

**ROMANIAN CATHOLIC DIOCESE**  
*Eparchy of St. George in Canton*



November 20, 2020

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

*Office of the Bishop*

As we brave the COVID 10 pandemic, let us remember all the clergy who brave the challenges of pastoral work. We prepare to collect for the Clergy Retirement Fund on December 6, 2020. The Romanian Martyr Bishops for whom we have been praying for their beatification have finally received the status of blessed! Their feast day is June 2.

Every year in December, the faithful of the Romanian Catholic Diocese of Canton have the opportunity 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 five retired priests who receive a stipend for their years of service: Rev. George Gage, Very Rev. Aurel Pater, Right Rev. Gregory Duma, Rev. Michael Kirila and Rev. Gheorghe Opris. Keep them in your prayers as they enjoy their much-deserved retirement.

At Divine Liturgy on December 6, 2020, we are called to remember our 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 Martyred Bishops and faithful who stood up for their faith has been a blessing to the whole Church. We use their example here and now to love more deeply as Christ taught us.

Most Reverend Vasile Aftenie (born on June 14, 1899 in Lodroman, Romania), was consecrated the auxiliary bishop of Fagaras and Alba Iulia on June 5, 1940. He was initially arrested in October 1948 and sent to Dragoslave prison with five other Greek-Catholic bishops. Bishop Aftenie shared with dedication, "Neither my faith nor my nation is for sale." He died at Vacaresti prison after severe torture on May 10, 1949.

We are grateful for the clergy of the Eparchy of St. George for Romanians and the sacrifices they have made to share the Good News of Jesus. Please show your gratitude with your donation on December 6, 2020. May God bless your lives with every good thing for your generosity to those who have faithfully served the faithful!

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 Bishop's Collection***  
***in support of the Clergy Retirement Fund***