

An Inter-Orthodox Celebration of the Transfiguration in Romania

WITH the blessing of His Eminence, Metropolitan Cyprian, His Grace, Bishop Ambrose of Methone traveled to Romania from July 28 to August 11, 2007 (Old Style), in order to participate in the celebration of the Transfiguration at the headquarters of the Holy Synod of our Sister Old Calendar Church of Romania, in Slatioara, Moldavia.

- On Sunday, July 30, 2007 (Old Style), His Grace took part in the Consecration of the large and beautiful Church of the Holy and glorious Prophet Elias in the city of Bacău. His Eminence, Metropolitan Vlasie performed the Consecration, with the participation of five other Romanian Hierarchs (Bishops Ghenadie, Sofronie, Teodosie, Flavian, and Antonie), many Priests and Deacons, and a great throng of thousands of faithful, among whom were the city Mayor, the Prefect, and a district Member of Parliament.



On the afternoon of the same day, Bishop Ambrose went to the Convent of the Holy Myrrhbearers, in order to offer his best wishes to His Grace, Bishop Iosif of Botoșani on the occasion of his Nameday (His Grace is named in honor of St. Joseph of Arimathea).

- Over the course of the next several days, Bishop Ambrose made various visits, among them to the Convent of the Life-giving Spring, in Braditsel, for a meeting with our revered and beloved friend and brother

in Christ, His Grace, Bishop Demosten of Neamts.

- There was a heavy downpour on the eve of the Great Dominical Feast of the Transfiguration of our Savior, during which the Festal Vespers service was chanted, followed by Festal Matins. The rain was reckoned a great blessing of God after the prolonged drought in that region.



- On Sunday morning, August 6, 2007 (Old Style), His Eminence, Metropolitan Vlasie was the principal celebrant at the open-air Festal Divine Liturgy for the Transfiguration, with the participation of His



Eminence, Bishop Photii of Triaditza (from Sofia, Bulgaria), His Grace, Bishop Ambrose of Methone (from Greece), and the remaining seven Hierarchs of our Sister Old Calendar Church of Romania (Bishops Demosten, Ghenadie, Sofronie, Teodosie, Iosif, Flavian, and Antonie), as well as

more than a hundred Priests and Deacons. Many thousands of faithful from various parts of the country were present.

Later the same day, the Hierarchs visited the Church under construction in Moinești, the Monastery of St. Sabbas in Palanca, and the Skete of St. Photine in Valea Uzului.

- On Monday, August 7, 2007 (Old Style), they visited the men's Monastery of the Holy Trinity in Cucova and four Churches in various cities in the region.



- Over the next few days, Bishop Ambrose remained in Bucharest to settle various matters pertaining to our *Metochion* dedicated to St. Niphon.

- On Thursday, August 10, 2007 (Old Style), he visited the men's Monastery of the Dormition of the *Theotokos*, in the outskirts of Bucharest, the Skete of St. John of Shanghai and San Francisco, in Cernica, and the old historic Monasteries of Cernica, Pasărea, and Snagov.



- On Friday, August 11, 2007 (Old Style), a Festal Divine Liturgy was celebrated at the *Metochion* in Bucharest, which is dedicated to St. Niphon, Patriarch of Constantinople. Bishop Ambrose concelebrated with Bishop Flavian of Ilfovy, Archimandrite Akakios (who had also come to Romania to participate in the Feast Day celebration of the Transfiguration), four other Priests, and two Deacons. His Eminence, Metropolitan Vlasie and His Grace, Bishop Ghenadie of Bacău were in prayerful attendance.

- On the evening of the same day, Bishop Ambrose returned by air to Greece, thanking and glorifying God for the auspicious outcome to yet another ecclesiastical mission of unity and love in Christ.

