

**METROPOLITAN GRAMMATA PROCLAIMING THE ENTHRONEMENT  
OF HIS GRACE BISHOP IOAN CASIAN**

† NICOLAE

**By the grace of God, Archbishop of the Romanian Orthodox Archdiocese  
of the United States of America and Metropolitan of the  
Romanian Orthodox Metropolia of the Americas**

*To the Beloved clergy, Monastics and Pious Faithful  
of the God-protected Romanian Orthodox Episcopate of Canada  
and to all hearers and readers of this  
METROPOLITAN GRAMMATA,  
Grace, joy and peace from God, and from us hierarchal blessing!*

It ought to be known to all that our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ appointed in the Holy Church positions and highly esteemed ministries, and by sending the Holy Spirit upon His Holy Disciples and Apostles, He strengthened them in the preaching of the word of His Gospel (Good News), and by the laying on of hands, in an unbroken succession from the Apostles until today, He makes all church leaders worthy to be partakers of His gifts of many kinds, in the offices of deacons, priests and bishops.

It is well known that there has been a Romanian Orthodox presence in Canada since the late nineteenth century, made manifest by the founding of parishes and the building churches in the early twentieth century in the provinces of Saskatchewan, Alberta and Manitoba. At the beginning, these parishes were under the canonical protection of the Metropolitan of Moldavia. Years later, Romanian Orthodox priests and faithful of Canada gathered in Detroit from April 25 - 28, 1929 and voted for the establishment of the Romanian Orthodox Missionary Episcopate in America and Canada. Along with the parishes in the United States, Romanian Orthodox parishes in Canada have passed through the waves of history under the sacrificial pastoral guidance of the hierarchs Polycarp Morușca (1935-1939), Andrei Moldovanu (1950-1963) and Archbishop Victorin Ursache (1966-2001).

In order to meet the needs of the Romanian Orthodox faithful in this part of the world-- noting the great distances and the different legislative framework of Canada-- and in order to develop a better organization of the ecclesial life of the Romanian communities and improve their representation relative to other jurisdictions in Canada, the Congress of Romanian Orthodox Archdiocese in the Americas saw fit to resume the talks begun in 1980 regarding the foundation of a Diocese for the Romanian Orthodox of Canada and of a Romanian Orthodox Metropolia of the Americas. The Holy Synod of the Romanian Orthodox Church, in its session on February 25, 2016, commissioned us to start the procedures for the establishment of the Romanian Orthodox Diocese of Canada and the amendment of the Constitution of the Archdiocese to establish the Romanian Orthodox Metropolia of the Americas.

The 80th Congress of the Romanian Orthodox Archdiocese in the Americas, convened at the Resurrection of the Lord parish in Hamilton, Ontario, on July 1 – 3, 2016, approved the proposal to establish a Romanian Orthodox Diocese of Canada, having its headquarters in St. Hubert (Montreal), Canada. In a special session, priests and delegates from the Canadian parishes of the Archdiocese nominated His Grace, Ioan Casian Tunaru to serve as Diocesan Bishop of the newly created Diocese.

Having taken the aforementioned into consideration, the Holy Synod of the Romanian Orthodox Church, in its working session of October 28 – 29, 2016 (Protocol 9138), approved the establishment of the Romanian Orthodox Diocese of Canada and the election of His Grace, Ioan Casian

Tunaru as Diocesan Bishop of the Romanian Orthodox Diocese of Canada, bearing the title of Romanian Orthodox Bishop of Canada.

Born on February 20, 1969 in the city of Comanești, Bacau county, in the priestly family of Ioan and Mariana Tunaru, Bishop Ioan Casian since his youth felt the call to serve the Church and to study theology. He attended the “Andrei Șaguna” Faculty of Theology in Sibiu, graduating in 1993. From 1993-1995, he served his novitiate at St. John the Baptist Monastery in Jerusalem, and took classes in Biblical Greek at the Pontifical Institute Flagelazione and in French at the Alliance Française, both in Jerusalem. From 1995-1998, he studied at the Pontifical University of St. Anselm of Canterbury and the Pontifical Oriental Institute, both in Rome. At the end of his studies, he answered the call of His Eminence, Metropolitan Joseph of Western and Southern Europe to come to Paris, where he worked as Administrative Secretary to the Metropolitan, a position he held until 2002. On June 23, 2001, he was ordained to the Diaconate and on the following day, June 24, to the Sacred Priesthood. On November 1, 2001, he was tonsured a monk of Holy Cross Monastery in Malvialle, France. From 2002-2003, he served as priest of St. Joseph parish in Bordeaux, France and from April 2003 to June 2006, as priest of St. Nicholas parish in New York. On March 2, 2006, at our proposal, he was elected by the Holy Synod of the Romanian Orthodox Church to serve as Auxiliary Bishop of the Romanian Orthodox Archdiocese in the Americas and was consecrated to the episcopate on July 2, 2006 at Saints Constantine and Helen Cathedral in Chicago. Since then and until today, he has carried out his pastoral and missionary activity for the most part in the Romanian parishes on the east coast of the USA and Canada.

In accordance with the Holy Canons, the provisions of article 133 of the Statute for the organization and functioning of the Romanian Orthodox Church and article 7 of the Statute of the Romanian Orthodox Metropolia of the Americas, we submit to the attention of all this Metropolitan Grammata, whereby we entrust to the elected Bishop, His Grace, Ioan Casian canonical authority as Archpastor and Bishop of the God-protected Romanian Orthodox Diocese of Canada, bearing witness that His Grace has the right and the authority to assign and appoint, according to the tradition of our Holy Church and in conformance with the Statute of the Romanian Orthodox Diocese of Canada, readers, chanters, subdeacons, deacons and priests in all the churches of his Diocese, as well as abbots and abbesses, hegumens and hegumenias in monasteries and hermitages, and to do whatever he feels necessary for the spiritual benefit of the Diocese he leads on the path to salvation.

From His Grace we expect, as enjoined in the 34<sup>th</sup> Apostolic Canon, reverence and obedience toward the Romanian Orthodox Metropolitan of the Americas, as well as to the Holy Synod of the Romanian Orthodox Church; to continue and to enhance the work carried out over 10 years as auxiliary bishop by establishing new parishes and monasteries; to show love of nation and care to preserve the values of the Orthodox faith, for Christian culture, for religious education as well as paternal love towards the clergy and the Christian faithful, young and old, making himself to all a guide to the keeping the right faith and the tradition of our ancient church. We urge His Grace to work for the unity of all the Orthodox Romanians in Canada and for a unique testimony of all Orthodox faithful living in this country.

To all clergy, monks and believers within the territory of the Romanian Orthodox Diocese of Canada, we recommend with paternal love His Grace Bishop Ioan Casian as their canonical ruling Bishop, asking them to welcome him with filial love, to listen and to honor him, showing him in all circumstances support and cooperation.

We entrust His Grace, Ioan Casian, Romanian Orthodox Bishop of Canada, to the mercy of the Good God, to the prayers of the Apostle Andrew the First Called - Protector of Romania, as well

as to the prayers of all the patron saints of the parishes and monasteries of the Romanian Orthodox Diocese of Canada.

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

Given at the Metropolitan residence in Chicago, May 1, in the year of salvation 2017.

† NICOLAE

Archbishop of the Romanian Orthodox Archdiocese of the United States of America and  
Metropolitan of the Romanian Orthodox Metropolia of the Americas