

Romania: Patriarchal Auxiliary Bishop consecrates social centre for the elderly near Bucharest



Patriarchal Auxiliary Bishop Varlaam of Ploiești consecrated on Monday a social centre for the elderly near Bucharest, in the Romanian city of Ploiești.

The centre, a joint project of the parish and the Archdiocese of Bucharest will serve 105 beneficiaries, offering a social canteen and home care services.

His Eminence Varlaam emphasized that the centre's opening is an excellent beginning to 2023, declared the Solemn Year of Pastoral Care for the Elderly in the Romanian Patriarchate.

"Thanks to the involvement of the Annunciation Parish – Ploiești, the South Muntenia Regional Development Agency, and the North Ploiești Deanery, we managed to complete this project supported by non-reimbursable European funds and we thank God for this achievement, because there is much suffering and deprivation, especially in the lives of the elderly".

"Taking into account that the year 2023 has been proclaimed in the Romanian

Patriarchate as the Year of the Pastoral Care of the Elderly and seeing in the publicity materials of this settlement that the two categories of social services refer to elderly people, over 65 years old, here is a happy achievement at the beginning of the year”.

“We heartily congratulate all those who have been involved and supported this project. At the recommendation of the Social-Philanthropic and Missionary Sector and the Administrative-Church Sector of the Archdiocese of Bucharest, His Beatitude Patriarch Daniel awarded several orders and diplomas to those who have distinguished themselves in this holy and so necessary work in this period when the elderly are facing a lot of deprivation, low pensions and high living expenses,” His Eminence added.

On behalf of Patriarch Daniel, the hierarch offered several awards.

The “Oranta Mother of God” Order for clergy was awarded to Father Adrian Matei, Dean of the Ploiești Nord Deanery; the “Sanctus Stephanus Magnus” Order for clergy to Father Viorel Ionuț Iordăchescu from the Scaune Parish, of Bucharest’s Sector 3 Deanery, and Father Bogdan Grigorescu from the “Buna Vestire” Parish in Ploiești was elevated to the honorary rank of Archpriest.

The “Sanctus Stephanus Magnus” Order for lay people was awarded to Liviu-Gabriel Mușat, Director General of the South Muntenia Regional Development Agency; the “Maria Brâncoveanu Cross” Order to Florina Micu and Claudia Milea, and also to Architect Ioana Alexandrescu.

The Diploma of Honour “Saint Andrew the Apostle, Patron Saint of Romania” was awarded to Silviu Andrei Vlădăreanu, eparchial inspector at the Legal and Church Goods Sector of the Archdiocese of Bucharest. Adrian Loghin, Florian Roman and Dragoș Georgian Borșa received the same distinction.

At the end of the ceremony, Father Dean Adrian Matei gave details about the project.

“It is with great joy that we have reached today the completion of this project, which has been running for several years, starting from an idea, namely the fact that there is no social centre properly accredited and licensed in the city of Ploiești”.

“His Beatitude Patriarch Daniel has given his blessing to this parish, where a program called the Meal of Joy was already running, offering food to the needy in the municipality, to start this project financed by non-reimbursable funds as a partnership between the Archdiocese of Bucharest and the Annunciation Parish,

through which the former parish house will become a social centre with two components, a social canteen and home care services, serving 105 beneficiaries”, said the cleric





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