



75th Anniversary of Vatra Românească, 1938-2013

THE ROMANIAN ORTHODOX EPISCOPATE OF AMERICA

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THE ROMANIAN ORTHODOX EPISCOPATE OF AMERICA

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**His Eminence
The Most Reverend
+ NATHANIEL**

**Archbishop of Detroit
and
The Romanian Orthodox
Episcopate of America**

FOREWORD

The following pages contain a sampling of photographs of the Vatra grounds and various events from the 75 year history of Vatra Românească (the Romanian Hearth), the Diocesan Center of The Romanian Orthodox Episcopate of America. Much has been written over the years in the pages of *Solia-The Herald*, the *Solia Calendar* and various anniversary albums about the history of the property. Although the photos presented do not represent an exhaustive history, these images display a glimpse into the life of this holy place, which is primarily a Church center that “first of all exists to bear witness to the universality of the eternal message of the Holy Orthodox faith as lived in North America” (Archbishop NATHANIEL). Captions are purposely absent in order to allow the photos to speak for themselves.

Before being purchased for use as the Diocesan Center, the location was the home of Ottawa and Chippewa Native American Tribes. In 1835, as a result of a land grant signed by President Andrew Jackson, William H. Boland settled the 80 acre site and built a log cabin on the property. His son, William A. Boland, purchased more property, built a mansion (the current Bishop’s Residence) and various other buildings to sustain an operating farm. Of the original buildings, the mansion, three buildings and a water tower (converted to a bell tower) remain.

The Episcopate became the fourth owner of the property after the arrival of its first hierarch, Bishop POLICARP (Morușca). The Bishop expressed his desire to have a residence in the country from where he could administrate the Diocese. The site was purchased by a group of individuals, mostly from St. George Church in Detroit, while Bishop Policarp was on an extended visit to Romania in 1937. Thus, on July 3-4, 1938, on the third anniversary of his enthronement, Bishop Policarp, together with clergy and large crowds of faithful, inaugurated and dedicated this “Romanian Hearth” as an “establishment for good works, culture, Christian and Romanian education; a place of pilgrimage together with the religious life at the ‘Skete of the Mother of God’; a retirement place for feeble seniors who are without shelter; an orphanage for those abandoned; a place of education in the summer for youth and with a central library, a Romanian museum of history and culture; a repository for religious objects and of useful Romanian books; a permanent exhibit of handcrafted artifacts; a candle factory; a church press; a school for cantors; an episcopal residence; a summer recreation resort for workers, businessmen, professionals, youth and children; and around the Skete, a cemetery for Romanian Orthodox” (1938 Inauguration Album).

The successors to Bishop POLICARP, His Eminence Archbishop VALERIAN (1951-1984) and His Eminence Archbishop NATHANIEL (1984-present), have continued to maintain and develop the property; because, in the words of Archbishop NATHANIEL: “The Church is a living organism, and its needs are always expanding and changing. The Romanian Orthodox Episcopate of America, a part of the Orthodox Church in America, gives sincere thanks to the All-Holy Trinity for the development of its Diocesan Center and prays that the process will continue through the support and sacrifices of the older generation and a strong and firm commitment of the new generation.”

Bishop POLICARP









Archbishop VALERIAN











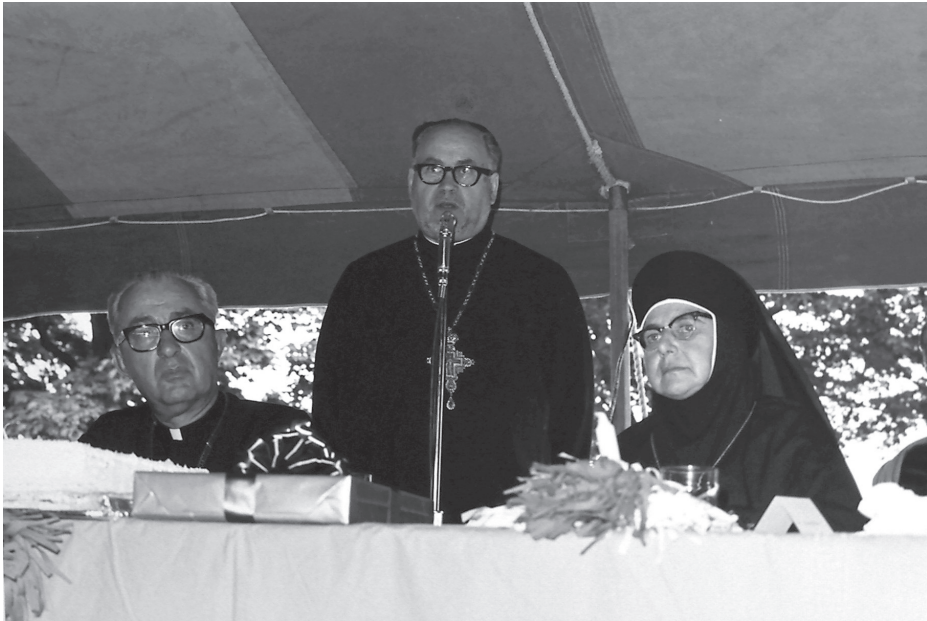






































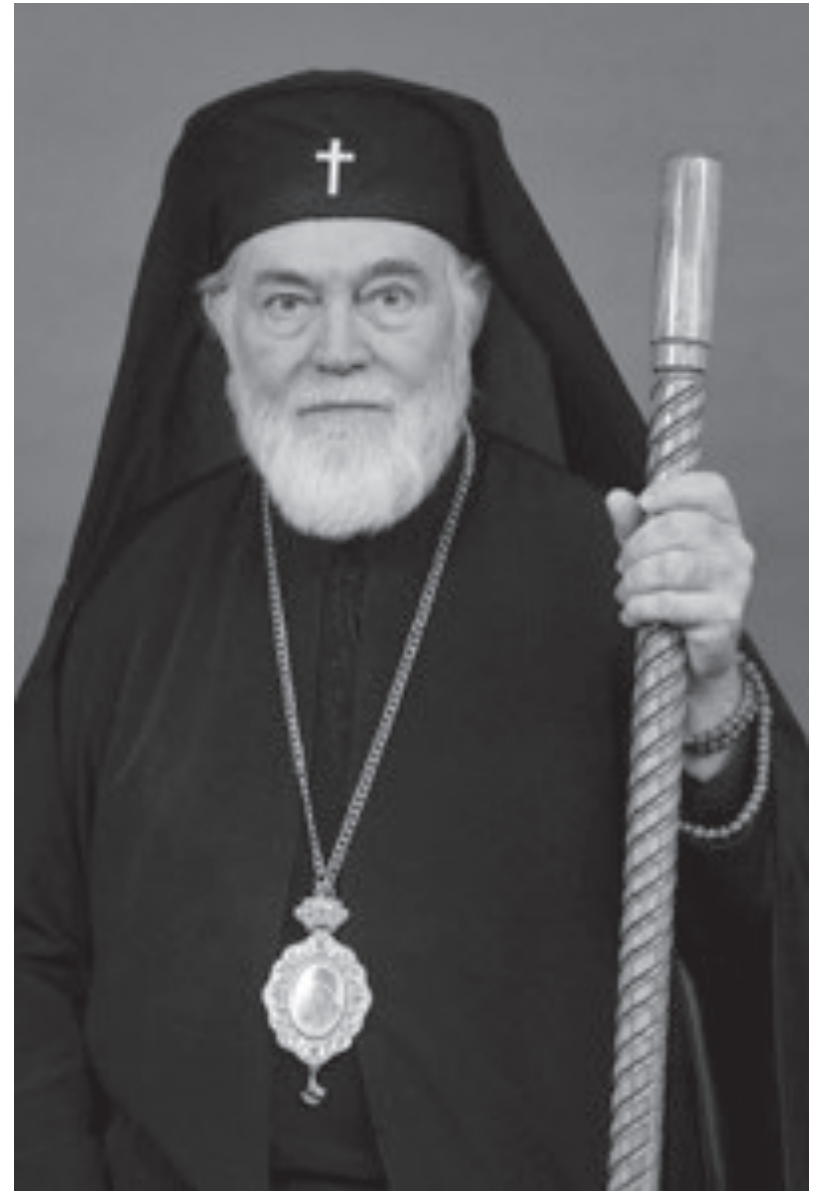








Archbishop NATHANIEL



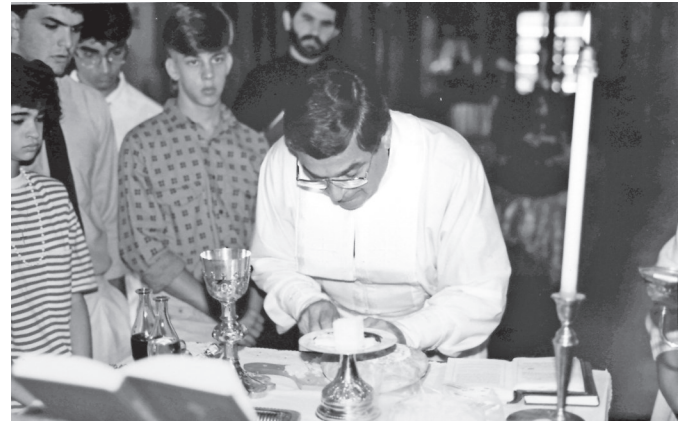
















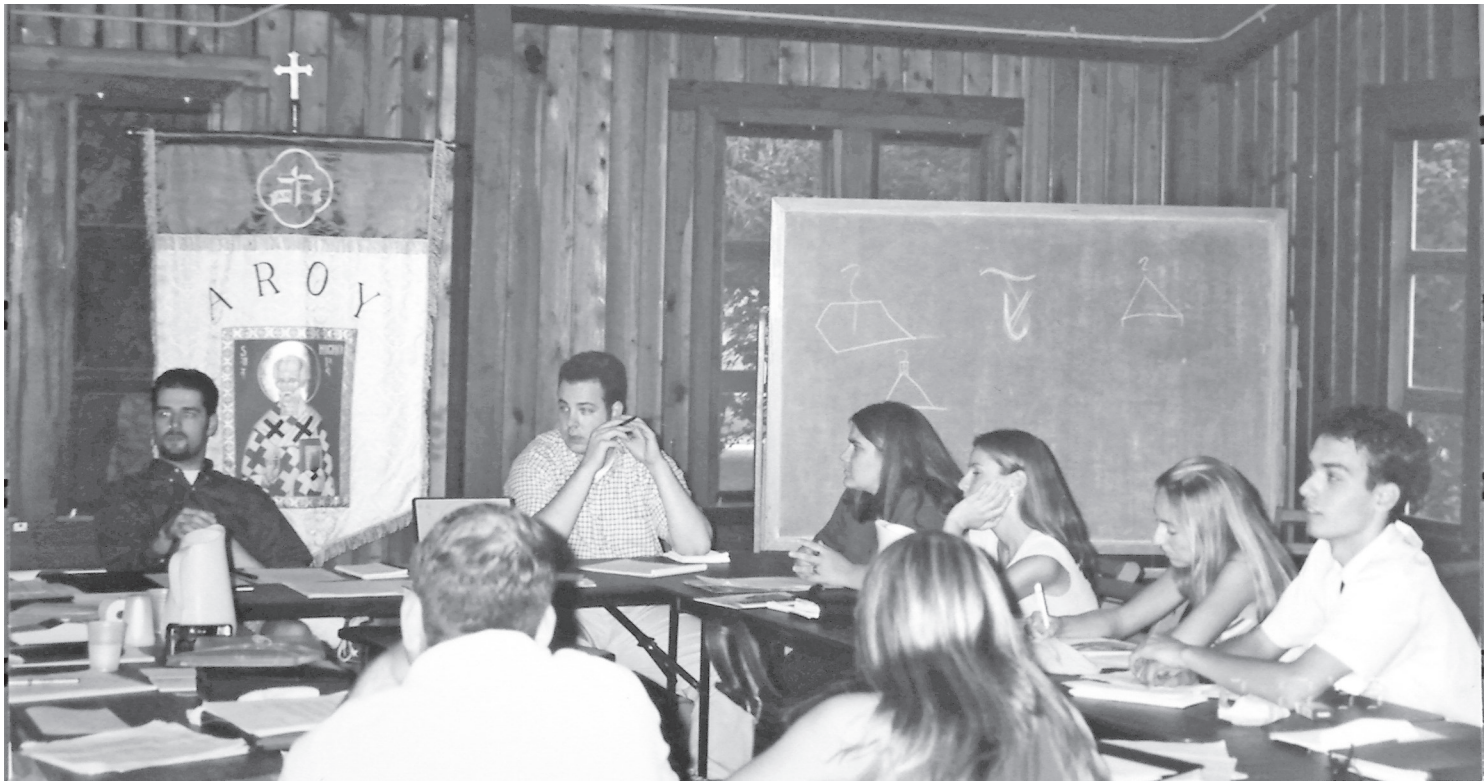
















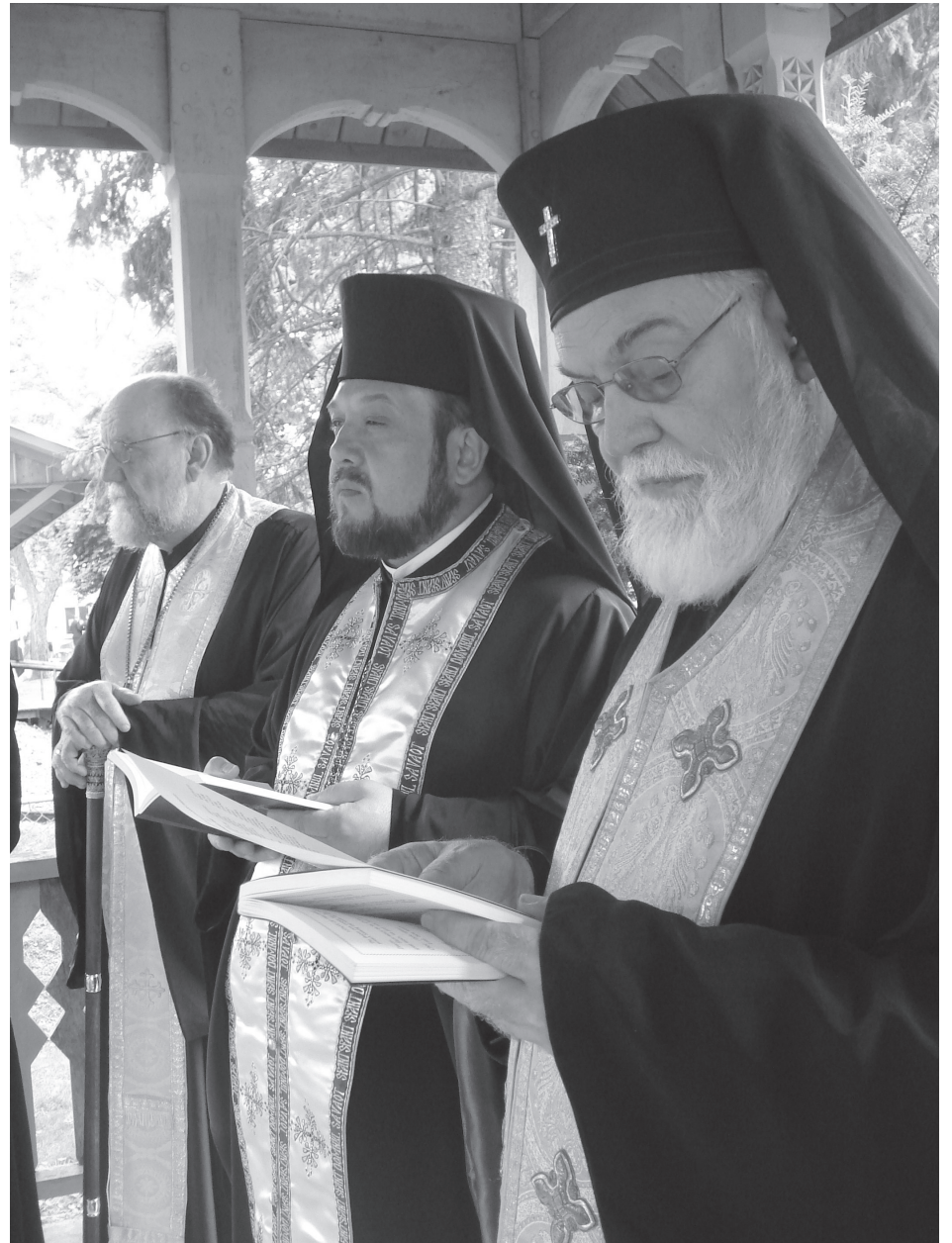




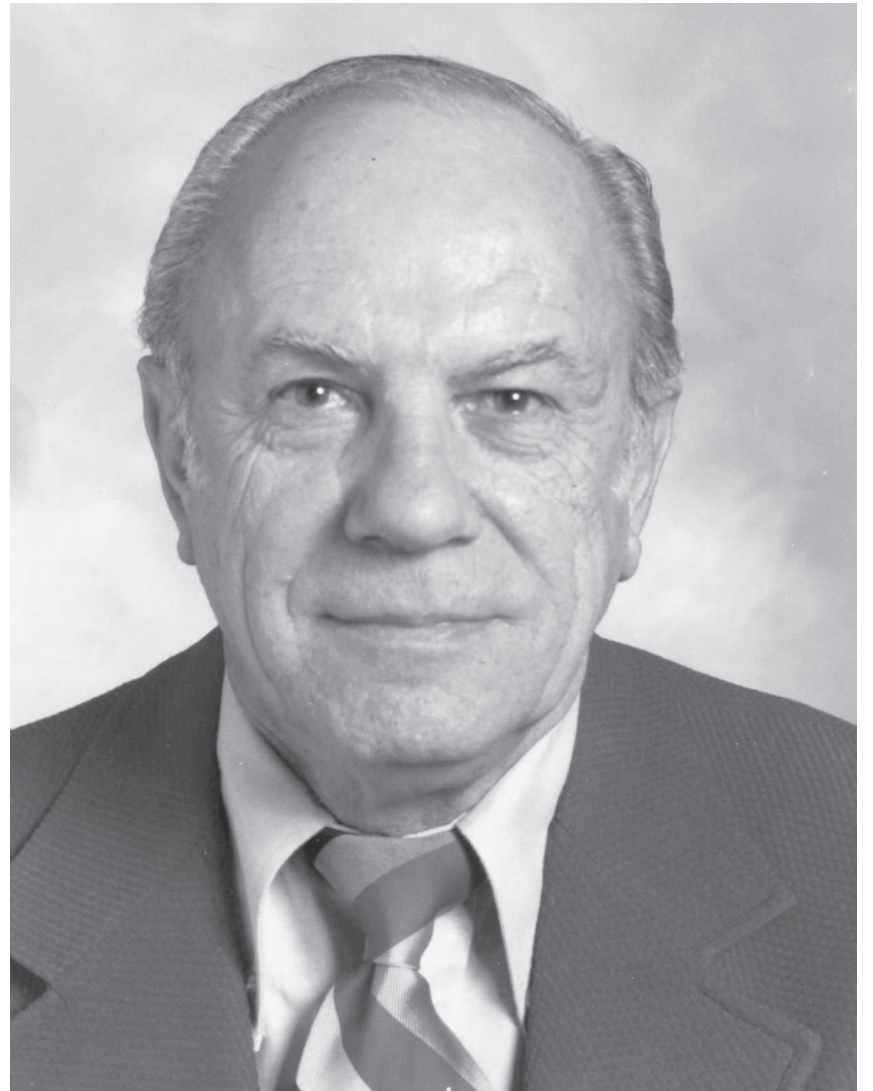










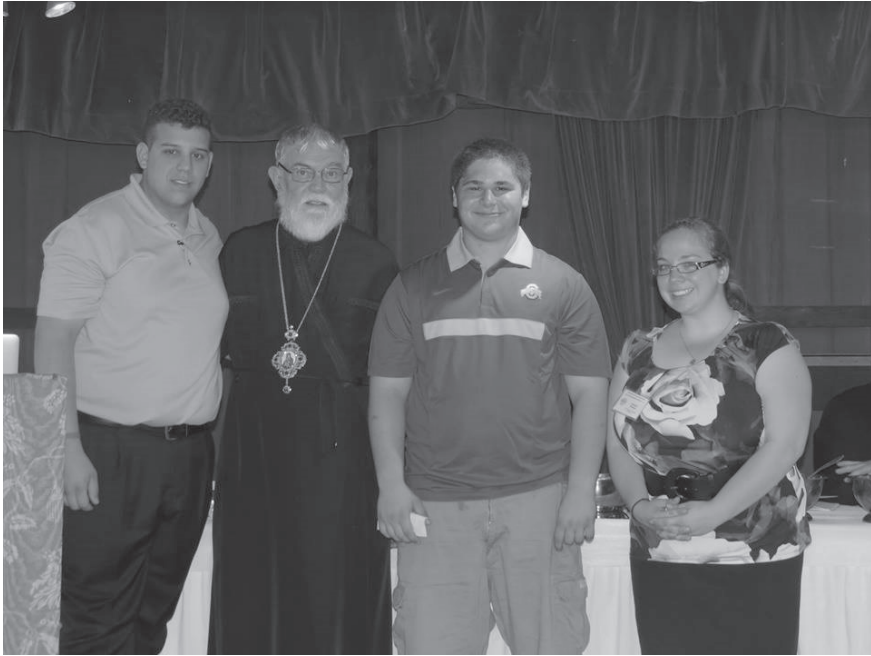












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**The Hierarchs of Thrice Blessed Memory
Bishop POLICARP & Archbishop VALERIAN**

