

# National A.R.F.O.R.A.

# Conference



**May 31-June 1**

**2025**



# Souvenir Book

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2023



**His Eminence, Archbishop Dr. Nathaniel (Popp)**

Archbishop of Detroit and

The Romanian Orthodox Episcopate of America

Consecrated: November 15, 1980

✙ *ARFORA Congress, Saint Paul MN, May 31-June 1, 2025* ✙



*Welcome*

To the  
**77<sup>th</sup> A.R.F.O.R.A. Congress**  
May 31– June 1, Hosted by  
St. Mary Romanian Orthodox Church, St. Paul MN



*It is hoped that this A.R.F.O.R.A. (Asociația Reuniunilor Femeilor Ortodoxe Române din America de Nord) CONGRESS will be an uplifting experience for all in attendance.*

*May our mission be influenced by our patron*

***St. (Venerable) Paracheva***

*Whose guidance will enable us to be messengers  
of our Orthodox Faith*

✝ ARFORA Congress, Saint Paul MN, May 31– June 1, 2025 ✝



## 77<sup>th</sup> A.R.F.O.R.A. Congress

May 30 – June 1, 2025

### Convocation

**Hosted by:** St. Mary Romanian Orthodox Church  
854 Woodbridge St. Saint Paul, MN 55117  
**Chairperson:** Prascovia Bortnova, (612) 298-9066  
**Co-chair:** Psa. Eugenia Cerghizan (651) 278-1890  
**Parish Priest:** Rev. Fr. Mircea VasIU, Phone: (734) 497-4544

### A.R.F.O.R.A.

In conformity with Article II, Section 2 of the By-Laws,  
We hereby convoke the 77<sup>th</sup> National A.R.F.O.R.A. Congress to be held on May 30 – June 1, 2025  
**St. Mary Romanian Orthodox Church, 854 Woodbridge St. Saint Paul, MN 55117; 651-488-5669**  
Diocesan Hierarchy: The Most Reverend **Archbishop NATHANIEL (POPP)**  
ARFORA National President: **Lucy Pop**  
ARFORA National Secretary: **Adela Price**

### SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

#### Friday, May 30, 2025:

4:00 pm-7:00 pm Early Registration & Reception at the Church  
5:00 pm Executive Board Meeting

#### Saturday, May 31, 2025:

8:30 am Delegate Registration and Breakfast  
9:30 am Congress Session I  
12:00 pm Lunch & Speaker  
2:00 pm Congress Session II  
4:30 pm Congress Photograph  
5:00 pm Great Vespers & Parastas  
6:30 pm Dinner Event

#### Sunday, June 1, 2025:

9:00 am Matins  
9:45 am Vesting of Hierarchy  
10:00 am Hierarchical Liturgy  
12:30pm Congress Banquet & Farewell



#### Hotel Accommodations:

##### Drury Plaza Hotel, Saint Paul Downtown

Hotel address: 175 10<sup>th</sup> E, Saint Paul, MN 55101 Phone: (651) 222-3337; Website: <https://www.druryhotels.com/locations/st-paul-mn/drury-plaza-hotel-st-paul-downtown>. Please make your hotel reservation by April 30<sup>th</sup>, 2025

✦ *ARFORA Congress, Saint Paul MN, May 31-June 1, 2025* ✦



**AGENDA**  
**77<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL A.R.F.O.R.A. CONGRESS**  
**Saint Mary Romanian Orthodox Church, St. Paul, MN**  
**May 30-June 1, 2025**

**Opening Prayer – St. Parascheva Tropar**

*In you O Holy Mother, the faithful image of God shone forth, for you carried your cross and followed Christ. You taught by your deed how to spurn the body for it passes away, and how to value the soul for it is immortal. Therefore, O worthy Mother Parascheva, your soul together with the angels rejoices forever.*

**I. Roll Call (Adela Price, Secretary)**

**II. Appointments**

- A. Assistant Secretary
- B. Parliamentarian
- C. Trustees

**III. Approval of Agenda**

**IV. Welcoming addresses**

**V. Minutes of the 76<sup>th</sup> A.R.F.O.R.A. Congress (Adela Price, Secretary)**

**VI. President report and correspondence (Lucy Pop, National President)**

**VII. Financial Report (Adelina Balog, Treasurer)**

**VIII. Committee Reports**

- A. Membership & Communication (Ioana Mihailescu)
- B. St. Paraschiva - Missions (Andreea Ghetu)
- C. St. Elizabeth Project (Dorina Riscutta)
- D. Scholarships (Joanna Tatomir)
- E. Packets / Publications / Fundraising (Louise Gibb)
- F. Website (Joanna Tatomir)
- G. Newsletter/Anniversary letters (Psa. Daniela Nemes)
- H. Retreats (Andrea Filip)

**IX. Old Business**

- A. Fundraising ideas for 2025-2026
- B. Other

**X. New Business**

- A. Round table discussions
- B. Proposed Budget for 2026 (Adelina Balog)
- C. Next year's Congress (Lucy Pop)
- D. Coffee House at the Vatra-2026
- E. Executive Board Elections (2025-2027)

**Adjourn**

**Closing Prayer – Hymn to the Mother of God**

*More honorable than the Cherubim, and more glorious beyond compare than the Seraphim; who without loss of virginity gave birth to God the Word, true Birthgiver of God, we praise you.*



## **His Eminence, Bishop Policarp Morusca**

First Bishop of

The Romanian Orthodox Episcopate of America

Consecrated: March 24, 1935

*He healed the disunity among the Romanian Orthodox in the United States and established an enduring base for a united episcopate. Caught in the politics of World War II and its aftermath during a planned visit to Romania in 1939, he was not able to return to the United States.*

*+ ARFORA Congress, Saint Paul MN, May 31-June 1, 2025 +*

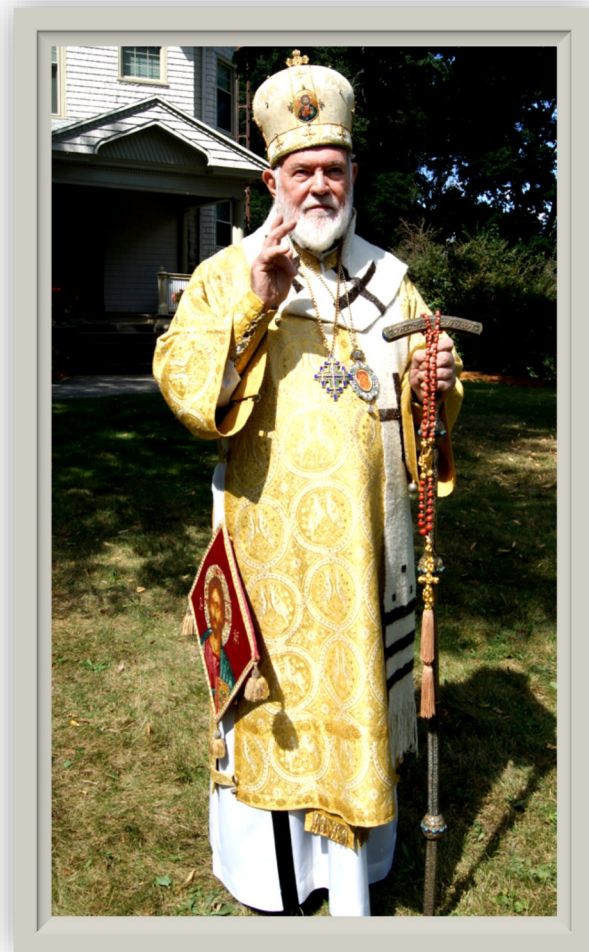


## **His Eminence, Archbishop Valerian Trifa**

Archbishop of Detroit and  
The Romanian Orthodox Episcopate of America  
Consecrated: April 27, 1952

*He was the ruling bishop of the Romanian Orthodox Episcopate of America from 1957 until 1984. His tenure as bishop was marred by allegations of association with the fascist-leaning Iron Guard during his youth in Romania. As a result of the allegations he retired as ruling bishop and entered into voluntary exile to Portugal, where he died.*

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**His Eminence, Archbishop Dr. Nathaniel (Popp)**

Archbishop of Detroit and  
The Romanian Orthodox Episcopate of America

Consecrated: November 15, 1980

Name-day: April 22

✙ *ARFORA Congress, Saint Paul MN, May 31-June 1, 2025* ✙



THE ORTHODOX CHURCH IN AMERICA  
**THE ROMANIAN ORTHODOX EPISCOPATE OF AMERICA**  
 Most Reverend NATHANIEL Popp, Archbishop

## **A. R. F. O. R. A. 77<sup>TH</sup> CONGRESS 2025**

*St. Paul, Minnesota: Hosted by St. Mary Parish Ladies Auxiliary*

V. Rev. Mircea Vasiiu, Parish Priest  
 V. Rev. Sabin Pop, Spiritual Advisor  
 Madame National President Lucy Pop  
 Delegates to the 77<sup>th</sup> ARFORA Congress  
 Host Auxiliary Members

### **“Hello, Saint Paul!”**

It has been a while since the ARFORA has enjoyed your hospitality and now, once again, as before, you have opened your home and hearts in this gracious 112-year-old Parish to this venerable Episcopate Auxiliary. Thank you!

Congress Delegates from across the United States, coast to coast, “Welcome!” Thank you for being present to represent your Auxiliary in this 77<sup>th</sup> ARFORA Congress in Saint Paul!

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Madame President, Lucy Pop and National Board Members, thank you for the zealous work you have accomplished over the past year: Board Meetings, Awarding of Scholarships, hosting Zoom Spiritual Retreats, supporting various Episcopate projects, among them the “Widowed Preotese Program” and Summer Religious Education Camps over the decades and the Mission Department!

This “Letter of Congratulations” is on behalf of the Parishes and other Auxiliaries of our God-protected Episcopate/Archdiocese across North America, offering Congratulations, Prayers and Good Wishes for a productive 77<sup>th</sup> Congress of this Auxiliary established by our first hierarch, Bishop Policarp (Morusca) and sustained and championed by his successor, Archbishop Valerian (D. Trifa).

As their successor in office, we offer continued love, blessings and support to ARFORA, as does His Grace, Bishop Andrei of Cleveland!

+NATHANIEL, Archbishop of Detroit  
 Romanian Episcopate  
 Orthodox Church in America

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**His Grace, Bishop Andrei (Hoarste) PhD**

Bishop of Cleveland

Vicar Bishop of The Romanian Orthodox Episcopate of America

Consecrated: February 1, 2020

Name-day: November 30

✝ *ARFORA Congress, Saint Paul MN, May 31-June 1, 2025* ✝



## *Hristos în mijlocul nostru!*

A.R.F.O.R.A cu siguranță are un rol important în activitatea care se desfășoară la fiecare biserică precum și acomodarea mai ușor în comunitate a noilor veniți .

Implicarea dumneavoastră, a doamnelor din fiecare parohie, ajută la bunul mers al bisericii precum și la organizarea activităților din parohia de care aparținem.



Dintotdeauna rolul femeilor în biserică a fost important și necesar pentru continuitate și împărtășirea credinței creștine tuturor oamenilor. Ca și creștini, ar trebui să ne impunem o disciplină, să ne alegem o cruce, un jug – jugul creștin, nu ca greutate, ci un mijloc de ușurare a greutății pe care o avem în viață, să vedem cum se poate pune în practică, adică cum putem să alegem o cruce, să purtăm jugul lui Hristos și să ne apropiem de El. Iisus nu ne-a cerut decât ceva ce putem face, de aceea s-a întrupat ca om, pentru a ne-o dovedi. El ne-a relevat originea. De aici rezultă toate pretențiile morale: omul nu poate fi respectabil decât ca ființă veșnică, «strop din izvor veșnic».

Vă mulțumesc din suflet pentru tot efortul depus și vă încurajez să rămâneți implicate în continuare în toate activitățile parohiei.

*Cu drag în Iisus Domnul, Pr. Sabin Pop*



**77<sup>th</sup> ARFORA Congress**  
**Saint Mary Romanian Orthodox church**  
 854 Woodbridge St., Saint Paul, MN 55117



May 30 - June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2025

*Dear Delegates and Members of A.R.F.O.R.A.*

Welcome to the 77th ARFORA Congress. I want to thank you all for entrusting me with the leadership of ARFORA for the last two years. I am working hard and trying to do my best to live up to your expectations and to promote A.R.F.O.R.A. among all the churches and missions of our Episcopate. I would also like to thank the A.R.F.O.R.A. Board for their dedication and commitment to A.R.F.O.R.A., as well as to the Episcopate's projects.

In working close with the Board, I'm trying to bring new ideas and new projects which should benefit us all. By working together we can strengthen our spiritual life and find new ways to help our church and the Episcopate. May God enlighten us and guide our steps in our future works for the church and the Episcopate.

Our special thanks are offered to His Eminence Archbishop Nathaniel, to His Grace Bishop Andrei and to our Spiritual Advisor Fr. Sabin Pop for their encouragement and guidance. Also, our heartfelt thanks are offered to Rev. Fr. Mircea VasIU, Preoteasa Anca, Chairperson Prascovia Bortnova, Co-chair Psa. Eugenia Cerghizan, St. Mary's church Ladies Auxiliary, Parish Council and all the parishioners for hosting the 77<sup>th</sup> ARFORA Congress. Your hard work and warm welcome made this weekend a pleasant experience for everybody. God bless you all!

**In Orthodoxy,**

**Axinia Lucia (Lucy) Pop**  
**National A.R.F.O.R.A. President 2023-2025**



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**Rev. Fr. Mircea VasIU  
Parish Priest**

Preoteasa Anca and I, along with our sons Andrew & Gabriel, are most privileged and honored to be together with you at this important event in the life of St. Mary Romanian Orthodox Church.

As Orthodox Christians we know that the 'prototype' for faith, love, service, humility and knowledge, among other virtues, is Virgin Mary Herself.

We have many example during the centuries that confirm the vital role of women in the Church. And today we continue to relay on our ladies to help us to meet goals and carry the work of our Church forward.

With great satisfaction I could say, that the members of St. Mary's are exited to be part of this annual event of Ladies Auxiliary of our Episcopate.

We thank to the ARFORA for their dedication and effort in maintaining and carrying forward the Faith of our forefathers. Your work and care, the 'myrrh-bearing women of Christ' show the love of faith of the Church in the lands of North America.

May the Grace of our Lord, Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit abide in us, that we'll be strengthened in our Faith. May God keep you, bless you and hold you in His hands. May His salvation be yours!

**With love in Christ, Rev. Fr. Mircea VasIU**

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*Dear Ladies and Friends  
of the Romanian Community,*

*Welcome back to St Mary Romanian  
Orthodox Church!*

*In recognition of the devotion to our  
Church of past and present members of our Ladies Auxiliary, we offer  
our thanks and wish God's blessing for a continuous and successful  
future of our Church and its faithful members.*

*Last time we had ARFORA Congress here was 29 years ago! We  
are honored to be a host again for such a beautiful ARFORA event.*

*We are proud and grateful for having a wonderful Sunday school,  
thanks to Preoteasa Anca and her substitute Andrea Wonderby and  
Liuba Gamart.*

*Ladies Auxiliary would like to express our biggest gratitude to  
Father Mircea for all support and for an amazing job done in order for  
us to be able to host ARFORA Congress at our church.*

*As President, I am honored to represent the Ladies Auxiliary of  
Saint Mary Romanian Orthodox Church and we wish the best to all of  
you, and we look forward to future ARFORA Congress events!*



*Yours in Christ,  
Prascovia Bortnova  
President of Ladies Auxiliary, 2025*



**During the 87 years history of ARFORA the following priests served as spiritual advisors:**

<i>+Rev. Fr. John Stanila</i>	1956 – 1960
<i>+Rev. Fr. George Preda</i>	1960 – 1963
<i>+Rev. Fr. Ioan Ivascu</i>	1963 – 1966
<i>+Rev. Fr. Anchiđim Useriu</i>	1966 – 1969
<i>+V. Rev. Fr. Richard Grabowski</i>	1969 – 1973
<i>Rev. Fr. Eugene Lazar</i>	1973 – 1978
<i>+V. Rev. Fr. Constantine Tofan</i>	1978 – 1981
<i>+V. Rev. Fr. Vasile Hategan</i>	1981 – 1985
<i>V. Rev. Fr. Romey Rosco</i>	1985 – 1993
<i>Rev. Fr. Vasile Susan</i>	1993
<i>Most Rev. Archbishop Nathaniel</i>	1993 – 1997
<i>V. Rev. Fr. Traian Petrescu</i>	1997 – 2001
<i>+V. Rev. Fr. Constantine Tofan</i>	2001 – 2005
<i>+V. Rev. Fr. Leo Copacia</i>	2005 – 2007
<i>Rev. Fr. Cosmin Antonescu</i>	2007 – 2010
<i>Rev. Fr. David Hudson</i>	2010 – 2011
<i>Most Rev. Bishop Irineu</i>	2012 – 2015
<i>Rev. Fr. Florin Soare</i>	2016 – 2017
<i>V. Rev. Fr. George Treff</i>	2017 – 2021
<i>Rev. Fr. Sabin Pop</i>	2021 – 2024



**ARFORA Leadership  
1938 - 2025  
Past Presidents**

<i>+Preoteasa Victoria Stanila</i>	1938 - 1949
<i>+Preoteasa Sabina Trutza</i>	1949 - 1953
<i>+Martha Gavrilă</i>	1953 - 1963
<i>+Sophie Morris</i>	1963 - 1969
<i>+Marie Morar</i>	1969 - 1972
<i>+Leona Barbu</i>	1972 - 1977
<i>+Melanie Vlad</i>	1977 - 1979
<i>+Anne Groza</i>	1979 - 1981
<i>+Mary Clingenpeel</i>	1981 - 1985
<i>+Connie Harri Maxim</i>	1986 - 1987
<i>Pauline Trutza</i>	1987 - 1993
<i>+Eleonore Bujea</i>	1993 - 1997
<i>Preoteasa Mary Ellen Rosco</i>	1997 - 2001
<i>Louise Gibb</i>	2001 - 2005
<i>Adela Price</i>	2005 - 2009
<i>Lucy Pop</i>	2009 - 2013
<i>Adela Price</i>	2013 - 2017
<i>Adelina Balog</i>	2017 - 2021
<i>Lucy Pop</i>	2021 - 2024



## EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS 2023-2025

### SPIRITUAL ADVISOR

**Rev Fr Sabin Pop**  
Descent of the Holy Spirit Church  
ELKINS PARK , PA  
[sabinpop14@yahoo.com](mailto:sabinpop14@yahoo.com)



### PRESIDENT

**Lucy Pop\*\*\***  
Holy Nativity of the Lord  
Chicago , IL  
[lucypop53@yahoo.com](mailto:lucypop53@yahoo.com)

### VICE PRESIDENT

**Louise Gibb\*\***  
Holy Trinity Church  
Youngstown OH 44505  
[louisegibb@roadrunner.com](mailto:louisegibb@roadrunner.com)

### SECRETARY

**Adela M. Price\***  
Holy Cross Church  
Hermitage, PA  
[adelap@verizon.net](mailto:adelap@verizon.net)

### TREASURER

**Adelina Balog\*\***  
Holy Nativity of the Lord  
Chicago , IL  
[adelina\\_balog@hotmail.com](mailto:adelina_balog@hotmail.com)

### AUDITOR 2

**Liliana Bruckner**  
St. Mary Cathedral Church  
Cleveland, OH  
[Cispa77@aol.com](mailto:Cispa77@aol.com)

### ASSISTANT SECRETARY

**Mary D. Sankey**  
New Wilmington, PA  
[marysankey@verizon.net](mailto:marysankey@verizon.net)

### AUDITOR 1

**Denisa Ilea \***  
Holy Nativity of the Lord  
Chicago , IL  
[denisa\\_david@yahoo.com](mailto:denisa_david@yahoo.com)

## MEMBERS AT LARGE 2023-2025

### St. Elizabeth Project

**Dorina D Riscutta**  
North Olmsted, OH  
[driscuttad@yahoo.com](mailto:driscuttad@yahoo.com)

### Scholarships/Website

**Joanna Tatomir**  
YPSILANTI, MI  
[jtatomir@umich.edu](mailto:jtatomir@umich.edu)

### Membership & Communication

**Ioana Mihailescu**  
DECATUR, IL  
[ioana1621@gmail.com](mailto:ioana1621@gmail.com)

### Newsletter/Anniversary letters

**Psa. Daniela Nemes**  
Chicago, IL 60659  
[danielaster@gmail.com](mailto:danielaster@gmail.com)

### Retreats

**Andreia Filip**  
Glen Ellyn, IL 60137  
[andreiafilip@kw.com](mailto:andreiafilip@kw.com)

### ARFORA Packets / Publications

**Louise Gibb**  
Youngstown, OH  
[louisegibb@roadrunner.com](mailto:louisegibb@roadrunner.com)

### St Paraschiva Missions

**Andreea Ghetu**  
Chicago, IL  
[andreeaghetu@yahoo.com](mailto:andreeaghetu@yahoo.com)

**\*\*\*Ex-Officio Church Congress Delegate**

**\*\*Church Congress Delegates**

**\*Church Congress Alternates**

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## Brief History of St Mary's Ladies Auxiliary

What a joy and blessing it is to welcome you to Saint Paul, MN. We welcome you in this time of waiting between the Ascension of our Lord and the Descent of the Holy Spirit.

We honor the members of ARFORA as they share in the royal priesthood - as mothers, wives and stewards of the Body of Christ.

Here at St. Mary Romanian Orthodox Church we boast one of the oldest ARFORA chapters in the Romanian Orthodox Episcopate of America. This chapter has functioned continuously since it was founded.

**Ladies Auxiliary** (A.R.F.O.R.A.) in Saint Paul was founded on February 24, 1929 with **Psa. Valeria Moldovan** as first president.



**August 31, 1930 - the hall was blessed - Ladies Auxiliary**

**First Row:** Maria Denghel, Maria Iorga, Psa. Valeria Moldovan, Ecaterina Coacan, Floarea Duvlea, Maria Iancu.

**Second Row:** Ioana Juterescu, Ana Suci, Elena Damian, Floarea Yorga, **Rev Fr. Andrei Moldovan (Parish Priest)**, Sofia Cadorean, Iana Iovanovich, Elita Tonia, Victoria Popa.

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**ARFORA Congress - St. Paul 1996 - with Arch. Nathaniel**

In 1996 the Ladies Auxiliary of our parish hosted the 48th ARFORA Congress under the guidance of Rev. Fr. Mihai Cerghizan. President of Ladies Auxiliary at the time was Mrs. Georgeta Poliac. Delegates from many Romanian Orthodox parishes in the U.S. attended this event.



**Ladies Auxiliary with His Eminence Archbishop Nathaniel 2018**

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**Ladies Auxiliary together with Rev. Fr. Romey Rosco - 1978**



**Rev. Fr. Cornel Todeasa & Ladies - 1988**

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**During the 113 years history of St. Mary Romanian Orthodox Church, the following ladies served as president of Ladies Auxiliary :**

Prascovia Bortnova	2023 - present
Silvia Panait	2021 - 2023
Psa. Eugenia Cerghizan	2017 - 2021
Prascovia Bortnova	2015 - 2017
Dorina Vincze Turcean	2011 - 2015
Psa. Cristina Oanca	2011
Psa. Eugenia Cerghizan	2007 - 2011
Carmen Teisanu	2003 - 2007
Constanta Korolchuk	1998 - 2003
Georgeta Poliac	1994 - 1998
Vivi Munteanu	1990 - 1994

Other many wonderful women served on this position during the years, but unfortunately we don't have all the records to list them all. Here are some of them: Ann Bongard, Ann Zian, Anna Massen, Lena Bias, Helen Folea, Flora Tarziu, Lena Sonia, Eva Lepadat, Victoria Popa, Martha Galetar , Psa Valeria Moldovean.



✚ *ARFORA Congress, Saint Paul MN, May 31-June 1, 2025* ✚



**Falling Asleep of Ever Virgin Mary Church, St. Paul, Minnesota ~ 2023 Ladies Auxiliary together with Fr. Mircea VasIU, Psa. Anca VasIU and Prascovia Bortnova - President**

✝ *ARFORA Congress, Saint Paul MN, May 31-June 1, 2025* ✝



## Best Wishes to *A.R.F.O.R.A.*

for many more years of  
service to our Church and Episcopate!



*Sfântă Preacuvioasă Parascheva,  
roagă-te lui Dumnezeu pentru noi păcătoșii !*

With Faith, Hope, and Love,

*Adelina Balog*

PAST NATIONAL A.R.F.O.R.A. PRESIDENT

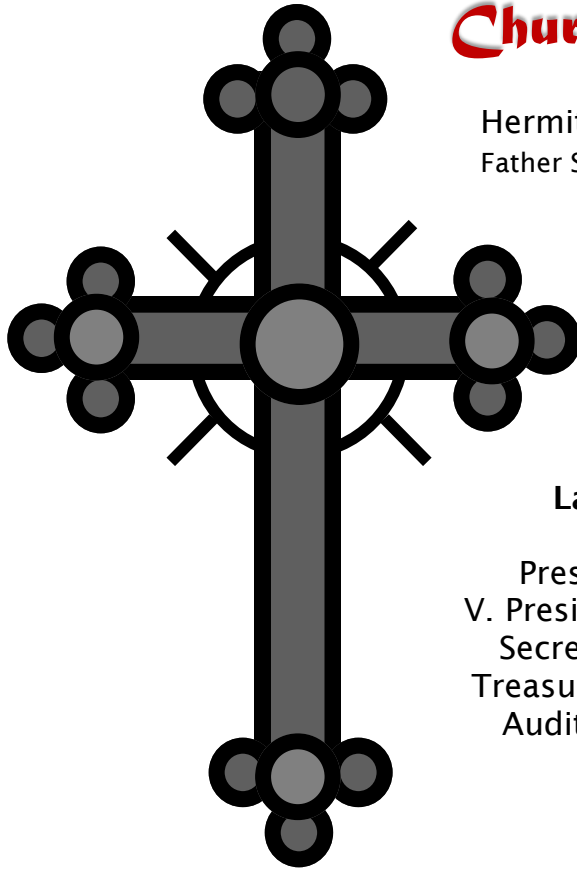
2017 - 2021

✝ *ARFORA Congress, Saint Paul MN, May 31-June 1, 2025* ✝



# Holy Cross Orthodox Church

Hermitage, PA  
Father Spyridon Ickes



## Ladies Auxiliary

President: Adela Price  
V. President: Patty Barbat  
Secretary: Mary Sankey  
Treasurer: Marge Roman  
Auditors: Marsha Klein  
Elaine Luca

*May God bless the  
meeting of this the  
77<sup>th</sup> A.R.F.O.R.A. Congress*



✝ ARFORA Congress, Saint Paul MN, May 31-June 1, 2025 ✝



**Best Wishes to  
St. Mary's Ladies Auxiliary  
for a  
Successful Congress**



**“Carmen Sylva” Ladies Auxiliary**  
of  
Holy Trinity  
Romanian Orthodox Church,  
Youngstown, OH

**\*\***

Rev. Fr. Cezar Cisloiu – Parish Priest  
Marsha Andrei - President  
Louise Gibb – Treasurer



# **The GIBB Family**

**Louise Gibb  
ARFORA Vice –President**

**Nick & Mary Gibb  
Peter & JoAnn Gibb**



**77<sup>th</sup> ARFORA Congress**

**Congratulations  
&  
Best Wishes  
To  
St. Mary  
Romanian Orthodox Church**

**✦ ARFORA Congress, Saint Paul MN, May 31- June 1, 2025 ✦**



## **Congratulations A.R.F.O.R.A.**

**On your many years of dedicated service to our  
Episcopate and the Holy Orthodox Faith  
Best wishes for a successful 77th Congress!**

*La Multi Ani!*



**Lucy Pop**

**National A.R.F.O.R.A. President**

**Holy Nativity Romanian Orthodox Church**

Chicago, IL

✝ *ARFORA Congress, Saint Paul MN, May 31-June 1, 2025* ✝



Best Wishes for a Successful  
77<sup>th</sup> National  
A.R.F.O.R.A. Congress



In behalf of “St. Mary” Ladies Auxiliary of the  
**Holy Nativity Orthodox Church**  
Chicago, IL

Rev. Fr. Geani Nemes  
Parish Priest

Adelina Balog  
Ladies Auxiliary Secretary



Radita Melente  
Ladies Auxiliary President

Lucy Pop  
Ladies Auxiliary Treasurer

✝ ARFORA Congress, Saint Paul MN, May 31-June 1, 2025 ✝



## La Multi Ani !

**BINE ATI VENIT LA SAINT PAUL!**

**SUCCES SI MULTI ANI INAINTE!**



**ROMANIAN FOLK DANCE ENSEMBLE**

**Izvorasul & Dunarea**

Romanian Dance Ensembles of Minnesota

**John Omorean**

Director/Choreographer

[Jzomorean@hotmail.com](mailto:Jzomorean@hotmail.com)

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*" Thank you for all that you do for our Romanian communities across North America."  
from the Dunarea Children's & Izvorasul Adult Romanian Dance Ensembles of Minnesota.*

## DUNAREA



**Izvorasul & Dunarea**  
Romanian Dance Ensembles of Minnesota

**John Omorean**  
Director/Choreographer  
[Jzomorean@hotmail.com](mailto:Jzomorean@hotmail.com)  
763-238-1539

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## HRISTOS IN MIJLOCUL NOSTRU!



V. Rev. Fr. Sabin Pop împreună cu  
organizația de doamne a bisericii  
Pogorârea Sfântului Duh

Elkins Park, PA



**BEST WISHES**  
on the occasion of the  
77<sup>th</sup> ARFORA Congress!

**Sts. Peter & Paul Ladies Auxiliary**  
**Dearborn Heights, Michigan**

*President Cristina Irimie*  
*Vice President Psa. Mihaela Balanean*  
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*Treasurer Sidonia Nistor*  
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*Delegates Nina Duma, Flori Hociota*  
*Alternates Silvia Costea, Anna Devine*  
*Parish Priest V. Rev. Fr. Horatiu Balanean*  
*Assistant Priest V. Rev. Protopresbyter Romey Rosco*

✝ ARFORA Congress, Saint Paul MN, May 31-June 1, 2025 ✝



Va dorim un Congres  
cu spor si binecuvantare!



*Comunitatea Biserici  
"Sf. Apostol Andrei"  
Potomac, MD*



✝ ARFORA Congress, Saint Paul MN, May 31-June 1, 2025 ✝



# ST. MARY ROMANIAN ORTHODOX CATHEDRAL



May God bless the good deeds  
of all our A.R.F.O.R.A. ladies!

*Please join our 20<sup>th</sup> Edition of the  
ROMANIAN FESTIVAL !*

*August 22, 23 & 24, 2025*

V. Rev. Dr. Remus Grama, Parish Priest  
Viorel Oancea, Parish Council President  
Florica Cotrau, Ladies Auxiliary President

3256 Warren Road \* Cleveland, OH 44111 \* 216-941-5550 \* [www.smroc.org](http://www.smroc.org)

✝ *ARFORA Congress, Saint Paul MN, May 31-June 1, 2025* ✝



*Our Prayers & Best Wishes  
for a Successful  
A.R.F.O.R.A. 77th Congress*

# **ST. MARY**

ROMANIAN ORTHODOX CATHEDRAL



*Florica Cotrau - President*

*Mariana Miron Vice-President*

*Rebecca McLaughlin & Mihaela Hetruc- Secretaries*

*Simona Cismasiu- Treasurer*

*V. Rev. Fr. Remus V. Grama*

*Parish Priest Adviser*



✦ *ARFORA Congress, Saint Paul MN, May 31- June 1, 2025* ✦



**Greetings and Best Wishes  
For the 77<sup>th</sup> A.R.F.O.R.A. Congress**

**From  
The Presentation of Our Lord Orthodox Church  
Ladies Auxiliary "Credinta Stramoseasca"  
Fairlawn, Ohio**



President	Karen Pascu
Vice President	Margie Groza
Secretary	Cindy Terhesh
Treasurer	Stephanie Zablo
Delegates	Diane Kisbac, Pat Long

Rev. Fr. Ian Pac-Urar, Parish Priest



Blessings and best wishes  
to the  
attendees and the hosts  
of the  
77<sup>th</sup> A.R.F.O.R.A  
National Congress.

**May God guide you in your  
decisions as you continue to be a pillar  
of our faith.**

Sts. Constantine and Elena  
Ladies Auxiliary, Merrillville, IN

Father Daniel Radu  
Parish Priest

Cornelia Merchant  
Auxiliary President



## St. George Romanian Orthodox Cathedral, Southfield, MI

Ladies Auxiliary together with Rev. Fr. George Cautis



**Heritage Organization of  
Romanian Americans  
in Minnesota**

HORA's mission is to enrich Minnesota's diverse cultural landscape by preserving & sharing the valuable heritage of Romanian American community through educational & cultural events & heritage language classes. HORA has documented Romanian immigration in Minnesota: *A Thousand Dol-*

*lars and Back, Through the Iron Curtain-from Romania, & Journeys of Identity, Romanian Immigration Stories of Resilience.*

*HORA Romanian American Cultural Center*, inside the historic Landmark Center in downtown St. Paul, is open on Sundays 1-3 pm. It offers a comprehensive library, educational materials about Romania, & traditional artifacts for sale. Visit our site: [hora-mn.org](http://hora-mn.org)

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## **Bine ati Venit!**



**With love in Christ, Rev. Fr. Mircea VasIU,  
Preoteasa Anca Simona and our sons Andrew Mihai &  
Gabriel Mircea - *MULȚI ANI FERICIȚI!***

*We welcome ARFORA to the 77<sup>th</sup> Congress and pray that you will  
continue to grow this organization with faith & love.*

✝ *ARFORA Congress, Saint Paul MN, May 31-June 1, 2025* ✝



**Fr. Mihai Cerghizan**

Priest at St. Mary Romanian  
Orthodox Church

St. Paul, Minnesota

**1991- 1997**

**In Loving Memory of my husband,  
Pr. Mihai Cerghizan**

**Memory  
Eternal!**

**Vesnica lui  
Pomenire!**

*Cu dragoste,  
Psa. Eugenia  
Cerghizan  
si Familia*



✙ *ARFORA Congress, Saint Paul MN, May 31- June 1, 2025* ✙



Welcome to Saint Paul,  
2025 ARFORA delegates!

**John Omorean and  
Georgia Marinkov-Omorean**

✦ *ARFORA Congress, Saint Paul MN, May 31-June 1, 2025* ✦



With Grateful Hearts, We Celebrate Our Sons!  
We give all thanks and glory to God for blessing our family with this special moment!



🎓 **David Ilea**

**Graduating with a Master's Degree from Oxford University**

🎓 **Nicholas Ilea**

**Graduating from Lake Park High School, Roselle, IL**

Through faith, hard work, and perseverance, you have achieved these incredible milestones. We are beyond proud of you both and pray for continued blessings, success, and happiness in your journeys ahead.

*"To God be the glory! Great things He has done."* – Psalm 126:3

With love and gratitude,

Mom & Dad

✝ *ARFORA Congress, Saint Paul MN, May 31-June 1, 2025* ✝



Warmest wishes for a successful A.R.F.O.R.A. meeting  
in our cherished Twin Cities community.  
With God's guidance, may the efforts of the  
Ladies Auxiliaries be fruitful and impactful.



**Many Blessings,  
Korolchuk Family**

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*Congratulation ARFORA  
on your dedicated service and hard  
work in God's vineyard!  
May all the members of the organi-  
zation be richly blessed and your ef-  
forts continue to bring forth abun-  
dant fruits.  
Best wishes for the future!*



***“St. Athanasius the Great” Romanian  
Orthodox, Aurora IL  
“St. Anne” Women Organization***

*✦ ARFORA Congress, Saint Paul MN, May 31-June 1, 2025 ✦*



**Dragi Crestini,  
Bine ati venit la al 77-lea Congres ARFORA.**



**La multi ani!**

**Cu dragoste in Hristos,  
Familia Khabulia, Bortnov si  
Westervelt**

✝ *ARFORA Congress, Saint Paul MN, May 31-June 1, 2025* ✝



Silvia, Cezar, Greta, and Robert Panait are blessed to be part of the St. Mary's Romanian Orthodox Church since arriving in the United States in September 1996.

**We wish St. Mary's Romanian Orthodox Church,  
Ladies Auxiliary to have a blessed and  
successful ARFORA meeting in Saint Paul MN.**

✝ *ARFORA Congress, Saint Paul MN, May 31-June 1, 2025* ✝



*Felicitări si bun venit la Congresul ARFORA  
la Biserica Sfânta Maria din St. Paul MN.  
Multă sănătate si binecuvântări de la Bunul Dumnezeu.*

**Cu drag si respect familia Didenco-Gamart**

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*Welcome*

To the  
**77<sup>th</sup> A.R.F.O.R.A. Congress**

*Saint Mary Romanian Orthodox Church*



**From St. Mary Romanian Orthodox Church  
Parish Council**

President Adrian Pirvu

Parish Priest Mircea VasIU

✝ *ARFORA Congress, Saint Paul MN, May 31-June 1, 2025* ✝



110<sup>th</sup> Anniversary - 2023

✦ ARFORA Congress, Saint Paul MN, May 31-June 1, 2025 ✦



110<sup>th</sup> Anniversary



2023



✦ ARFORA Congress, Saint Paul MN, May 31-June 1, 2025 ✦



2023



110<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

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**Martisor 2025**



**St Mary's summer camp 2024**

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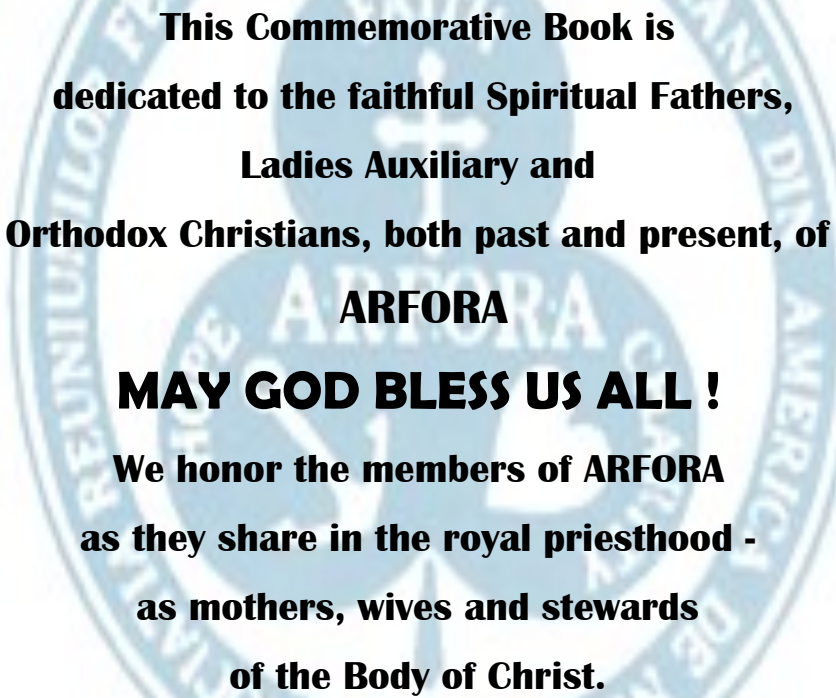
**St. Mary Romanian  
Orthodox Church  
HRAM**



**August 15  
Dormition of  
Mother of God**

**procession  
around the  
Church with  
the  
Dormition  
Epitaph**



The background features a large, light blue watermark of the ARFORA logo. The logo is circular with the text "ASOCIATIILE FEMEILOR ORTODOXE ROMANEA DIN AMERICA DE NORD" around the perimeter. In the center, there is a cross with the word "FAITH" above it and "HOPE" below it. The word "ARFORA" is written across the middle of the cross.

**This Commemorative Book is  
dedicated to the faithful Spiritual Fathers,  
Ladies Auxiliary and  
Orthodox Christians, both past and present, of  
ARFORA  
MAY GOD BLESS US ALL !  
We honor the members of ARFORA  
as they share in the royal priesthood -  
as mothers, wives and stewards  
of the Body of Christ.**

**Ad Book Production by Fr. Mircea VasIU**

**✝ ARFORA Congress, Saint Paul MN, May 31-June 1, 2025 ✝**



## Commemorative book

St. Mary Romanian Orthodox Church

*"Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."*