



TOMOS¹ OF THE HOLY SYNOD
of the Autocephalous Romanian Orthodox Church
proclaiming the establishment of the *Romanian Orthodox Metropolia of the Americas and the Romanian Orthodox Diocese of Canada*, amending the territorial division of the *Romanian Orthodox Archdiocese of the Americas*, and changing its title into the *Romanian Orthodox Archdiocese of the United States of America*,

THE HOLY SYNOD OF THE ROMANIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH,

*To its beloved clergy, monastics and pious faithful
in the Romanian Patriarchate,
Grace, joy, and peace from God, and from Us, hierarchal blessings!*

Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ established in His Holy Church special ministries, and by sending down the Blessed and Life-Giving Spirit on His Holy Disciples and Apostles, He strengthened them to preach the word of His Gospel, sending them into the whole world to teach all nations. Through His parables and teachings, our Savior guided us to multiply the talents given to each of us by our Heavenly Father; we, His servants, being the first-called to fulfill this sacred duty, trusting in the divine reward for our labors as deacons, priests, and bishops.

Orthodoxy began making inroads on the North American continent during the eighteenth century. It experienced significant development particularly in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, with the migration of populations from Orthodox countries. Under these circumstances, ecclesiastical organization took place on ethnic grounds.

Romanian immigration on the North American continent started around the middle of the nineteenth century. At the beginning of the twentieth century, there were more than 150,000 Romanians in the U.S. and Canada. Currently, the North American continent is home to more than 700,000 Romanians or Romanian-speaking people, preservers of Romanian spirituality, civilization, and culture, and of Orthodox religious life, in the context of the multicultural and multi-confessional society of that part of the world.

The founding of the Romanian Orthodox parishes in the United States and Canada took place on a canonical and statutory basis, maintaining the principles of organization and functioning of the Romanian Orthodox Church. Through its hierarchs, members of the Holy Synod, the Romanian

¹ SYNOD TOMOS nr. 1/2016, issued under the decision of the Holy Synod of the Romanian Orthodox Church, nr. 9138 of 28-29 October 2016, under Article 133, paragraph 2 of the Statute for the organization and functioning of the Romanian Orthodox Church, and made public on 30 October 2016 in the Patriarchal Cathedral of Bucharest, dedicated to *Saints Constantine and Helen and St. Dimitrios the New, patron saint and protector of Bucharest*.

Patriarchate cared for its children who chose to live in those geographical areas, where they founded parishes and dioceses.

We remember with gratitude the hierarchs who have wisely shepherded the faithful in the United States and Canada: Policarp Morușcă (1935-1939), who organized the *Romanian Orthodox Diocese in America and Canada*; Bishop Andrei Moldovan (1950-1963); and Archbishop Victorin Ursache (1966-2001), in whose time the diocese was elevated to the status of Archdiocese. Since 2002, the Orthodox faithful have been shepherded by His Eminence Archbishop Nicolae Condrea.

The intensification of the presence of Romanian Orthodoxy on the North American continent and the pastoral-missionary needs of the faithful have made increasingly clear the necessity of organizing a Romanian Orthodox Metropolia, to support and develop religious life, in fellowship with the other Orthodox eparchies in the United States and Canada, and in cooperation and respect with central and local authorities and other organizations.

The Holy Synod of the Romanian Orthodox Church, **analyzing in its working session of February 25, 2016 the pastoral needs of the Romanian faithful of the Romanian Orthodox Archdiocese of the Americas, and taking note of the desire to have a Metropolia with two suffragan eparchies**, mandated His Eminence NICOLAE, the Romanian Orthodox Archbishop of the Americas, to commence proceedings for the establishment of the *Romanian Orthodox Diocese of Canada*, and for changing the title of the *Romanian Orthodox Archdiocese of the Americas*, in order to establish the *Romanian Orthodox Metropolia of the Americas*, to include the two eparchies.

To fulfill the mandate given by the Holy Synod of the Romanian Orthodox Church through its decision nr. 2054 of 25 February, 2016, His Eminence NICOLAE, Romanian Orthodox Archbishop of the Americas, convened the Congress of the Romanian Orthodox Archdiocese of the Americas at the Holy Resurrection Parish in Hamilton, Ontario (Canada) from July 1 - 3, 2016.

The Members of the Congress of the Romanian Orthodox Archdiocese of the Americas, noting the legitimacy of the requests of the parish representatives from the U.S. and Canada, requested that the Holy Synod of the Romanian Orthodox Church approve **the establishing of the Romanian Orthodox Metropolia of the Americas, and its organization into two separate eparchies; the elevation to the rank of Metropolitan of the Romanian Orthodox Archbishop of the Americas; the creation of the Romanian Orthodox Diocese of Canada and the organization of elections for the position of Bishop of the Romanian Orthodox Diocese of Canada, nominating for this dignity His Grace IOAN CASIAN OF VICINA, Vicar-Bishop of the Romanian Orthodox Archdiocese of the Americas.**

Taking into account the canonical, pastoral-missionary, and administrative and ecclesiastical arguments, as well as those concerning the administrative-territorial organization of the dioceses, presented by the *Congress of the Romanian Orthodox Archdiocese of the Americas* in support of the proposal for the **establishment of the Romanian Orthodox Metropolia of the Americas and its suffragan eparchies;**

On the basis of **Art. 7 para. (1) of the Statutes, namely:** “*The establishment, dissolution, territorial modification and changes of title of the metropolias, archdioceses and dioceses are decided through decrees of the Holy Synod, taking into account the pastoral-missionary needs, and*

taking into account the administrative-territorial organization of the state”; and **para. (2)** “The title of metropolitans, archbishops, and bishops is that of the diocese that they shepherd”;

On the basis of **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 creation, dissolution, territorial modification and changes of titles of the eparchies and metropolitan churches belonging to the Romanian Patriarchate”;

As a result of the vote expressed, **the Holy Synod of the Romanian Orthodox Church**, through its decision nr. 9138, adopted at its working session of 28-29 October 2016, **approved the establishment of the ROMANIAN ORTHODOX DIOCESE OF CANADA**, based in St. Hubert/Montreal, Quebec, Canada, as a suffragan diocese of the Romanian Orthodox Metropolia of the Americas, through its detachment from **the Romanian Orthodox Archdiocese of the Americas**, and the **Diocesan Bishop of the new Diocese will bear the title of Romanian Orthodox Bishop of Canada**.

It also approved the territorial modification of the *Romanian Orthodox Archdiocese of the Americas* following the establishment of the *Romanian Orthodox Diocese of Canada*, and the changing of its title to the **ROMANIAN ORTHODOX ARCHDIOCESE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**, and the establishment of the **ROMANIAN ORTHODOX METROPOLIA OF THE AMERICAS**, which will include the *Romanian Orthodox Archdiocese of the United States of America* and the *Romanian Orthodox Diocese of Canada*. At the same time, the Holy Synod approved the amendment of the Diptychs of the Romanian Orthodox Church, by including in position nr. 10 the *Romanian Orthodox Archbishop of the United States of America*, and the *Romanian Orthodox Metropolitan of the Americas*.

In the same decision the Holy Synod entrusted to the Diocesan Bishops of the *Romanian Orthodox Metropolia of the Americas* the task of *adopting ecclesiastical statutory and regulatory measures for the establishment of diocesan deliberative and executive bodies*, according to the new pastoral and administrative realities, as well as *the organizing of activities according to the provisions of their own statutes and regulations*.

Therefore, through this SYNODAL TOMOS, we make known the decision of the Holy Synod of the Romanian Orthodox Church to establish the *Romanian Orthodox Metropolia of the Americas* and the *Romanian Orthodox Diocese of Canada*, as well as to change the name and jurisdiction of the *Romanian Orthodox Archdiocese of the Americas* into the *Romanian Orthodox Archdiocese of the United States of America*. Moreover, we paternally advise the clergy and the faithful established on the North American continent to support the organization of the new eparchies, through a fruitful collaboration with their hierarchs and other representatives of the Metropolitan Administration.

We entrust the Archpastors of these two eparchies, and also all the priests, monks, and Orthodox Christians in the area of the new *Romanian Orthodox Metropolia of the Americas*, to the mercies of our Good God, to the prayers of the Holy Apostle Andrew the First-Called, the Protector of Romania, and to the prayers of all the protector saints of the parishes and monasteries under this Metropolia.

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

THE PRESIDENT OF THE HOLY SYNOD OF THE ROMANIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH,

† DANIEL

Archbishop of Bucharest,
Metropolitan of Wallachia and Dobrogea, Locum Tenens of Caesarea of
Cappadocia, and
Patriarch of the Romanian Orthodox Church

† TEOFAN

*Archbishop of Iași and
Metropolitan of Moldavia and Bucovina*

† ANDREI

*Archbishop of Vad, Feleac and Cluj
and Metropolitan of Cluj, Maramureș and
Sălaj*

† IOAN

*Archbishop of Timișoara and
Metropolitan of Banat*

† IOSIF

*Romanian Orthodox Archbishop of Western Europe
and Romanian Orthodox Metropolitan of
Western and Middle Europe*

† NIFON

*Honorary Metropolitan, Archbishop of Târgoviște
and Patriarchal Exarch*

† PIMEN

Archbishop of Suceava and Rădăuți

† VARSANUFIE

Archbishop of Râmnic

† CALINIC

Archbishop of Argeș and Muscel

† CASIAN

† LAURENȚIU

*Archbishop of Sibiu and
Metropolitan of Transylvania*

† IRINEU

*Archbishop of Craiova and
Metropolitan of Oltenia*

† PETRU

*Archbishop of Chișinău
Metropolitan of Bessarabia and
Exarch of Regions*

† SERAFIM

*Romanian Orthodox Archbishop of
Germany, Austria, and Luxembourg
and Romanian Orthodox Metropolitan of
Germany, and Central and North Europe*

† TEODOSE

Archbishop of Tomis

† IRINEU

Archbishop of Alba Iulia

† IOACHIM

Archbishop of Roman and Bacău

† CIPRIAN

Archbishop of Buzău and Vrancea

† TIMOTEI

Archbishop of Lower Danube

† **NICOLAE**
Romanian Orthodox Archbishop of the Americas

† **CORNELIU**
Bishop of Huși

† **SOFRONIE**
Romanian Orthodox Bishop of Oradea

† **VINCENȚIU**
Bishop of Slobozia and Călărași

† **GALACTION**
Bishop of Alexandria and Teleorman

† **SEBASTIAN**
Bishop of Slatina and Romanați

† **PETRONIU**
Bishop of Sălaj

† **DANIIL**
Deputy-Bishop (administrator) of Episcopate of Dacia Felix

† **SILUAN**
Romanian Orthodox Bishop of Italy

† **MACARIE**
Romanian Orthodox Bishop of North Europe

† **VARLAAM PLOIEȘTEANUL**
Patriarchal Vicar Bishop

† **TIMOTEI PRAHOVEANUL**
Vicar Bishop of Archdiocese of București

† **ILARION FĂGĂRĂȘEANUL**
Vicar Bishop of Archdiocese of Sibiu

† **PAISIE LUGOJEANUL**

Archbishop of Arad

† **JUSTINIAN**
Honorary Archbishop, Romanian Orthodox Bishop of Maramureș and Sătmar

† **LUCIAN**
Bishop of Caransebeș

† **NICODIM**
Bishop of Severin and Strehaiia

† **ANDREI**
Bishop of Covasna and Harghita

† **AMBROZIE**
Bishop of Giurgiu

† **VISARION**
Bishop of Tulcea

† **GURIE**
Bishop of Deva and Hunedoara

† **SILUAN**
Romanian Orthodox Bishop of Hungary

† **TIMOTEI**
Romanian Orthodox Bishop of Spain and Portugal

† **MIHAIL**
Romanian Orthodox Bishop of Australia and New Zealand

† **IERONIM SINAITUL**
Patriarchal Vicar Bishop

† **CALINIC BOTOȘĂNEANUL**
Vicar Bishop of Archdiocese of Iași

† **VASILE SOMEȘEANUL**
Vicar Bishop of Archdiocese of Vad, Feleac and Cluj

† **ANTONIE DE ORHEI**

Vicar Bishop of Archdiocese of Timișoara

† **MARC NEMȚEANUL**

*Vicar Bishop of Romanian Orthodox Archdiocese
of Western Europe*

† **EMILIAN LOVIȘTEANUL**

Vicar Bishop of Archdiocese of Râmnic

† **IUSTIN SIGHETEANUL**

*Assistant Bishop of Romanian Orthodox
Episcopate of Maramureș and Sătmar*

*Vicar Bishop of Archdiocese of
Chișinău*

† **SOFIAN BRAȘOVEANUL**

*Vicar Bishop of Archdiocese of
Germany, Austria, and Luxembourg*

† **IOAN CASIAN DE VICINA**

*Vicar Bishop of Romanian Orthodox
Archdiocese of the Americas*

† **IGNATIE MUREȘEANUL**

*Assistant Bishop of Romanian Orthodox
Episcopate of Spain and Portugal*