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# CHURCH OF ST. STEPHEN THE GREAT UNDER CONSTRUCTION AT MOLDOVAN MINISTRY OF DEFENSE



A new church dedicated to the 15th-16th century hero St. Stephen the Great is currently under construction at the Moldovan Ministry of Defenses building in the capital city of Chișinău.

His Eminence Metropolitan Vladimir of the Russian Church's Metropolis of Chișinău and All Moldova celebrated the service of consecrating and laying the foundation stone for the new church yesterday, June 3. The wooden memorial church is dedicated to the Right-Believing Voivode St. Stephen the Great, the Metropolis reports.
The Metropolitan was concelebrated by Archimandrite Nicolae of Ciuflea Monastery, who serves as the head of the Moldovan Synod's Department of Pastoral Activity in the Ministry of the Interior, the Ministry of Defense, and Law Bodies, and a number of military chaplains.

The event was attended by top officials from the Ministry of Defense and soldiers from the national army. The church will also serve as a memorial for soldiers who have given their lives or their faith and their country.

In his homily, Met. Vladimir stressed that the church being built belongs to the Christ-loving Moldovan army, for a Christ-loving army must have places of worship where the Most-Holy Trinity, the Lord Jesus Christ, the Mother of God, and all the saints are honored.

The construction of the church is provided for in the joint action plan for promoting the spiritual education and religious assistance of the national army in 2021, signed between the Ministry of Defense and the Metropolis of Chișinău and All Moldova in November.

His Eminence Metroplitan Nifon of Târgovişte of the Romanian Orthodox Church recently called for the canonization of another 16th-century victor over Ottoman forces, Michael the Brave.

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