



UNITREA CANTON

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in Canton*

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The 317th Year of our Union with Rome



Celebrating 108 Years at St. Michael Church in Aurora, IL

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Celebrating 108 Years at St. Michael Church in Aurora, IL

By Cristian Gingu

In the early spring of 1906, Romanian immigrants living in Aurora, Illinois, considered a need for their own church [1]. At that time, a very energetic pioneer, Father Epaminonda Lucaciu, gathered the people across the tracks at St. Nicholas in order to give a formal and definitive start to the establishment of the parish and the building of a church. A quote from the parish council minute of January 17, 1909, reads: "the foundation of this parish was placed in 1906 when the missionary priest Dr. Epaminonda Lucaciu, going from house to house, made registration of all faithful Christians and urged them to organize." Eventually, on July 4, 1909, Bishop Muldoon, D.D., of Rockford, blessed the new completed church.



Our Bishop John Michael Botean (who served at St. Michael from 1986 to 1990) was with us this year for a few days. On Saturday November 22, a Special Liturgy was dedicated to celebrating the 108th Anniversary of St. Michael Church by Bishop John Michael Botean, General Vicar Iuliu Muntean, Very Rev. Aurel Pater and Theologian Marcel Podar.

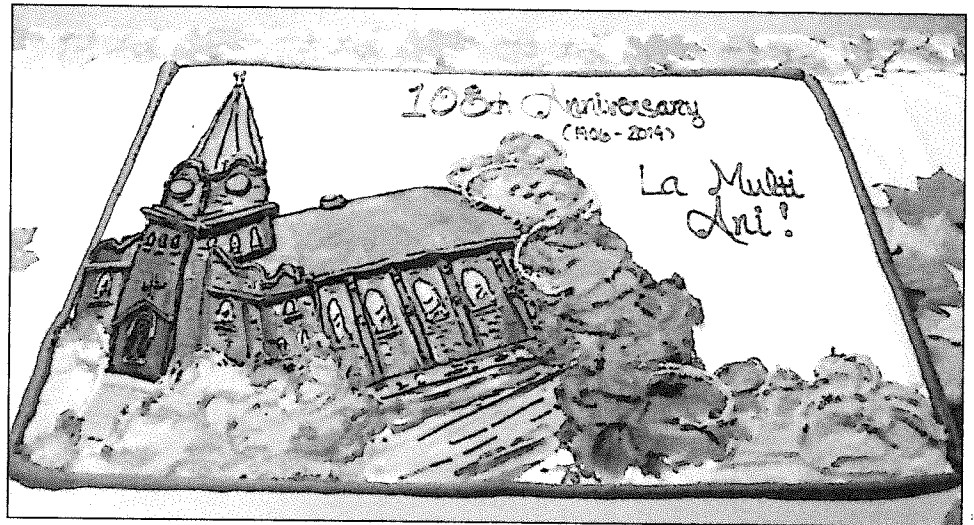


The Church Committee, with help from parishioners, took care of the dinner and party preparations: invitations were sent to parishioners; food was prepared under careful supervision of Florica Pater; and the room and tables were decorated by Viola Moldovan. As in other occasions, Nelu Naghi was in charge of the music. The dinner was sponsored by Mihai Cosman. Darlin Ardelean donated a tasty and beautifully ornate cake. More than 100 parishioners participated in this event, some of them in traditional Romanian costumes.

An album with photos can be seen online at

www.stmichaelromanianchurch.org/Pages/Photos.aspx

We are all proud to be part of this great parish and we wish our beloved St. Michael Church "Happy Anniversary" for many years to come: "La Multi Ani, St. Michael!"



If you are interested and want to read more about the history of the church, please visit our web site at

www.stmichaelromanianchurch.org/Pages/aboutus.aspx

[1]. St. Michael Romanian Byzantine Catholic Church, 100 Years, 1906-2006 Anniversary Book. Citations from articles written by Most Reverend John Michael Botean and by Very Rev. Fr. Aurel Pater.

Mark Your Calendar!

Most Holy Trinity, Chesterland, OH:
February 7: Mardi Gras Dinner, 4:30 pm to 7:30 pm

Saint George Cathedral, Canton, OH:
January 25: Three Saints Dinner, 12:30 pm
February 6 through March 27: Fish Fry Dinners, each Friday from 4:30 pm to 7:30 pm

Saint George Church, Aurora, IL:
February 8: Romanian sausage (cârnat) sale

February 14: Youth Spaghetti Dinner, 5:00 pm to 7:30 pm

Saint Mary Mission, New York:
January 25: Celebration of Unirea Principatelor

In Memoriam

Earl Flaherty, St. Mary, McKeesport, PA



Earl Flaherty, 66, passed away peacefully on November 22, 2014, at the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center, McKeesport. He was born April 11, 1948. He was a lifelong resident of McKeesport. Earl was a graduate of McKeesport Vocational High School. He began his 38 year career as a millwright with US Steel. While still in high school he received his journeyman papers. He was also a graduate of Machine Shop Technologies, Pittsburgh, and became certified in both air conditioning and refrigeration. He was a dependable volunteer for St. Mary's, always ready to help. Earl was a member of the Croatian Fraternal Union Lodge #3. He was the son of Earl and Betty (Ensign) Flaherty (deceased). He is survived by Franny Flaherty, his wife of 37 years, brother, Chuck (Nicki) Flaherty, one sister Cathy (Howard) Hayden, brother-in-law Frank (Tess) Dujmic, four nephews and five nieces. As Earl's bright smile shown on us may the perpetual light shine on him. May he rest in peace. ☩