

FROM: ION ANTON

RESPONSE LETTER TO LIVIU CONSTANTINESCU

December 15, 2022

Dear Liviu,

I write to you as a former colleague and co-worker at Thrifty Oil Co and Earth Management in Santa Fe Springs, and parishioners of the Holy Trinity Church in Los Angeles, California, for many decades.

I have received, at my POBox address a letter from you, dated: December 1, 2022, postmarked December 3, 2022, addressed to 'Fr. Alecse, Parish Council and Parish Members', in which you state among others "I register my objection and to protest the unlawful decision taken on October 30, 2022 which disregards my, my family's, and generations of parish members' decision to be under the jurisdiction of the ROEA..."

Let me be clear from the start. I am not writing in any church capacity, and I do not claim to officially represent anybody in the Holy Trinity Church, including the priest, parish council and/or the members of the community of the Holy Trinity Church. I am representing myself, and myself alone.

I am writing to you as a former colleague and co-worker at Thrifty Oil Co and as a parishioner of the same church both of us attending for decades.

You know very well that I respected you, and will continue to respect you as a decent human being, but I also have to express my deep disappointment in you, after reading so many erroneous statements and allegations you made in your above stated letter, that I feel morally obliged to respond to in the spirit of brotherly love.

My dear Liviu, my first question is: who provided you with my POBox address, which is known in the Romanian Community only by ROEA Chancery and our Parish Office?. I was told by the parish priest that he did not release any addressed of any parish council members to anyone, except the ROEA's Chancery. The parish office has proof of that.

Is the letter you have sent to me drawn by the ROEA Chancery? I wonder, because the last letter I have received from ROEA, using the same personal address (re: suspension of Fr. Alecse/Nov.4, 2022), has striking style, resemblance and other similitude's points, with your letter.

I was very impressed that I saw, in your one page letter, 4 quotes from the ROEA's bylaws, emphasizing that you, Leliana and Victor Marius 'have been members of the HTROC for many years and remain loyal to the ROEA', but you left out (forgotten) the most important quote from the ROEA's bylaws, regarding the membership of the Body of Christ, namely Living the Faith in Communion with Christ: art IX, sect.14 (a) To become/be a voting member of a parish... a man or woman must: (ii) partake of the sacraments of confession and communion, at least once a year, ordinarily in one's home parish;

I attended this Church, and this Church alone (Holy Trinity Church) on a regular basis, for over 35 years since I settled in America in 1986.

I am not trying to be judgmental, but I did not see you attending this Church for quite a few years. Regarding your wife Leliana, and your son Victor Marius, I don't think I exaggerate but

they did not attend our Church for decades. The mere fact that you make yearly financial donations, which you call 'memberships', does not make you, and your family "voting members" for life if you, and your family do not 'partake of the sacraments of confession and communion, at least once a year, ordinarily in one's home parish'. If God forbid this case ends in litigation does your son know you are paid membership on his behalf...

I personally don't believe that you have the legal and moral authority to speak for and 'on behalf of generations of parish members' decision to be under the jurisdiction of ROEA', while you refused to hold any office in the parish council, to attend any parish annual assemblies, at least for the last 2 decades, and even wrote letters to the Parish Office (cc. ROEA's Chancery), that you cannot accept to serve the church, in any official capacity, due to the nature of your work. The Parish Office accepted that, without reproach, but do not pretend to speak on behalf of generations of parish members, when you know very well that that the voting in the assembly is in person not by proxy 'voting in the Parish Assembly shall be in person and there shall be no voting by proxy or absentee ballots' (art IX, sect.26).

In your letter you talk about "unlawful special general assembly held on October 30, 2022" (1st paragraph), and "unlawful decision taken on October 30, 2022". Where from did you get the information that the above stated assembly was unlawful, if you were not present at that meeting? You also insinuate that your family was not invited to attend 'the so-called special general assembly, let alone with 15 days' notice as required by ROEA's bylaws'.

You are misinformed. The parish office confirmed that there were convocation letters, sent to all the over 50+ paid members (01 Jan.- 14 Oct.2022), including your family, 15 days before the meeting, and most of them attended, including some parish members who came to the October 30, 2022 meeting, and paid their membership dues that day.

If you were an active member in the parish, you would've known all the 'bolts and nuts' of the parish events, in the last 18 months (May 2021-October 2022), considering that ROEA circulated at least 3 official letters to ALL PARISHIONERS of the Holy Trinity (June 9, 2021, April 13, 2022, July 27, 2022)

Your claim the actions taken by the parish council and the special parish general assembly of October 30, 2022 are unlawful because were taken without the approval and blessing of the Archbishop +Nathaniel, have no feet to stand on:

How could a church seek the approval and blessing of the Archbishop +Nathaniel to discuss its disassociation of the Church from ROEA, when ROEA did not get the Agenda of January 30, 2022 annual meeting until the last line on the agenda "discussions and proposals was eliminated"? Even after the Agenda was approved (4 days before the meeting!), ROEA still did not allowed the parish to conduct its annual affairs in a normal way, but sent the Vicar-bishop to be present at the meeting as "an observer", to make sure that ROEA has full CONTROL?.

How could a church could seek the approval and blessing of the Archbishop +Nathaniel to discuss its disassociation of the Church from ROEA, when ROEA did not give the parish its approval to sell its Beverly Hills condominiums, unless the parish pays some \$26K ransom as "legal fees", without any justification, and agrees with the ROEA's decision to retire the priest who served the parish for 40 years, and accept a priest (like the one the appointed in Anaheim, who with the Blessing of Archbishop +Nathaniel closed the Church for almost a year, and took control of the Church's finances, and no one in that community knows where those funds are), whom the ROEA will appoint without the consent of the parish, who could do the same things at the Holy Trinity (close the church, take over the funds and estrange the Church's Beverly Hills condominium)?.

How could a church seek the approval and blessing of the Archbishop +Nathaniel to discuss its disassociation of the Church from ROEA, when ROEA treated the parish council and the parishioners "as kids", and now quoting the Vicar Bishop 'the kids don't tell the parents what to

do". During the last few years, and especially the last year-and-a-half (May 2021-October 2022) ROEA Chancery did not act in good faith, in its relationship with HTROC, including parish's interests, finances and administration, etc?;

How could a church seek the approval and blessing of the Archbishop +Nathaniel to discuss its disassociation of the Church from ROEA, when ROEA adopted a open and visible attitude of aggressiveness, harassment, abuse of power, disrespect, lying, intimidation, manipulation, retaliation against the leadership of the HTROC parish, etc...?

Talking about retaliation: Susan, Fetea, Todeasa, Anton Frunza, +Irineu (who OCA accused of retaliation) and others

The October 30, 2022 special parish assembly and its actions, are the result of many bumpy years in the relationship between our Church and the ROEA leadership. HTROC did not take these decisions lightly. It took years of pain, unconditional submission and specially prayers, asking God for guidance.

Most of the people believe that, since Bishop +Nathaniel was elected as a 'diocesan bishop' in 1984, the newly elected bishop +Nathaniel focused on 'grabbing full power and control' of his priests and parishes, using unorthodox methods of manipulations and intimidation.

He began with changing the ROEA's bylaws of 1953, which were in place, and worked harmoniously for over 30, during Bishop +Valerian's times, with a new one in 1994. It took 2 congresses, in 2 consecutive years of manipulations (1993-1994) to ultimately have those bylaws drawn and approved the way he wanted. Some clergymen who spoke against, or opposed certain provisions, giving the Bishop unchallenging powers, introduced in the new bylaws, suffered the consequences for many years to come.

When in 1999 ROEA's Congress denied the Bishop's request to purchase a building in Detroit (23300 Davison Avenue, Detroit, Michigan), known also as Center for Christian Orthodox Studies "St. Andrews", considering such an action as a conflict of interest for ROEA's Hierarchy to be the CEO of ROEA, and CEO of "St. Andrews" Center. , with the same scope: Religious Education, the Bishop circumvented the decision of the Congress, and together with Pac-Urar on 11/09/1999 incorporated a non-profit organization, 'The Center for Orthodox Christian Studies', ID 800856509, Old ID 751499, for the "Religious Education" purpose with 2 Board of directors: Archbishop +Nathaniel and Fr. Ian PacUrar. From 2015 through 2019, Fr. Alin Muntean is also listed as the Secretary, and Board of Directors of The Center (<https://cofs.lara.state.mi.us/SearchApi/Search/Search>).

The ROEA's competitor, the newly incorporated entity Center for Christian Orthodox Studies "St. Andrews" started a campaign to raise funds and shop around for LOANS and donations from many US States Romanian, and non Romanian parishes, institutions and individuals, to purchase a building in Detroit (above-mentioned address: 23300 Davison Avenue, Detroit, Michigan). Our HTROC, although "had a building project" was pressured to "chip-in" ASAP a \$50k one year loan, to assure that escrow is closed on that "hot deal" of \$375.000 value. Under the pressure, HTROC offered Bishop Nathaniel an one year \$50k.

Thirty (30+) years later, in the message of September 5, 2022, Archbishop Nathaniel acknowledges that the one year \$50k loan, requested from the HTROC in 1999 to purchase 'The Center for Orthodox Christian Studies', was never paid back - "I spoke to the previous Board of Directors, and these confirmed that the loan was not paid back. With blessings +Nathaniel".

One could wonder how many other loans, from how many churches and individuals were not paid back by Archbishop +Nathaniel?

Many parishioners wonder why our church's \$50k loan was not paid back, at the time when the building was sold for the first time, in 2005, when the Archbishop +Nathaniel enter into a 'Contract' on August 25th 2005 to sell the building (23300 Davison Avenue, Detroit, Michigan) for "the purchase price of One Million Dollars (\$1,000,000), with \$500,000 (half a million) payment at the time of closing escrow, with the obligation that the balance be paid during the next five (5) consecutive years, in annual payments of \$100,000 annually, until 2010.

Rumors have it that sometime in January 2010 Archbishop +Nathaniel and some of his cronies had to remove ROEA'S documents from the Vault Safety Deposit Box # 129, from Michigan Comerica Center Bank because the branch asked ROEA to close its Vault Deposit Box. Among other documents, the Warranty Deed of The Center for Orthodox Christian Studies 'St Andrew House', was removed. One may wonder if the bank could've hear or know of some irregularities or suspicious activities on the part of Archbishop +Nathaniel and his cronies, that may have prompted the bank to take such action.

Sometimes in 2011, after the full amount of \$1mm was paid to the Arch. Nathaniel for 'The Center', and the monks finished remodeling it, Arch. Nathaniel knew how to apply pressure on them to leave the building. By the end of 2011 the monastic community, having Vicar Bishop Irineu as Abbot, through manipulation Arch. Nathaniel, was forced to vacate 'The Center', and relocated to another property in the Michigan Bridgewater Township, donated by a generous benefactor, the Leica Family. I personally refuse to believe what other people believe that Arch. Nathaniel uses the Center for Orthodox Christian Studies 'St Andrew House', as a 'Money Laundering' Center... On the other hand, "who knows!?"

Arch. Nathaniel could'n stand the 'growing popularity' of Bishop Irineu in the Romanian Orthodox Communities in America and Canada, where he was officiated parish and missions' services, and making visits, even to some people in hospitals and convalescent homes, therefore he decided the 'get rid of Irineu, no matter of how high the price is'. In 2015 he started the process to defrock Irineu. Like Pilate, he publically washed his hands, referring 'Irineu case to OCA to resolve it', while he, Arch. Nathaniel planned the strategy, providing ORSMA with names of witnesses/accusers, meeting with the priests in the public parking lots for documents exchanges, etc...

The 2 years of 'evidence gathering' Arch. Nathaniel was frustrated and enraged with jealousy by your popularity within the Romanian community of Bishop Irineu, determined to destroy him. Irineu's attorney believes that Arch. Nathaniel plotted Irineu's removal throughout the past decade. The facts confirmed that he pressured three former residents of the Monastery, and a priest whom Bishop Irineu helped to come to USA and get a parish in Arizona, to accuse him of improper activity.

Out of 10 acusations, made by the so-called victims: **half of them where unsubstantiated**, and the other half, the so called 'substantiated allegations' consisted of: an empty chair, someone cutting the bishop's foot "unghii" or grooming his back hair, **retaliation**, etc...

In regards to the so-called 'five (5) victims', and their accusations: The initial complaint was to be removed by the OCA for +Irineu's improper sexual relationship with the daughter of a Priest (one of the accuser). Then, another accuser, a former priest, divorce his wife, abandoned his family and impregnated his girlfriend. The third accuser molested a 13-year-old girl, facing criminal charges for destroying the monastery property. The fourth accuser was the secretary and a member of the Board of Directors of St. Andrew's House, and the fifth female accuser worked for the fourth accuser, as a caretaker for the elderly people in AZ, and was dispatched to the monastery by the fourth accuser. Rumors have it that the third accuser's reward, for making false accusation was a home by Nathaniel.

The conclusion, recommendations and the actions recommended by the ORSMA against +Irineu, were '**based on the probability that these allegations are true**', meanwhile the forth

accuser recorded 3 attack messages, revealing to the mass-media part of the 'Confidential File on +Irineu by the ORSMA.

The OCA Synod refused an independent Court Reporter to transcribe the hearing and demanded that all cell phones and recording devices be removed from Bishop Irineu. The OCA Synod clearly ignored Bishop Irineu's witnesses, refused to allow a fair hearing, violating numerous provisions of Church law and ignored canon law. Bishop Irineu's attorney, summed-up, the ROEA/OCA circus as follows: 'It has been my honor to serve you as your attorney through this ordeal with the OCA, as your credibility is impeccable. The OCA removal process was clearly a sham designed solely to remove you so that Nathaniel can achieve his goal of having a diocese free of a Bishop more popular, honorable and holier than him. It was truly a miscarriage of justice to remove you from the OCA'. So, indeed, after 2 years (Sept.1, 2015-Jan. 25, 2017) of "phony allegations and sham hearings".

Arch. +Nathaniel accomplished His goal, declaring victory: +Irineu was demoted, and removed from ROEA/OCA. Thus, now Arch. Nathaniel could bring in Irineu's place his 'spiritual' son, Andrei Hoarste, elected Vicar-Bishop in 2019, the only 'candidate' proposed by +Nathaniel protégée, having Alin Munteanu and another priest from Chicago, counting the votes, with the instruction not to announce the number of the votes casted for the unique candidate, but rather state officially that 'the candidate received the majority of votes'.

Now, as far as rumors have it, a reputable Law Firm was recently hired to review 'Bishop Irineu's Case' in order to appeal the care in a Civil Court.

Having Irineu removed from ROEA, with Andrei Hoarste as a new Vicar-Bishop, Arch. Nathaniel is blackmailed to eliminate all the older priests (John Mahout, Laurence Lazar, Cornel Avramescu, Constantin Alecse, etc...) and reward the ones who truly helped Him 'get rid of Irineu', like Fr Alin Munteanu, a former secretary and director of the Board of Directors at St. Andre's Center, appointed as parish priest at St. Mary's Parish in Anaheim, CA, who, with the Archbishop's Blessings closed the Church since last year, and moved the parish's over half of million of dollars, parish funds to bank accounts which are not controlled by the parishioners. Rumors have it that he used part of those funds to buy a house in Southern California, purchase 2 expensive cars and use for litigation expenses against Fr. Avramescu's family and St. Mary's parishioners,

Archbishop Nathaniel forced Fr Constantin Alecse, into retirement without his consent, after serving our parish for 40 years, misrepresenting to our church's faithful that Father requested his retirement. The true reason of this forced retirement of Fr Alecse was to replace him, against the will of the parishioners, with a priest who, like Fr Alin will take direct orders from ROEA Chancery, and take control of our parish's finances and the Beverly Hills condominium, bequested to our Church by Fanous Estate.

By removing and replacing Fr. Alecse from the office of parish priest of the HTROC, with another priest blackmailed by ROEA, the parish will have no-one to fight, on its behalf, to recuperate the Funds Arch. Nathaniel owes to us, namely:

- a. \$ 50K from the Center for Christian Orthodox Studies "St. Andrews"
- b. \$750k Cash +Chatsworth land, of 'The Patrichi Trust or Moldovitsa Monastery Foundation', a bequest arranged by Fr Alecse. The Founder's initial intended destination was the Holy Trinity Church in Los Angeles.
- c. The parish was convinced that, after retiring Fr. Alecse, ROEA will reverse its decision and once again arbitrarily imposition protection the requested \$26K fee/extortion/bribe as "legal expenses" in exchange for approving the sale of the Beverly Hills condominium (ROEA's April 2022 letter).

Dear Liviu,

Besides a few above stated facts, known to everyone, the HTROC is also very much concerned with the total corruption at the Vatra Headquarters, actions behind the scene, including appointments of priests by Bishop +Andrei (Hoarste), many of them being presently under investigations. Unverified rumors has it that Bishop +Andrei has some plans to replace many ROEA's priests with priests brought by him to America from elsewhere, via Italy, and plant them to parishes without consulting with the parishioners... I smell more troubles for ROEA, if continues this path. Anyway, is not our problem anymore.

Out of desperation for loosing memberships, for not getting donations as before, not getting the quorum at the congresses, etc... the ROEA Chancery imposes inhumane treatments against the priests and parishes, exercising absurd control, ruling the Diocese with iron fists. That is why more parishes will disassociate from ROEA, if the Love of Christ is replaced with dictatorship and tyranny.

Today's ROEA departed from the vision and the principles of Polycarp Morusca (whose 'Testament of Bishop Polycarp Morusca' is in the ROEA's Volt), and +Archbishop Valerian, who ruled His Diocese with Grace and Love.

If ROEA will intend to litigate our parish's decision to disassociate from ROEA, then you will learn in more details about above stated facts, and much more. +Nathaniel and his acolytes like yourself, should think twice, if He want to spend years in Courts for investigations, depositions and trials. You will be alongside with him, as you sent personal letters to many of our parishioners private addresses, that were given in good faith by the parishioners to the parish office, which had to share them with the ROEA Chancery through the annual reports. Many people may not want to be members of any religious institutions if their privacy is not respected and their trust is betrayed.

Although is not my intent to harm the Orthodox Church, I don't have other choice but to reveal, not only to you, but to the whole world the gravity of +Nathaniel's evil actions, harming the Orthodoxy over the years. I will make use of the mass-media in America and Romania: retele de socializare, TVs, printed newspapers and magazines, blogs, etc... The message will reach the ecumenical patriarch in Istanbul, all the orthodox patriarchs in the whole world, all the orthodox hierarchs of the assembly of the canonical bishops in America, all the members of ROEA, and other dioceses, etc. Unnumbered lawsuits and counter-lawsuits will be part of this process. A team of movie producers, and documentary is at work gathering materials to 'expose the corruption and, what some people call "the evil" in ROEA and elsewhere in the American Orthodoxy.

The slavery in America was abolished long time ago. In America, the freedom of speech, association or disassociation are still guaranteed by the American Constitution.

In conclusion, HTRAOC had chosen to disassociate from ROEA, because of the abusive and aggressive attitude of ROEA towards our Church: harassment, abuse of power, disrespect, lying, blackmailing, intimidation, launching of fabricated cases for investigations, manipulation, initiation of frivolous lawsuits, etc. (*Roger Diamond, church attorney, letter to ROEA, 30 June, 2021*)

With respect,

Ion Anton,
(your former colleague and co-worker at
Thrifty Oil Co and Earth Management)