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CALLING OUR YOUTH

AMERICAN-ROMANIAN ORTHODOX YOUTH PAGE
[A.R.O.Y.]

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A BISHOP IS CONSECRATED

On Sunday, April 27, 1952, in the church of the "Descent of the Holy Ghost" in Philadelphia the Rev. Archimandrite Father Viorel Trifa was elevated to the rank of Bishop and will henceforth be known as Valerian. In a ceremony presided over by Metropolitan John of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the United States, Bishop Valerian spoke his beliefs and took his oaths before a large number of people who came from many of the parishes of the Episcopate. These impressive, significant and dignified ceremonies were without precedent in the history of our Church in America.

Those who were able to attend the services of Consecration were bathed in a warm glow of sentiment and emotion as they observed and participated in the proceedings. For there was a strong realization that this was the moment of high tide in the hopes of the people of the Romanian Orthodox Church of America. Ever since the electoral Church Congress of Chicago a year ago, the people, the priests, and Bishop Valerian have waited, toiled and suffered for this moment. This was truly victory and its solemnity and seriousness was grasped by each and every priest and lay member present.

Those who were not able to witness the consecration will have missed a truly great moment. They will come to understand this only in time. For they missed a sacred event, when a man pledged himself before God to give up his own self to the service of God and his flock. Bishop Valerian spoke in a voice choked with emotion to the congregation present, and made this point clear. There were tears in the eyes of everyone there, but these were tears of joy, of gratitude to a merciful God, tears that marked the outpouring of thanks for providing us with this man and this moment.

The path that had led to this great event had certainly been strewn with the most troublesome obstacles. Yet each obstacle had been overcome, including those of the very last moment before the consecration. So we have reached this point which glows with glory, along the road we travel with our Church and our Faith. But we can not rest upon our laurels, for the road still stretches on ahead and we MUST travel it. It is full of difficulties, which may prove to be more oppressive. But we can go forward with renewed vigor. We have added to our strength. We have a Bishop who is our leader, and who is fully fitted for the task. He has proved his worth to us. It remains for us to prove our worth to him. For our Bishop is our strength. An insult to him is an insult to ourselves, honor to him is honor to ourselves. We must support him in everything that he shall attempt in our behalf. More now than ever before, we must unite behind him for our Faith's sake, if we believe in Jesus Christ and His salvation, we will sacrifice and work to make His Church more real in our lives.

Bishop Valerian has undertaken this difficult task knowing full well what the dangers and difficulties are. Yet he is willing because he has faith, faith in God, faith in us, his flock. May the merciful and omnipotent Lord bless him and strengthen him! We who picked him as our spiritual leader must prove his faith in us. If any of you are not willing to do so, then you should withdraw from the flock and let those who wish to work for God do so. May the merciful Lord give us strength to carry our share of the burden.

La Mulți Ani, Stăpâne! God Bless You, Bishop Valerian!

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