



## *The Carved Wood Memorial Cross of Boian*

*Carved wood crosses began to appear in the Romanian countryside somewhat before the middle ages at which time the country was over run by the Mongolian hords and other tribes which pillaged everything and everyone in their path. During these times the population lost all including their churches. The people fled before the invaders and hid where they felt safer, the forests. If the Romanian peasant could not build a church himself, he felt the spiritual need to build a cross so that all the services that were needed were celebrated around the cross. In essence, the Cross replaced the church in a time of need. The Cross is the cross upon which Christ was crucified.*

*The wooden memorial cross became a church in miniature and a symbol of resistance for the God-fearing Romanian people. Over time, the cross appeared at the entrance or the exit of the village, thereby calling the believer to say a prayer of thanksgiving for his arrival or a prayer of God speed for his travels. The cross is always with the traveler on his voyage through life.*

*The Memorial Cross which stands at the entrance to the church on the hill was placed there to welcome the believer to this "holy place" and to honour the pioneers, the founders and the benefactors who have fallen asleep in the Lord.*

*The Memorial Cross was commissioned in 2018, was completed in 2019 and delivered the fall of the same year. With the help of a number volunteers and generosity of many, the Cross was paid for and erected on June 25, 2020.*

*The Memorial Cross was consecrated May 15, 2022, by His Grace Ioan Casian, Bishop of the Romanian Orthodox Diocese of Canada attended by a number of clergy on the occasion of the 86th Anniversary of the forming of the Boian Ladies Club, and the 5th Anniversary of the enthronement of His Grace Ioan Casian.*

*The craftsman who was commissioned to carve the cross was Rev. Fr. Ioan Vraja from the Province of Maramures in northwestern Romania in the distinctive style of the area.*

*May this Memorial Cross stand for many years on this hill made holy by the sacrifices of those who came before us and left their legacy for us to carry forward for the Glory of the Holy Trinity, and our salvation.*



*The Very Rev. Fr. Mircea Panciuk  
St. Mary's Boian Parish Priest 1969-2023*