

Episcopate. One of the major themes focused on the Episcopate's history, Church order in North America, and the purpose of the newly-formed Assembly of Bishops (*Archbishop Nathaniel referenced several texts from the documents printed in the 2011 Solia Calendar on pages 182ff*). He also addressed the status of the American Romanian Orthodox Youth (AROY) and explained the Episcopate's concern for preparing teenagers to live as responsible adult Orthodox Christians. The assembled delegates offered a standing ovation following the Address.

The Congress was privileged to have a Special IOCC Informational Presentation by Mr. Dan Christopulos, IOCC's Director of Development who made a PowerPoint presentation which referred to the special IOCC News & Needs newsletter in each Delegate's packet, highlighting the work being done in Romania (*Episcopate Parishes/Missions donated \$32,039.97 during 2010 for flood relief*).

Following the IOCC presentation, Memory Eternal was sung for those departed over the last year. Rev. Fr. Ian Pac-Urar (Fairlawn, OH) chaired the meeting from this point on.

The Chair invited questions or comments on the reports: **Hierarchal Schedule, Status of the Clergy, Status of Parishes and Missions, Diocesan/Parish Events, Religious Education, Department of Missions, Department of Publications, Christian Assistance** and the **Commission on Religious Art**. Extensive discussion arose in relation to the **External Affairs** report. V. Rev. Dr. Remus Grama, the Episcopate's External Affairs Representative, ably replied to questions related to the actions of the Mother Churches to create Assemblies of Bishops in regions of the world where Church administrative order is incomplete (i.e. North America). Archbishop Nathaniel completed the discussion by explaining the meaning and practical results of administrative unity of the Orthodox Church.

Following a break for lunch, the Congress reconvened and discussed the report of the **Joint Dialogue Commission (JDC)**. Fr. Laurence Lazar explained that the work of the JDC was to negotiate a framework under which a potential union could take place. The next step involves the due diligence studies being done. The JDC has nothing to do with that work, other than to continue to monitor the situation and maintain communication with the ROAA.

Psa./Attorney Mary Lynn Pac-Urar summarized the activity of the **Due Diligence Committee (DDC)**. She explained that the Congress voted to have this committee because the Proposal seeks the legal merger of two corporations, and the Episcopate has a fiduciary duty to engage in due diligence. The DDC does not deal with ecclesiastical or policy issues. The DDC has received some responses from the Archdiocese. The DDC needs to analyze what was received and what needs to be done to go forward. Lastly, a pro-forma



Archbishop Nathaniel (c) and Archbishop Nicolae (r) with Bishop Irineu (l) following the Hierarchal Divine Liturgy.

plan on how a new Metropolia would function financially would have to be drawn up.

Questions were invited on the **Vatra Administration and Maintenance** and **Deanery Reports**.

The reports of the **Auxiliaries (ARFORA, AROY, Orthodox Brotherhood USA and Orthodox Brotherhood Canada)** were reviewed by delegates. Lucy Pop, ARFORA President, made a short presentation and appealed to the parish priests for spiritual and moral support for the local chapters. Some delegates voiced questions and comments regarding **AROY** and **Orthodox Brotherhood USA**.

Mark Chestnut (Controller / Assistant Treasurer) fielded questions on the **Financial Report**.

Under **New Business**, Fr. Ian Pac-Urar appealed to the Parishes/Missions to encourage their clergy to attend the annual Confertreat (this year on November 8-11 in Phoenix, AZ), which is the single professional development opportunity offered by the Episcopate each year. Parishes/Missions are expected to cover the costs (\$350 plus travel).

Fr. Pac-Urar then presented the **Recommendation of the Episcopate Council: To establish an Office of Youth Ministry in the Department of Religious Education**. Archbishop Nathaniel explained that the financial committee has a great challenge ahead in putting together funding for such a position. Fr. Pac-Urar explained that approval of the motion will establish this office so that the financial committee has a year to plan for the 2013 budget. Various viewpoints were voiced pro and con, mainly with regard to how the position will be funded. The consensus, as at the Clergy Conference, was that a Youth Director would be of great assistance to priests and parishes and help stem the tide of youth leaving the church (the statistic of 6 out of 10 of our youth will not remain in the church was noted). The Recommendation passed.

The **Proposed Budget 2012** was presented and passed.

In **other New Business** a motion was made and passed regarding the Proposal for the merger of the ROEA and ROAA: **That the JDC and DDC of the ROEA meet**

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