



ROMANIAN CATHOLIC DIOCESE

Eparchy of St. George in Canton



November 3, 2022

Office of the Bishop

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

On December 4, 2022, the Romanian Catholic Diocese of Canton will hold the Martyr Bishop's Collection in support of the Clergy Retirement Fund. We are provided this opportunity to remember all the clergy who brave the challenges of pastoral work and serve our spiritual needs.

Every year in December, the faithful of the Romanian Catholic Diocese of Canton have been asked to support the Clergy Retirement Fund. After years of supporting the faithful of a parish or mission, each priest receives a small pension for his love and dedication to God's Church and His people. The Clergy Retirement Fund is comprised of this collection and interest from an account that is held for this purpose. Currently, there are four retired priests who receive a stipend for their years of service: Rev. George Gage, Very Rev. Aurel Pater, Right Rev. Gregory Duma and Rev. Michael Kirila. Keep them in your prayers as they enjoy their much-deserved retirement.

At Divine Liturgy on December 4, 2022, we are called to remember our Blessed Romanian Martyr Bishops and the other faithful who suffered during the communist regime in a special way with a special collection and another fundraising event. The zeal of the Martyr Bishops and faithful who stood up for their faith has been a blessing to the whole Church. We use their example in our current situations to love more deeply as Christ taught us.

This year, we will introduce the final of the martyr bishops: Most Reverend Iuliu Cardinal Hossu (born on January 30, 1885 in Milaș, Romania), was ordained to the priesthood in 1910 by his uncle. He spent time in World War I as a chaplain for the Romanian Army. He was consecrated the bishop of Gherla on December 4, 1917. He presided over the reunion of Transylvania to Romania in 1918. He was arrested for his faith in 1948 and spent the next 16 years of his life incarcerated in the Jilava, Drogoșlavele, Sighet and Gherla prisons. From 1964 to 1970, Cardinal Hossu spent the time in house arrest at a monastery in Bucharest. He died on May 28, 1970. He was elevated to cardinal in 1969, but it was not made public until 1973, which was after his death.

We are grateful for the clergy of the Eparchy of St. George for Romanians and the sacrifices they have made to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Please show your gratitude with your donation on December 4, 2022. May God bless your lives with every good thing for your generosity to those who have faithfully served the faithful of our parishes!

Sincerely in Christ our Savior,

(Most Reverend) John Michael Botean, DD
Bishop of the Eparchy of St. George for Romanians

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***Martyr Bishops' Collection
in support of the Clergy Retirement Fund***