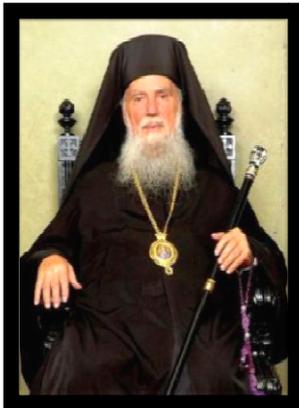


## OBITUARY



### ÎPS GHERASIM VLĂDICA [CRISTEA]

Honorary Member

**The Section of Philosophy, Theology, Psychology of  
The Academy of Romanian Scientists**

ÎPS GHERASIM VLĂDICA [CRISTEA] obtained his Bachelor Degree in Theology, at Bucharest, in 1946 with the qualification *very well*.

His professional activity was characterized by the dedication to monachal life as early as 1937, and he became hierodiacon and hieromonach in 1940. In 1942 he began his didactic career as professor at the School of Church Singers at Căldărușani Monastery, and then he was nominated priest at Antim Monastery in 1943.

Even since his nomination as priest he actively involved in building the two brick spires of the Monastery, in the activity of reconstruction of churches and monasteries, which was a constant throughout his activity. In 1952 he was elected Abbot of Căldărușani Monastery. Founded by Prince Matei Basarab, the Monastery was destroyed to a great extent in a fire in 1945, and then he succeeded to restore it with great efforts, if we consider the position of the state toward the Church at the time. He was also involved in the organization of the Geodynamic Observatory at Căldărușani, in collaboration with the Romanian Academy.

He was an active contributor to the rehabilitation of several Churches, historical monuments and to the establishment of certain museums from the Archiepiscopate of Bucharest, where objects of patrimony of great value were exposed, such as icons painted by Nicolae Grigorescu, by Gh. Tătărăscu, and Sava Henția.

In 1978 he was elected by the Holy Synod of the Romanian Orthodox Church Bishop-Vicary, and since 1984 he was Bishop of Vâlcea Eparchy.

His scientific activity was oriented toward theological research, toward the history of important places of cult, of several prominent Church personalities and toward the theological- psychological meditations. The publication activity reflected his preoccupations for scientific research and it

was concretized through the publication of 12 volumes: *Războiul de independență în documentele Episcopiei Râmnicului și Argeșului* [The War of Independence in the Documents of the Diocese of Râmnic and Argeș], *Preotul Radu Șapcă – Omul și opera* [The Priest Radu Șapcă – The Man and His Work], *Mănăstirea Hurezi* [Hurezi Monastery], *Un sfânt printre oameni* [A Saint Among People], *Sfântul Calinic Cernicanul* [Saint Calinic from Cernica Monastery], *Istoricul Sfintei Mănăstiri* [The History of the Holy Monastery], *Un pașoptist de seamă. Preotul Radu Șapcă* [A Representative of the 1848 Revolution. Priest Radu Șapcă]; *Istoria Mănăstirii Govora* [The History of Govora Monastery], *Istoricul Mănăstirii Hurezi* [The History of Hurezi Monastery], *Istoria Eparhiei Râmnicului* [The History of Râmnic Eparchy], *Visterii de cuvinte* [Tesauri of Words], *Omul și ordinea în lume* [Man and Order in the World], *Viața Sfântului Constantin Brâncoveanu și a celor Pătimitori cu dânsul* [The Life of Saint Constantin Brâncoveanu and of the Ones Who Suffered with Him].

His domains of activity: intense pastoral-missionary and cultural activity, the spreading of the Orthodox faith teachings. A special care was oriented to the restoration of the monasteries and churches from the Eparchy.

For his prestigious activity ÎPS Gherasim Vlădica [Cristea] obtained several distinctions: *The Order of the Faithful Service in Comandor Degree*, 1.12.2000; Jubilee Medal *PF. Teodosie – 45 years of archiepiscopate jubilee*, 1995; Jubilee Medal *Matei Basarab*, Jubilee Medal *Deutcher Bundestag Bonn-Reichstag, Berlin*; BNR – Jubilee Medal at the *Visit of the Pope John Paul the second*, 7-9 May 1999; BNR – Prize *Expedition Emil Racoviță 1897-1899*, 1999.