

Inter-Orthodox Relations

The Feast of the Holy Transfiguration in Romania

By the Grace of the Divine Builder of the Church, His Grace, Bishop Ambrose of Methoni represented the Holy Synod in Resistance at this year's celebration of the Transfiguration of our Savior in Slătioara, Romania.

The President of the Holy Synod, His Eminence, Metropolitan Cyprian of Oropos and Fili, was not able to go to Romania, despite his desire to do so; he participated, however, in mind and heart in this great Feast of the Orthodox Witness of our Sister Church.

Bishop Ambrose, together with two spiritual children of our ecclesiastical jurisdiction, traveled to Romania by road via Bulgaria, where he had a cordial meeting in Sofia with His Eminence, Bishop Photii of Triaditza, who was also unable to participate in this year's celebration of our Sister Old Calendar Church of Romania.

• **In Bucharest**, where Bishop Ambrose arrived on Wednesday afternoon, 4/17 August 2005, as well as in the entire country, unprecedented rainfalls prevailed, which, as is well known, had unpleasant and destructive consequences.



• **On Friday**, 6/19 August 2005, on the day of the Great Domical Feast of the Transfiguration of our Lord at the men's Monastery in Slătioara, headquarters of our Sister Church in Romania, which was celebrating its Feast Day, it rained for the first time in its history throughout the entire duration of the open-air festal Divine Liturgy. But this, of course, did not prevent the attendance and participa-

tion of many thousands of pilgrims, who, as is the case every year, thronged the entire space both inside and outside the Monastery.

The First Hierarch, His Eminence, Metropolitan Vlasie, was the principal celebrant at the Divine Liturgy, with the remaining eight Romanian Hierarchs taking part (Bishops Demosten of Neamț, Ghenadie of Bacău, Pahomie of Vrancea, Sofronie of Suceava, Teodosie of Brașov, Iosif of Botoșani, Flavian of Ilfov, and Antonie of Ploești), as well as Bishop Ambrose of Methoni from Greece and more than a hundred Priests and many Deacons.



• **Visits and** pilgrimages were then made to Churches and Monasteries, and on Sunday, 8/21 August 2005, a Hierarchical Liturgy was concelebrated by Metropolitan Vlasie, Bishops Demosten, Pahomie, and Ambrose at the imposing Church of Sts. Constantine and Helen in the city of Fălticeni.



• **On Tuesday,** 10/23 August 2005, the Greek delegation returned to Bucharest and visited, among other places, the large men's Monastery of the Dormition of the *Theotokos* under Bishop Flavian.

• **On Wednesday,** 11/ 24 August 2005, a Hierarchical Divine Liturgy was celebrated at the Church of St. Niphon Dionysiates, Patriarch of Constantinople (which is the *Metochion* [dependency] in Bucharest of the Holy Monastery of Sts. Cyprian and Justina in Fili) for its Feast Day; concelebrating were Bishops Ambrose and Flavian with five Priests, two Deacons, and the participation of many Faithful.

• **On their return**, before arrival in our country, a meeting of love in Christ once again took place at the headquarters of Bishop Photii in Sofia.

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Blessed be the God of our Fathers, for with the participation of the Holy Synod in Resistance at this great yearly Feast Day of the Old Calendar Romanians, the profound bonds of unity and brotherhood in Christ have been renewed and strengthened even more, to the glory of God and the upbuilding of the Body of the Church.

