

ROMANIAN PATRIARCHATE
CHANCERY OF THE HOLY SYNOD

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[Patriarhal
Coat of Arms]

Nr. 964

Date: 11.march.2008

His Eminence,
The Most Blessed Archbishop NICOLAE of
The Romanian Orthodox Archdiocese of North America

YOUR EMINENCE,

As you know, in the days 5-7 March 2008, the working session of the Holy Synod of the Romanian Orthodox Church took place at the Patriarchal Residence in Bucharest, in which you participated, representing the clergy and faithful of the Romanian Orthodox Archdiocese of North America.

In your capacity as member of the Holy Synod you took part in the debates and in the examination of the matters which, among others, had as their object, both the request of the *Romanian Orthodox Exarchate of America*, to be received in canonical communion with the Romanian Patriarchate, as well as the results of the Joint Dialogue Commission between the representatives of the Romanian Orthodox Episcopate of America and those of the Romanian Patriarchate, assembled at Bucharest between 25-27 February, 2008.

In this context, the Holy Synod took appreciative note of the results of the discussions that took place at Bucharest and of the draft *Agreed Statement* drawn up in the Joint Dialogue Commission, through which the representatives of the Romanian Orthodox Episcopate of America, of the Romanian Orthodox Archdiocese of North America as well as of the Romanian Patriarchate acknowledged that the hierarchs and faithful of the Romanian Orthodox church, both in our country and in America, endured much and struggled greatly with the cruel and unprecedented historical conditions of the Communist persecutions, and that the actions of the Communist Romanian government of those times was the cause of many sufferings that both Romanian Orthodox Eparchies in America passed, with their hierarchs of pious memory: Bishop Policarp, Bishop Andrei, Archbishop Victorin and Archbishop Valerian, confessors for Romanian Orthodoxy, who were persecuted and marginalized.

As well, the members of the Holy Synod took joyful note of the mutual forgiveness expressed in the names of their predecessors by the representatives participating in the Joint Dialogue Commission, as well as their sincere desire, to realize unification of Romanian Orthodoxy on the American Continent, in an autonomous Metropolia, which would encompass the two Romanian Orthodox Eparchies in America, in a direct canonical relationship with the Romanian Orthodox Church.

Being that the Holy Synod is convinced that you have all the above at heart and that, in conformity with the aspects that were examined in the Holy Synod, you have borne the desire of realizing a Romanian unification, in direct canonical relation with the Patriarchate of Romania,

The Holy Synod obliges you to address a Call to the representatives of the Romanian Orthodox Exarchate of America with a view to integrating the priests and faithful of its parishes into the Romanian Orthodox Episcopate of North America by the beginning of July, 2008.

At the same time, the Holy Synod entrusts to you with taking up immediate dialogue between the Romanian Orthodox Archdiocese of North America and the Romanian Orthodox Episcopate of America, with a view toward realizing unification of all Romanian Orthodox in America, in direct canonical relationship with the Patriarchate of Romania, in the sense it was discussed at the Romanian Patriarchate from February 25-27, 2008, addressing the appropriate invitations toward this end.

We ask that you take note that any intervening delay in the dialogue and corresponding failure to resolve the request of the Romanian Orthodox Exarchate of America, by the date of the assembly of the Congress of the Romanian Orthodox Archdiocese of North America, at the beginning of July, 2008, will cause the Romanian Orthodox Church, in conformity with its Statute of operation and functioning, to exercise its canonical duty to receive under its protection [jurisdiction] all the Romanian Orthodox in the U.S.A. and Canada, who wish to re-establish direct communion with the Mother Church.

With faith that you will find the way toward communion and unity, which we have forever desired, and by which our predecessors were inspired, we embrace you with the embrace of brotherhood in Our Lord Jesus Christ.

THE PRESIDENT OF THE HOLY SYNOD

/signature/

+DANIEL,

Archbishop of Bucharest,

**Metropolitan of Muntenia and Dobrogea, Locum Tenens of the throne of Caesarea
in Cappadocia and**

Patriarch of the Romanian Orthodox Church

SECRETARY OF THE HOLY SYNOD

/signature/

+Vincentiu of Ploiesti

Patriarchal Vicar-Bishop