

NATIONAL  
**78<sup>th</sup>**  
**A.R.F.O.R.A.**  
**CONGRESS**

**JUNE 5 - 7, 2026**  
**HOLLYWOOD, FLORIDA**



**SOUVENIR BOOK**



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



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

WELCOME  
TO THE  
78th A.R.F.O.R.A. CONGRESS

JUNE 5 – JUNE 7, 2026

HOSTED BY  
HOLY CROSS ROMANIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH,  
HOLLYWOOD, FL



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) Parascheva*

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

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

June 5 –June 7, 2026

## Convocation

Hostedby: Holy Cross Romanian Orthodox Church

6232 Fillmore St, Hollywood, FL33024

Chairperson: Miorica Beker, (954) 830-5123

Co-chair: Lidia Sekosan, (718) 938-1916

Co-chair: Lidia Sekosan, (718) 938-1916

Parish Priest: Rev. Dr. Silviu Sfera, (954) 608-1009



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

In conformity with Article II, Section 2 of the By-Laws,

We hereby convoke the 78<sup>th</sup> National A.R.F.O.R.A. Congress to be held on June 05 – June 07, 2026

Holy Cross Romanian Orthodox Church, 6232 Fillmore St, Hollywood, FL 33024; 954-983-0592

Diocesan Hierarchy: The Most Reverend Archbishop NATHANIEL (POPP)

A.R.F.O.R.A. National President: **Ioana Mihailescu**

A.R.F.O.R.A. National Secretary: **Denisa Ilea**

## SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

### Friday, June 5, 2026:

4:00 pm-7:00 pm Early Registration & Reception at the Church

5:00 pm Executive Board Meeting

### Saturday, June 6, 2026:

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 Vespers & Parastas

6:00 pm Dinner

### Sunday, June 7, 2026:

10:00 am Hierarchical Liturgy

12:30pm Congress Banquet & Farewell

### Hotel Accommodations:

AC Hotel Fort Lauderdale Airport, 154 N Compass Way, Dania Beach, FL 33004 USA

Call (888) 236-2427 - King room code: ARFARFA, Double Queen code: ARFARFB

Group Name - ARFORA National Woman's Auxiliary Annual Meeting

Website: <https://tinyurl.com/arforahotel26>

Please make your hotel reservation by May 01<sup>th</sup>, 2026

(For reservations mention: A.R.F.O.R.A. Congress)

## AGENDA

### 78<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL A.R.F.O.R.A. CONGRESS

Holy Cross Romanian Orthodox Church, Hollywood, FL

June 5 - June 7, 2026

#### 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 deeds 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 (Denisa Ilea, Secretary)

#### II. Appointments

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

#### III. Approval of Agenda

#### IV. Welcoming addresses

#### V. Minutes of the 77<sup>th</sup> A.R.F.O.R.A. Congress (Denisa Ilea, Secretary)

#### VI. President report and correspondence (Ioana Mihailescu, National President)

#### VII. Financial Report (Lucy Pop, Treasurer)

#### VIII. Committee Reports

- A. Communication & Public Relations (Psa Elena Cautis, Ioana Mihailescu)
- B. St. Paraschiva Missions (Andreea Ghetu)
- C. St. Elizabeth Project (Dorina Riscutta)
- D. Scholarships (Pasha Bortnova)
- E. Packets / Publications / Fundraising (Louise Gibb)
- F. Retreats (Andrea Filip, Ioana Mihailescu)
- G. Newsletter/Anniversary letters (Psa. Mihaela Balanean)

#### IX. Old Business

- A. Growing A.R.F.O.R.A. ideas for 2026-2027
- B. Other

#### X. New Business

- A. Round table discussions
- B. Proposed Budget for 2027 (Lucy Pop)
- C. Next year's Congress (Ioana Mihailescu) D.
- Other

#### 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**

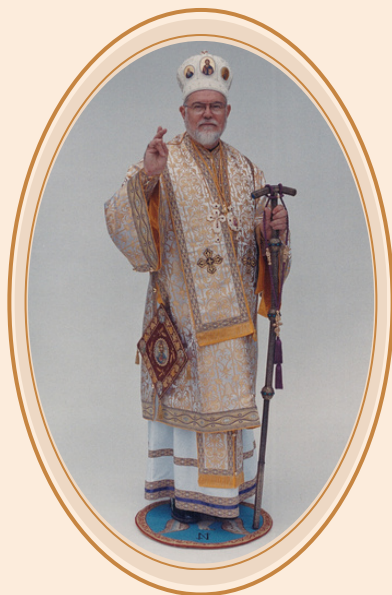
He healed the disunity among the Romanian Orthodox in the United States and established an enduring base for a united episcopate. Caught in the politics of World War II and its aftermath during a planned visit to Romania in 1939, he was not able to return to the United States.



## **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.



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

Archbishop of Detroit and  
The Romanian Orthodox Episcopate of America

**Consecrated: November 15, 1980**

Name-day: April 22

THE ORTHODOX CHURCH IN AMERICA  
THE ROMANIAN ORTHODOX EPISCOPATE OF AMERICA

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Most Reverend NATHANIEL Popp, Archbishop

**78<sup>th</sup> A.R.F.O.R.A. CONGRESS**  
**Holy Cross Parish Hollywood, Florida**

June 5<sup>th</sup>-June 7<sup>th</sup>, 2026

Madame President,  
Members of the Board,  
A.R.F.O.R.A. Delegates and Guests:

Welcome to Hollywood where the A.R.F.O.R.A. is first-time guest of the Holy Cross Parish and first-time visitor to Floridaian hospitality.

This 78<sup>th</sup> Congress calls to the fact that in two years, A.R.F.O.R.A. will celebrate its 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of founding by His Grace, POLYCARP Morusca and to decades of solid support of His Eminence, VALERIAN Trifa.

We are promoting and motivating all Parish Priests to support the work of A.R.F.O.R.A. and to encouraging the women of the parishes to become active participants of this unique and vibrant Episcopate Auxiliary.

It is our invitation to you, individually present, to also promote the organization to your friends and families in other parishes.

A.R.F.O.R.A. has wonderful activities; support for Widowed Preotese, Scholarships for women, Support of the Monasteries and Seminaries and publication of brochures and materials important to women.

A.R.F.O.R.A. is also a "holy glue" which binds women of the Episcopate into a Sisterhood of love and support!

May Saints Paraschiva and Elizabeth, Patrons of A.R.F.O.R.A. and Saint Olga of Alaska, intercede for us and bless the work of the 78<sup>th</sup> A.R.F.O.R.A. Congress and the 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in two years!

*+Nathaniel* +NATHANIEL, Archbishop

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Fax machine: (517) 522-5907 • E-mail: [Chnecry@roca.org](mailto:Chnecry@roca.org) • Web site: <http://www.roca.org>



## **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



## Hristos în mijlocul nostru!

A.R.F.O.R.A. este una dintre cele mai importante organizații ale românilor ortodocși din America de Nord, având un rol esențial în păstrarea credinței, identității și unității comunității românești din diaspora. Fondată cu scopul de a sprijini activitatea Bisericii și de a întări legăturile dintre credincioși, A.R.F.O.R.A. reprezintă un exemplu viu de implicare și devotament.

În cadrul congresului A.R.F.O.R.A., doamnele prezente participa la rugăciuni, discuții duhovnicești și activități organizatorice, prin care se stabilesc direcțiile viitoare ale activităților caritabile și culturale. Este un prilej de a împărtăși experiențe, de a întări legături de prietenie și de a încuraja implicarea activă în viața comunității.

De-a lungul timpului, A.R.F.O.R.A. a devenit un pilon al vieții comunitare, organizând numeroase activități religioase, culturale și caritabile. Dumneavoastra, Membrele A.R.F.O.R.A. trebuie să rămâneți implicate activ în susținerea parohiilor, contribuind la buna desfășurare a evenimentelor din jurul bisericii. Prin aceste eforturi ajutați la crearea unui mediu în care credința ortodoxă poate fi trăită și transmisă mai departe generațiilor tinere.

Un aspect important al activității A.R.F.O.R.A. este promovarea culturii și tradițiilor românești. Prin întâlniri comunitare și evenimente speciale, organizația contribuie la păstrarea limbii, obiceiurilor și valorilor autentice românești. Într-o lume în continuă schimbare, aceste inițiative sunt esențiale pentru menținerea identității culturale a românilor din diaspora, dar și a transmiterii credinței ortodoxe celor ce nu au descoperit încă ortodoxia.

Pe lângă dimensiunea culturală și religioasă, A.R.F.O.R.A. are și un puternic caracter filantropic. Organizația se implică în acțiuni de caritate, oferind sprijin celor aflați în nevoie, fie că este vorba despre membri ai comunității locale sau despre persoane nevoiașe. Prin donații și proiecte umanitare, A.R.F.O.R.A. promovează valorile creștine ale iubirii față de aproapele.

A.R.F.O.R.A. nu este doar o organizație, ci o adevărată familie spirituală. Prin activitățile sale, aceasta reușește să îmbine credința cu tradiția și implicarea socială, contribuind la dezvoltarea unei comunități unite și puternice. Rolul său rămâne unul fundamental, iar impactul său se reflectă în viețile celor pe care îi aduce împreună în spirit de credință și iubire.

Este foarte important să nu uităm rolul pe care l-a avut și îl are A.R.F.O.R.A. în viața activă a comunităților noastre.

*Dr. Sabin Pop - Spiritual Advisor*

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



📍 Holy Cross Romanian Orthodox Church 6232  
Fillmore St, Hollywood, FL 33024

📅 June 05 – June 07, 2026

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

Welcome to the 78th A.R.F.O.R.A. Congress. I would like to thank you all for entrusting me with the leadership of National A.R.F.O.R.A. I feel honored and humbled to represent this organization of beautiful, faithful, and dedicated ladies. I am committed to meeting your expectations and to working toward achieving our national organization's goals, while promoting 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 achieving A.R.F.O.R.A.'s goals and supporting the Episcopate's projects. I work closely with the Board members and am committed to bringing new ideas and initiatives that will benefit us all. By working together, we can strengthen our spiritual life and find new ways to support our churches and our Episcopate. May God enlighten us and guide us in our mission to faithfully serve A.R.F.O.R.A., our churches, and the ROEA 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. Dr. Silviu Sfera, Chairperson Miorica Beker, Co-Chairs Maria Stan and Lidia Sekosan, the Parish Council, and all the parishioners for hosting the 78th A.R.F.O.R.A. Congress. Your hard work and warm hospitality made this weekend a wonderful experience for everyone. God bless you all!

Your Sister in Christ,

*Ioana Michailescu*

National A.R.F.O.R.A. President 2025–2027



Congratulations and best wishes to all the participants at the

# 78th A.R.F.O.R.A. Congress!

HAVE A BLESSED AND SUCCESSFUL  
CONGRESS!

Ioana and Mihai Mihailescu



Our heartfelt thanks to the A.R.F.O.R.A. delegates for their dedication to strengthening and promoting our Orthodox faith, and to the parishioners of the Holy Cross Romanian Orthodox Church in Hollywood, FL, for supporting the A.R.F.O.R.A. mission and for graciously hosting the Congress.

*God bless you all!*

**Ioana Mihailescu – National A.R.F.O.R.A. President**



Saint Athanasius the Great Romanian Orthodox Church



My name is Hierodeacon Benedict Oancea, born in Buzau, Romania. I am a monk and deacon currently serving in the Romanian Orthodox Episcopate of America, under the omophorion of His Eminence Archbishop Nathaniel. Since January 2025, I have been serving at the Episcopate Chancery as Secretary of the Department of Publications.

I completed my theological studies in Romania, graduating from the Orthodox Seminary "Bishop Chesarie" in Buzău in 2013, the Faculty of Orthodox Theology in Bucharest in 2017, and the Master's program in Exegetical and Biblical Studies at the same

faculty in 2019.

Between 2018 and 2021, I received a scholarship from the Holy Synod of the Orthodox Church of Greece, which gave me the opportunity to learn the Greek language and continue my theological formation in Athens, Greece.

In 2021, I received a scholarship from the Cardinal Bea Centre of the Pontifical Gregorian University in Rome, where I had the opportunity to study the dialogue between Christianity and Judaism for nearly two years. This experience opened a new and meaningful chapter in my life and helped me understand more deeply the importance of dialogue between these two traditions.

Since October 2023, I have continued my studies at the Pontifical University of St. Thomas Aquinas, the Angelicum, in Rome, within the Institute of Ecumenical Studies of the Faculty of Theology. I am currently in the first year of my doctoral studies there.

I am very glad and grateful to be present at the 78th A.R.F.O.R.A. Congress, accompanying His Eminence Archbishop Nathaniel. It is a joy for me to be together with the women of our Episcopate and to witness once again the dedication, faith, and love with which A.R.F.O.R.A. has served the Romanian Orthodox Episcopate of America for so many years.

With respect and gratitude,

*Hierodeacon Benedict Oancea*

Secretary, Department of Publications  
Romanian Orthodox Episcopate of America



Welcome to our parish and to beautiful Florida!

With great joy and gratitude, we warmly welcome you to the A.R.F.O.R.A. Congress, hosted for the first time in our parish. Your presence is a blessing and a testimony of your love and dedication to the Church, family, and the values of the Orthodox faith.

We would like to thank you for your involvement, organization, and spirit of sacrifice through which you support the work of A.R.F.O.R.A. within the Romanian Orthodox Episcopate of America and Canada. Through your efforts and devotion, many families, women, and younger generations find support, unity, and spiritual encouragement within the life of the Church.

The mission of A.R.F.O.R.A. members carries both great responsibility and beauty: preserving the Orthodox faith, promoting Romanian traditions and values, supporting philanthropic and cultural activities, and fostering unity among believers and parishes. Through personal example and service to others, you contribute to strengthening our communities and passing the faith on to future generations.

We pray that the Good Lord will grant you health, strength, and blessings in all the good works you accomplish for the benefit of the Church and the Orthodox community.

Welcome, and we wish you blessed days filled with joy and fellowship!

With respect and appreciation,

*Rev. Dr. Silvius Spera - Parish Priest*



## **Dr. Dorel Suboni, Pharm.D. & Family**

With gratitude to God for His many blessings, our family is honored to support the 78th A.R.F.O.R.A. Congress. May this gathering strengthen the bonds of faith, friendship, and fellowship within our Romanian Orthodox community, and inspire future generations to preserve our beautiful traditions and spiritual heritage.

# WELCOME TO THE A.R.F.O.R.A. CONGRESS

*The 78th National Congress of the  
Association of Romanian Orthodox Women in America*



*Holy Cross Church – Hollywood*

With hearts full of joy and gratitude, we welcome all participants to this moment of celebration, faith and unity!



#### MAY THESE CONGRESS DAYS BRING:

- ◆ Inspiration for the mission of every Orthodox woman
- ◆ Joy in seeing friends again and discovering new connections
- ◆ The light of grace that unites us in the service of Christ
- ◆ Spiritual strengthening through prayer and communion

*Miorica Beker*

President of Ladies Auxiliary, 2026

#### WE ARE HONORED BY YOUR PRESENCE!

Together we celebrate the tradition, faith and beauty of women's work in the Church.

# DURING THE 88 YEARS HISTORY OF ARFORA

the following priests served as spiritual advisors:

+Rev. Fr. John Stanila .....	◆	1956 – 1960
+Rev. Fr. George Preda .....	◆	1960 – 1963
+Rev. Fr. Ioan Ivascu .....	◆	1963 – 1966
+Rev. Fr. Anchidim Useriu .....	◆	1966 – 1969
+V. Rev. Fr. Richard Grabowski .....	◆	1969 – 1973
Rev. Fr. Eugene Lazar .....	◆	1973 – 1978
+V. Rev. Fr. Constantine Tofan .....	◆	1978 – 1981
+V. Rev. Fr. Vasile Hategan .....	◆	1981 – 1985
V. Rev. Fr. Romey Rosco .....	◆	1985 – 1993
Rev. Fr. Vasile Susan .....	◆	1993
Most Rev. Archbishop Nathaniel .....	◆	1993 – 1997
V. Rev. Fr. Traian Petrescu .....	◆	1997 – 2001
+V. Rev. Fr. Constantine Tofan .....	◆	2001 – 2005
+V. Rev. Fr. Leo Copacia .....	◆	2005 – 2007
Rev. Fr. Cosmin Antonescu .....	◆	2007 – 2010
Rev. Fr. David Hudson .....	◆	2010 – 2011
Most Rev. Bishop Irineu .....	◆	2012 – 2015
Rev. Fr. Florin Soare .....	◆	2016 – 2017
V. Rev. Fr. George Treff .....	◆	2017 - 2021
Rev. Fr. Sabin Pop .....	◆	2021 - 2027

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

1938 – 2027

## Past Presidents

+ Preoteasa Victoria Stanila .....	◆	1938 – 1949
+ Preoteasa Sabina Trutza .....	◆	1949 – 1953
+ Martha Gavrila .....	◆	1953 – 1963
+ Sophie Morris .....	◆	1963 – 1969
+ Marie Morar .....	◆	1969 – 1972
+ Leona Barbu .....	◆	1972 – 1977
+ Melanie Vlad .....	◆	1977 – 1979
+ Anne Groza .....	◆	1979 – 1981
+ Mary Clingenpeel .....	◆	1981 – 1985
+ Connie Harri Maxim .....	◆	1986 – 1987
Paulina Trutza .....	◆	1987 – 1993
+ Eleonore Bujea .....	◆	1993 – 1997
Preoteasa Mary Ellen Rosco .....	◆	1997 – 2001
Louise Gibb .....	◆	2001 – 2005
Adela Price .....	◆	2005 – 2009
Lucy Pop .....	◆	2009 – 2013
Adela Price .....	◆	2013 – 2017
Adelina Balog .....	◆	2017 – 2021
Lucy Pop .....	◆	2021 – 2024
Ioana Mihailescu .....	◆	2025 – 2027

# EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS

2025–2027

## SPIRITUAL ADVISOR

Rev. Fr. Sabin Pop

Descent of the Holy Spirit Church Elkins Park, PA

✉ sabinpop14@yahoo.com

## St. Elizabeth Project

Dorina Riscutta / Cornelia Merchant

Saint Mary Church Cleveland, OH

✉ driscuttad@yahoo.com

## PRESIDENT

Ioana Mihailescu\*\*\*

Saint Athanasius the Great Church Aurora, IL

✉ ioana1621@gmail.com

## ARFORA Packets / Fundraising / Publications

Louise Gibb

Holy Trinity Church Youngstown, OH

✉ louisegibb@roadrunner.com

## VICE PRESIDENT

Psa. Daniela Nemes\*\*

Holy Nativity Church Chicago, IL

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## Newsletter/Anniversary letters

Psa. Mihaela Balanean

Sts. Peter and Paul Church Dearborn Heights, MI

✉ mihaelabalanean@yahoo.com

## TREASURER, PAST PRESIDENT

Lucy Pop\*\*

Holy Nativity Church Chicago, IL

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## Scholarships

Pasha Bortnova

Saint Mary Church Saint Paul, MN

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## SECRETARY

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## St Paraschiva Missions

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Saint George Cathedral Southfield, MI

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## AUDITOR 1

Denisa Ilea\*

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✉ denisa\_david@yahoo.com

## Retreats

Andreia Filip

Saint Athanasius the Great Church Aurora, IL

✉ andreiafilip@kw.com

## AUDITOR 2

Cornelia Merchant\*

Descent of the Holy Ghost Church Merrillville, IN

✉ corneliam.merchant@icloud.com

## Member at Large

Parascovia Concannon

Descent of the Holy Spirit Church Elkins Park, PA

✉ Parascovia76@gmail.com

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

\*\*Church Congress Delegates

\*Church Congress Alternates



## **Parish Council - Holy Cross Romanian Orthodox Church - Hollywood, Florida**

Faith brings people together in moments of joy, gratitude, and fellowship. Through shared traditions, meaningful conversations, and the spirit of community, lasting memories are created and passed from one generation to the next. May every gathering strengthen the bonds that unite us and inspire continued dedication to faith, family, and service.



## Ladies Auxiliary - Holy Cross Romanian Orthodox Church - Hollywood, Florida

Dear Participants of the 78th A.R.F.O.R.A. Congress,

The Ladies Auxiliary of Holy Cross Romanian Orthodox Church warmly welcomes you to this year's congress. It is a blessing to gather together in faith, fellowship, and Romanian tradition.

We pray that your time here will be filled with joy, inspiration, and meaningful memories. May God bless all who attend and continue to guide the mission of A.R.F.O.R.A.

**With love and respect,**

St. Parascheva - Ladies Auxiliary

Holy Cross Romanian Orthodox Church

Hollywood, Florida



Our senior dance group, **Balkan United Folklore Dance Group**, comprises dancers of diverse ages and backgrounds, united by a shared love for Romanian culture, traditions, and community spirit. Through traditional dance and music, we proudly preserve and celebrate the beauty of our heritage, bringing generations together in fellowship and joy. Our performances are enriched by authentic Romanian folk costumes, reflecting the history, artistry, and identity of the Romanian people.

The members of the **Balkan United Folklore Dance Group** extend their warmest wishes to all participants of the 78th A.R.F.O.R.A. Congress. May this gathering be filled with faith, fellowship, inspiration, and continued dedication to preserving our Orthodox faith and Romanian traditions for generations to come.

Dragi participanți ai Congresului A.R.F.O.R.A.,

În numele grupului de dans **Plaiuri Românești** și în calitate de instructor, am onoarea de a vă ura bun venit la congresul din acest an, organizat în Biserica noastră. Este o mare bucurie să fim parte din această întâlnire plină de semnificație, dedicată credinței, tradiției și comunității.

Pentru viitor, vă dorim inspirație continuă, creștere și unitate. Fie ca acest congres să continue să aducă oamenii împreună și să vă întărească misiunea comună pentru mulți ani de acum înainte.

Cu respect și apreciere,  
Grupul de dans Plaiuri Românești



Cu drag,  
*Anca Vasiliu*

# 2026 A.R.F.O.R.A. Scholarships

We are very pleased to announce the three selected applicants to receive the 2026 A.R.F.O.R.A. Scholarships.

They were all raised in the Orthodox Christian faith, have amazing backgrounds, and possess a strong desire and dedication to pursue their education.

## ROXANA NISTOR - Martha Gavrila Graduate Scholarship for Women



Roxana Nistor is a very dedicated member of **Sts Peter and Paul Romanian Orthodox Church, Dearborn Hights, MI** and a member of AROY Chapter. She serves as both an auditor and social media chair for her church's youth organization, roles that require organizational skills, trustworthiness, and a servant's heart.

She was recently admitted to **Indiana University School of Optometry** pursuing a career in professional optometry. Roxana graduated from **University of Detroit Mercy** with a Bachelor of Science in Biology, a minor in Leadership, and a Magna Cum Laude distinction. She has consistently demonstrated her capacity for high-level academic work.

Her consistent placement on the Dean's List speaks to her dedication and sustained excellence. In her high school years and continuing into her adult life, she has demonstrated an uncommon combination of ambition, humility, and genuine care for others.

## RODICA BABUT - A.R.F.O.R.A. Helen Muntean Education Scholarship



Rodica Babuț is an active Christian-orthodox member and the Treasurer of the Lady Auxiliary at **Saint George Romanian Orthodox Cathedral, Southfield, MI**. She is constantly involved in church activities, and she dedicates her time to help with church activities.

She is pursuing a degree in **Special Education at Eastern Michigan University**. Rodica works as an educator for Livonia Public Schools, helping students with cognitive disabilities to learn.

What sets Rodica apart is the unique blend of professional skill and personal empathy she brings to the classroom. Her desire to specialize in Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) is deeply rooted in her life as a mother.

Having supported her own son through his journey into young adulthood, she offers a perspective that cannot be taught in a textbook. Rodica is not just seeking a degree but answering a calling. Her passion for helping students learn and grow, combined with her lived experience as a parent of a young adult with autism, makes her the kind of educator we need entering the field.

### **TEODORA PELIN - Dr Eleanor Bujea Undergraduate Scholarship**



Teodora Pelin dedicated and faithful young member of **Saint Mary Romanian Orthodox Cathedral, Cleveland, OH**. She has been deeply involved in the Sunday School program, participated actively in various social and philanthropic initiatives of the parish, offering meaningful support in planning and organization. She is also a devoted member of AROY and will serve this summer as a counselor at Vatra Senior Camp.

Teodora is currently a third-year student in the **Psychology program at Cleveland State University**. During her studies, she has distinguished herself as a dedicated, thoughtful, and conscientious student. She approaches her academic work with seriousness and intellectual curiosity. Besides her academic abilities, Teodora possesses strong moral character and deep

sense of responsibility toward the community and faith.

Each selected applicant will receive a scholarship award of one thousand dollars. A.R.F.O.R.A. recognizes the need to help fund the education of our young people and we are grateful to support this important mission. The following scholarships are offered under the auspices of The Romanian Orthodox Episcopate of America through the generosity of the families and organizations whose names they bear.

*With faith, hope and love!*

**Scholarships Committee**

Pasha Bortnova,  
**A.R.F.O.R.A. Scholarships – Chair**

Ioana Mihailescu,  
**A.R.F.O.R.A. President**

Lucy Pop,  
**A.R.F.O.R.A. Past President & Treasurer**



## The Leadership and Staff of Popas Valea Câmpului

extend their warmest wishes for a blessed and successful 78th A.R.F.O.R.A. Congress.

May this gathering be filled with faith, fellowship, joy, and lasting memories.



📍 Străoane, Județul Vrancea, România Str. Valea Câmpului nr. 2

**We wish you a blessed and fruitful Congress!**

**Ladies Auxiliary  
"St Andrew" Romanian Orthodox Church  
Potomac Maryland**



**Best Wishes to  
Holy Cross Romanian  
Orthodox Church  
for a  
Successful Congress**



**“Carmen Sylva” Ladies Auxiliary  
1912– 2026**

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

\*\*\*

Our parish  
**Holy Trinity  
Romanian Orthodox Church,  
Youngstown, OH**

# **The GIBB Family**

**Louise Gibb**

ARFORA - Past President

**Nick & Mary Gibb**

**Peter & JoAnn Gibb**



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

**Congratulations**

**&**

**Best Wishes**

**to**

**Holy Cross**

**Romanian Orthodox**

**Church**

**Greetings and Best Wishes  
for  
the 78th A.R.F.O.R.A. Congress**

From  
The Presentation of Our Lord Orthodox  
Church

**Ladies Auxiliary**  
Credința Strămoșească  
Fairlawn, Ohio



President  
Vice President  
Secretary  
Treasurer  
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Karen Pascu  
Margie Groza  
Cindi Terhesh  
Stephanie Zablo  
Helen Richwine  
Pat Long



*Our Prayers & Best Wishes  
for a Successful  
A.R.F.O.R.A. 78th Congress*

**ST. MARY**

ROMANIAN ORTHODOX CATHEDRAL



**CLEVELAND**

*Florica Cotrau - President*

*Mariana Miron Vice-President*

*Rebecca McLaughlin & Mihaela Hetruc- Secretaries*

*Simona Cismasiu- Treasurer*

*Rev. Fr. Dr. Cezar Pelin*

*Parish Priest Adviser*



**ST. MARY**  
**ROMANIAN ORTHODOX CATHEDRAL**



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

*Please join our 21<sup>th</sup> Edition of the  
ROMANIAN FESTIVAL !*

*August 21, 22 & 23, 2026*

Rev. Fr. Dr. Cezar Pelin, 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)

# Holy Cross Orthodox Church

Hermitage, PA



## Ladies Auxiliary

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



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

**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 78<sup>th</sup> Congress!

*LA MULTI ANI!*



**Lucy Pop**  
National A.R.F.O.R.A. Treasurer  
And Past President  
Holy Nativity Romanian Orthodox Church  
Chicago, IL

Best Wishes for a Successful 78<sup>th</sup> National  
A.R.F.O.R.A. Congress



On behalf of "St. Mary" Ladies Auxiliary of the  
**Holy Nativity Church**  
Chicago, IL

Rev. Fr. Geani Nemes  
Parish Priest

Loredana Astefanoaie  
Ladies Aux. Secretary

Florentina Vigh  
Ladies Auxiliary President

Lucy Pop  
Ladies Aux. Treasurer



**Congratulations & Best Wishes  
To Holy Cross Romanian Orthodox Church  
on 78<sup>th</sup> ARFORA Congress**



**St. Mary Romanian Orthodox Church, St. Paul, Minnesota ~ Ladies Auxiliary  
together with Fr. Mircea Vasiu, Psa. Anca Vasiu and Prascovia Bortnova - President**



**BEST WISHES**  
on the occasion of the  
78th ARFORA Congress!

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

<b>President</b>	Cristina Irimie
<b>Vice President</b>	Psa. Mihaela Balanean
<b>Secretary</b>	Mihaela Williams
<b>Treasurer</b>	Sidonia Nistor
<b>Auditors</b>	Florina Boyle, Juliana Lupascu, Psa. Mary Ellen Rosco
<b>Delegates</b>	Nina Duma, Flori Hociota
<b>Alternates</b>	Silvia Costea, Anna Devine
<b>Parish Priest</b>	V. Rev. Fr. Horatiu Balanean
<b>Assistant Priest</b>	V. Rev. Protosprebyter Romey Rosco



*Love and kindness are never wasted. They always make a difference. They bless the one who receives them, and they bless you, the giver.*

**God's blessings to all the members of ARFORA and for a successful 78<sup>th</sup> Congress.**

The Ilea Family

**'LET US NOT BECOME WEARY IN DOING  
GOOD, FOR AT THE PROPER TIME WE WILL  
REAP A HARVEST IF WE DO NOT GIVE UP.'**

(Galatians 6:9)



**The Sts. Constantine & Helen Ladies Auxiliary  
of the Descent of the Holy Ghost  
Romanian Orthodox Church, Merrillville IN  
extend best wishes for a successful and fruitful  
Congress and ask God to bless the women and the  
dedicated work of the 2026 ARORA Congress.**

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**2026 Board: Cornelia Merchant Pres., Megan Vander Laan VP,  
Amanda Vander Laan Sec, Sherry Iliovici Treas,  
Diane Bright & Miya Spratt Aud, Gail Morgavan Alt Del.**



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## Biserica Sfântul Atanasie cel Mare, Aurora, IL

Asociația de Femei "Sfânta Ana"



Felicităm ARFORA cu prilejul celui de-al 78-lea Congres Național și transmitem alese gânduri de pretuire tuturor doamnelor care își trăiesc viața în slujba lui Dumnezeu.

Le dorim multă sănătate, putere de muncă, bucurie duhovnicească și să fie în continuare împodobite cu bucuria slujirii aproapelui și a Bisericii lui Hristos.

Dear all, **The Domnita Ileana Ladies Auxiliary at St. George in Southfield, MI**, is pleased to announce that the upcoming A.R.F.O.R.A. Conference will be dedicated to our esteemed long-standing member, **Eleonar Stapenski**, in celebration of her 100th birthday on February 16, 2026.



Additionally, we extend this dedication to all former members of the St. George Ladies Auxiliary. We express our heartfelt gratitude to each one of you and pledge to uphold the rich heritage of this tradition.

Sincerely, Florica Zaharie - President, Goldie Kalugar - Vice President, Raluca Perieanu - Secretary, Rodica Babut - Treasurer, Raluca Dusa - Auditor, Zina Hritcu - Auditor

Thank You for Participating  
in the  
**78th A.R.F.O.R.A. Congress**






NATIONAL  
**78<sup>th</sup>**  
**A.R.F.O.R.A. Congress**

FAITH • FELLOWSHIP • SERVICE



**ASSOCIATION OF ROMANIAN ORTHODOX LADIES  
AUXILIARIES OF NORTH AMERICA**

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A1938

*Thank You for Being a Part of Our Community.*