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Metropolitan Petru of Bessarabia congratulates Patriarch Daniel on 36 years of episcopal ministry



Metropolitan Petru of Bessarabia sent a congratulatory message to His Beatitude Patriarch Daniel on the occasion of the 36th anniversary of his episcopal ordination.

“Your Beatitude’s episcopal ministry has become for the Romanian people and for the entire Orthodox world a benchmark of pastoral vision, right confession of faith, and the active building of a Church that gives birth to saints in an era marked by secularization, historical realignments, and healing,” Metropolitan Petru said.

The Metropolitan of Bessarabia also expressed gratitude for the support offered by Patriarch Daniel to the Romanian faithful living east of the Prut River.

“We offer our gratitude for the tireless efforts and the constant care shown toward the Metropolis of Bessarabia—initiatives that have opened paths of unity, healed some of the wounds of history, and restored the dignity of the Romanian people of Bessarabia after nearly a century of wandering and trials.”

“In the years when our national and spiritual memory and identity faced severe challenges from other peoples and unfriendly regimes, Your Beatitude provided our ecclesial unity with canonical foundation, uprightness, and dignity, witnessing at the pan-Orthodox level that Bessarabia is and cannot be anything other than Romanian and Orthodox,” Metropolitan Petru added.

The image of tireless service

His Eminence also praised the Romanian Patriarch’s involvement, noting that through both word and action he strengthened the awareness of the people in the Republic of Moldova of their belonging to the living tradition of the Romanian Orthodox Church.

“The anniversary of your calling to the episcopacy also reminds us of the beginnings of our own ministry, when you guided and protected us amid the many burdens and injustices we endured for the sake of truth and in memory of those who sacrificed themselves for the same ideal. In those times, as now, Your Beatitude’s counsel and the example of tireless service were for us a source of courage and a measure of dedication, regardless of the hardships and trials.”

In concluding his message, Metropolitan Petru noted that “three and a half decades of episcopal ministry mean generations formed, institutions strengthened, and thousands of souls entrusted to Your Beatitude’s prayer and pastoral care. During these decades of shepherding, you have offered the Romanian Orthodox Church a clear vision, a coherent project, and a dignified public presence.”

Patriarch Daniel marked 36 years since his episcopal ordination on Wednesday. He was consecrated a bishop on March 4, 1990, on the Sunday of Orthodoxy.

Photo: Lumina Newspaper Files

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