



EPISCOPIA ORTODOXĂ ROMÂNĂ A CANADEI **ROMANIAN ORTHODOX DIOCESE OF CANADA**

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Message for the opening of Boian Church - First Step in a Greater Journey

*Reverend Fathers,
Beloved brothers and sisters in Christ,*

With hearts full of thanksgiving and awe, you gather today to mark a sacred beginning – the opening of this new Church in Boian, a place set apart for the worship of the Living God. These doors now open not only to a building, but to a new chapter in the life of this historic community, and to the divine presence that will dwell among all those who come here in prayer.

Yet, let us remember: this moment is only the first step toward the full and final consecration of this holy place. What we celebrate today is not the completion of a project, but the birth of a living and growing reality—a sacred endeavor that will continue to unfold in time, in space, and in grace.

Though blessed and dedicated for worship, this Church still awaits its full adornment, its complete voice, and the fullness of its service to God and His people. The walls may stand, the Cross may be raised, and the faithful may gather - but the journey has only just begun.

For the Church is not built in a day. It is not completed with stone alone, nor furnished only with wood and icon. The true fulfillment of this work will be found in lives transformed, in children baptized, in burdens laid down at the foot of the Cross, and in the unceasing hymn of praise that will rise from this holy house.

As the hymn proclaims: *“O Savior, Your Church is not adorned by the ritual rules of the Law, nor by the slavish lifting of hands. But she sings to You, boasting in the grace of Your all-holy Cross: ‘Come, let us sing unto our God a song!’”*

And so, we begin this work not with ostentation, but with humility, not with finality, but with faith.

What is happening today must be watered with love, built up with sacrifice, and sustained by prayer. We look ahead with hopeful hearts, trusting that what God has begun in our midst, He will bring to completion - through the hands, the prayers, and the offerings of His faithful people.

Let this place be more than a building. Let it become a spiritual home - a refuge for the weary, a light for those in darkness, a school of the Gospel, a house of healing, a holy mountain where heaven and earth meet.

And as we go forward, step by step, in the work of completing and filling this house of God, let our voices always echo the cry of the Church in every age: *“Come, let us sing unto our God a song!”*

May the Cross and sacrifice of Christ be our foundation, our guide, and our crown.

May His Resurrection be our inspiration, our renewal, and the path to the attainment of the Kingdom of God.

And for all those who have labored thus far to bring this sacred work to its first milestone, I pray that God may bless them abundantly, strengthen them in faith, and grant them health of body and soul.

Let's rejoice and thank God for this accomplishment!

With hierarchical blessing,



† Ioan Casian

Romanian Orthodox Bishop of Canada

Toronto, August 17, 2025