



† *DANIEL*,
By the Grace of God, Archbishop of Bucharest,
Metropolitan of Muntenia and Dobrogea, Locum Tenens of Caesarea of Cappadocia, and
Patriarch of the Romanian Orthodox Church

*To our beloved clergy, monastics, and faithful Orthodox Christians
in the God-beloved and protected Romanian Orthodox Metropolia of the Americas,
and to all listeners and readers of this*

PATRIARCHAL GRAMMATA ¹,

Grace, joy, and peace from God, and from Us, archpastoral blessings!

Our Savior Jesus Christ established in His Holy Church special ministries and dignities by sending the All-Holy and Life-Giving Spirit upon His Holy Disciples and Apostles, thus strengthening them to preach the word of His Gospel, celebrate the Holy Mysteries, and guide the faithful on the path of salvation (cf. Matthew 28:19); and the Apostles, through the grace of the Holy Spirit, established in cities bishops, priests, and deacons to shepherd the Church of Christ (cf. Acts 20:28).

Therefore, as a minister of the Church of Christ in the dignity of Patriarch of the Romanian Orthodox Church, considering that in the past 26 years the Holy Synod of our Church has approved the establishment, re-establishment, or reactivation of several dioceses, both inside and outside our borders, to meet numerous current pastoral-missionary, cultural, educational, social and philanthropic needs for the benefit of the Orthodox people;

Appreciating the ecclesiastical organization and the pastoral-missionary work of the hierarchs in the United States and Canada, and taking into account the request of the members of the *Congress of the Romanian Orthodox Archdiocese in the Americas*, to establish the *Romanian Orthodox Metropolia of the Americas*, with two distinct suffragan eparchies, one for the United States of America, and one for Canada, and for the Romanian Orthodox Archbishop of the Americas to be elevated to the rank of Metropolitan, according to canonical tradition, ecclesiastical statutes, and ancient practice regarding appropriate honor toward the dignity accruing to certain episcopal sees;

Knowing the role that the Romanian Orthodox Church has had in organizing church life in the American space, founding a diocese during the time of Patriarch Miron Cristea, in 1930, a diocese pastored with great dedication and sacrifice by the worthy Bishops Policarp Morușcă (1935-1939), who organized the *Romanian Orthodox Episcopate in America and Canada*, and Andrei Moldovan (1950-1963), as well as Archbishop Victorin Ursache (1966-2001), during whose time the Episcopate was elevated to the status of Archdiocese;

Given the rich activity started in 2002 by His Eminence Archbishop Nicolae Condrea;

¹ **PATRIARCHAL GRAMMATA OF ELEVATING TO THE DIGNITY OF METROPOLITAN**, no. 1/2016, issued by the decision of the Holy Synod of the Romanian Orthodox Church nr. 9138 of 28-29 October, 2016, under Art. 133, paragraph 2 of the Statutes for the organization and functioning of the Romanian Orthodox Church, and made public on 30 October, 2016, in the Patriarchal Cathedral, dedicated to Saints Constantine and Helen and St. Dimitrios the New, protector of Bucharest.

In order to meet the needs of the Orthodox Romanians in this part of the world, taking into account the great geographical distances and the different legislative frameworks in the United States and Canada, for the good organization of the ecclesiastical life of the Romanian communities, and their representation in relation to other jurisdictions in the United States and Canada;

In light of canonical regulations, and based on **Art. 7, para. (1) of the Statutes**, namely: “*The establishment, dissolution, territorial modification, and changes of titles of Metropolias, Archdioceses, and Dioceses are decreed by the Holy Synod, taking into account pastoral-missionary needs, and taking into consideration the administrative-territorial organization of the state*”; and **para. (2)** “*The title of Metropolitan, Archbishop, and Bishop is that of the eparchy they shepherd*”;

According to **Art. 14, letter j) of the Statutes**, according to which the Holy Synod “*approves, by a majority of two-thirds of the members present, the establishment, dissolution, territorial modification, and changes in the titles of the eparchies and metropolias belonging to the Romanian Patriarchate*”;

The Holy Synod of the Romanian Orthodox Church, through its decision nr. 9138/2016, has approved the establishment of *The ROMANIAN ORTHODOX METROPOLIA OF THE AMERICAS*, and of *THE ROMANIAN ORTHODOX DIOCESE OF CANADA*, as well as the territorial modification of the *Romanian Orthodox Archdiocese in the Americas* and the change of its title to *The ROMANIAN ORTHODOX ARCHDIOCESE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA*. At the same time, the Holy Synod approved conferring the rank of Metropolitan upon His Eminence Archbishop Nicolae Condrea.

Therefore, through this PATRIARCHAL GRAMMATA we make known the decision of the Holy Synod of the Romanian Orthodox Church to elevate to the dignity of Metropolitan **His Eminence Nicolae Condrea**, who will bear the title **Romanian Orthodox Archbishop of the United States of America and Romanian Orthodox Metropolitan of the Americas**.

As prescribed in **Apostolic Canon 34**, we expect His Eminence to show honor and obedience to the Patriarch of Romania, and to the Holy Synod of the Romanian Orthodox Church; to continue to enhance the work done so far in this archdiocesan see; to work in communion with the other hierarchs of the *Metropolitan Synod of the Romanian Orthodox Metropolia of the Americas*; to show love of nation, and fatherly care for the parishes and monasteries, the values of the Orthodox faith, for Christian culture, for theological and religious education, and parental love towards the clergy and Orthodox Christians, young and old, making Himself a guide to all for the unwavering preservation of the Orthodox Faith and our Church's ancient rites.

We entrust **His Eminence Nicolae Condrea, Romanian Orthodox Archbishop of the United States of America, and Romanian Orthodox Metropolitan of the Americas**, to the mercies of our Good God, to the prayers of the *Holy Apostle Andrew the First Called, Protector of Romania*, and to the prayers of all the protector saints of the parishes and monasteries in the territories of the *Romanian Orthodox Metropolia of the Americas*.

Thus, with one mind and one heart, let us glorify together the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, the Trinity consubstantial and undivided. Amen!

† DANIEL
Patriarch of Romania and
President of the Holy Synod of the Romanian Orthodox Church