blessing and for his prayers for the new candidates, who are virtually spiritual brothers.

These new and wonderfully worthy Bishops we greet with the traditional proclamation "*Vrednici sunt!*" ("They are worthy!") and wish them "*La Mulți Ani!*" ("Many Years!").