

HONORING OUR SISTER CHURCH IN ROMANIA



Delegations from the Old Calendar Orthodox Church of Greece, Synod in Resistance, and the Old Calendar Orthodox Church of Bulgaria at the Feast of the Transfiguration

At the Dominical Feast of the Holy Transfiguration, which is observed as the Feast Day of the Synodal Center of the Old Calendar Orthodox Church of Romania (our Sister Church) at the the Monastery of the Transfiguration in Slătioara, Moldavia, His Grace, Bishop Ambrose of Methone represented the Holy Synod in Resistance, accompanied by Archimandrite Mark (Kaseya), from our Synod's mission in Congo, in Central Africa.

From Bucharest, where they arrived at the beautiful Monastery of the Dormition, the visitors from Greece, having been joined by Archimandrite Father Akakios, Abbot of the St. Gregory Palamas Monastery in Etna, CA, representing the American Exarchate of our Synod, as well as a delegation from our Sister Church in Bulgaria, consisting of a Priest, a Deacon, and a small group of faithful, journeyed to Slătioara by automobile on the Eve of the Feast of the Transfiguration, with a stop *en route* at the Monastery of the Holy Trinity in Cucova (*below*).



That evening, Great Vespers and Matins for the Feast were celebrated at the monastery in Slătioara. All of the Bishops under His Eminence, Metropolitan Vlasie, First Hierarch of the Old Calendar Church of Romania, were in attendance at the celebration, though His Grace, Bish-



op Demosten of Neamț, on account of the infirmities of old age, did not celebrate, but remained in one of the monastery's cells. The choir of the Metropolis of Slătioara chanted superbly, under the direction of the Reverend Father Andrei Onofrei. The weather was pleasant and several thousand faithful were present.

On Friday morning, August 6 (Old Style), the Divine Liturgy, with many Hierarchs serving, was held, with His Eminence, Metropolitan Vlasie delivering the festal homily and His Grace, Bishop Ambrose conveying festal greetings to the faithful, estimated at 10,000 in number.

After the *Agape* Meal that followed the Liturgy, a visit was made to a new skete, under construction, in the forested mountains near the monastery. It will be dedicated to St. Glicherie the Confessor of Moldavia and former Abbot of the Holy Transfiguration Monastery.

On the Saturday after Transfiguration, August 7, the visitors from Greece, after a short visit to the Convent of the Holy Myrrh-Bearers in Gițesti, travelled south to the Monastery of the Annunciation in Valea Roșie, where the expanding sisterhood of eighty-two nuns is building

a new Church and a new wing in the convent quarters.

Late the same evening, the visitors arrived at the Monastery of the Dormition in Bucharest to take part in the Saturday evening Resurrection services. On Sunday, August 8, His Grace, Bishop Ambrose of Methone concelebrated the Divine Liturgy with His Grace, Bishop Flavian of Ilfov, and the clergy of the monastery. Present at the Liturgy was a throng of faithful, many of whom communed.

Afterwards, short visits were made to the Church of St. Niphon of Constantinople in Bucharest (the *metochion* of the Holy Synod in Resistance in Romania) and to the Holy Convent of St. John the Wonderworker of San Francisco in Cernica, as well as a pilgrimage to the Monastery of the Great and Holy Hierarch Callinicos the Wonderworker of Cernica.



On Sunday evening, His Grace, Bishop Ambrose returned by air to Athens, while Father Mark remained in Bucharest as a guest of our Romanian brothers, visiting a number of Old Calendarist monastic communities and, on Wednesday, August 11, before his return to Athens, celebrating Liturgy together with Bishop Flavian and, besides a number of Romanian clergy, with Archimandrite Akakios from the U.S.

