



Un glas.
care te cheamă

Părintele GHEORGHE CALCIU

Album alcătuit la Mănăstirea Diaconești
ediție trilingvă: română - engleză - greacă



Editura Bonifaciu 2016

*Că precum prisosesc pătimirile lui Hristos întru noi,
aşa prisoseşte prin Hristos şi mângâierea noastră. (II Cor. 1, 5)*

După plecarea unui om din această viaţă, urmaşii îi măsoară adesea personalitatea prin aprecierea lucrării lui pe pământ, socotind avuţia ce a lăsat-o, în bunuri materiale sau spirituale. După 10 ani de la adormirea Părintelui Gheorghe Calciu, trăim revelaţia descoperirii unei avuţii, nu atât de scrieri teologice şi mărturisitoare, cât de dragoste şi pătimire pentru Dumnezeu şi oameni, răzbătând vie şi autentică de dincolo de hotarele vremelniciei.

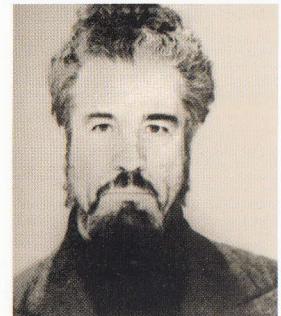
„Dacă toate vor pieri, şi limbile şi profetiile, cum spune Apostolul neamurilor, şi dacă numai dragostea rămâne - şi ştiu că aşa este - atunci dragostea dintre noi va rămâne neatinsă pe drumul acesta al meu care duce către o aşa-zisă moarte”, spunea Părintele de pe patul său de suferinţă de la Spitalul Militar.

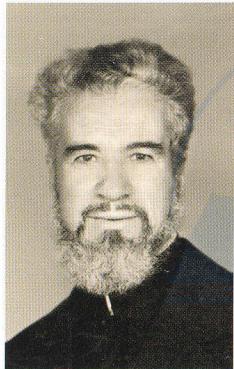
Albumul de faţă, smerit răspuns al dragostei noastre pentru Părintele Gheorghe Calciu, care el ne-a iubit cel dintâi, cuprinde o mică biografie în imagini, însotită de scurte cugetări duhovniceşti culese din bine-cunoscutele sale *7 Cuvinte către tineri*. Rostite în Bucureşti în anul 1978, în plină dictatură comunistă, aceste cuvinte surprind până astăzi atât prin forţa lor mărturisitoare, cât mai ales prin puterea de a transmite lumină şi mângâiere omului contemporan.

Sunt cuvinte propovăduite de la cel mai înalt amvon şi de la cea mai strălucită catedră teologică, căci sunt grăiri de pe cruce, viaţa Părintelui Gheorghe Calciu fiind o autentică filă de sinaxar, cu nimic mai prejos de paginile ce s-au scris în primele veacuri în actele martirice. Sunt cuvinte izvorâte din iubirea lui Hristos cea eliberatoare, vie şi palpabilă, cuvinte născute nu dintr-o iubire abstractă care-şi caută obiectul, ci din iubirea care a găsit pe Dumnezeu şi pe aproapele în adâncul propriei inimi, după cum singur Părintele scria...

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Părintele Gheorghe Calciu s-a născut la 23 noiembrie 1925 în Mahmudia, un mic sat din Delta Dunării. A fost al unsprezecelea copil dintr-o familie de țărani modesti şi cu frică de Dumnezeu. Cu duioasă recunoştinţă şi fin umor, Părintele mărturisea spre sfârşitul vieţii că de la mama sa a învăţat mai multă teologie decât din învăţământul academic, mama făcându-i-se pildă vie pentru ceea ce înseamnă rugăciunea şi puterea credinţei.



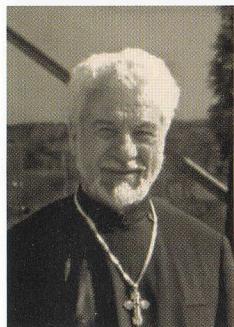


Tinerețea i s-a împălit cu istoria însângerată a României de după instaurarea regimului comunist. În 1948, la 22 de ani, fiind student la Facultatea de Medicină din București, a fost arestat pentru vina de a fi găzduit la cămin un Tânăr legionar. Au urmat 16 ani de închisoare, de-a lungul cărora a trecut prin experiențe limită: reeducarea de la Pitești, celula de exterminare de la Jilava, reeducarea din Aiud. A rămas în amintirea celor împreună-pătimitori cu dânsul prin gestul său - omenește nebunesc și irațional - de a-și tăia venele în celulă pentru a-i da să bea limfă unui detinut muribund, ca să-i prelungească viața. Nebunească dragoste evangelică, ce n-a șovăit să-și pună sufletul pentru prieteni...

Cercat precum aurul în topitoare, Gheorghe Calciu și-a înțeles încă din timpul închisorii chemarea de a-l închină lui Dumnezeu întreaga sa viață. După eliberare a urmat Facultatea de Filologie și apoi pe cea de Teologie, devenind preot profesor la Seminarul Teologic din București. După câțiva ani de pilduitoare slujire înaintea lui Dumnezeu și a oamenilor, în 1978 a rostit cele 7 Cuvinte către tineri, ca gest de protest față de dărâmarea Bisericii Enei din București de către autoritățile comuniste și ca îndemn adresat tinerilor săi elevi spre un zbor spiritual dincolo de gratiile ideologiei materialiste.

A fost din nou arestat, smuls din mijlocul elevilor care îl iubeau și despărțit de familia lui dragă - soția și un copil de 12 ani. Vreme de cinci ani a pătimit iarăși în beciurile Securității, la Spitalul de nebuni de la Jilava și în închisoarea Aiud, după care, în urma protestelor internaționale, a fost eliberat, apoi caterisit și exilat în Statele Unite. Acolo, trei Patriarhii i-au recunoscut preoția canonica și astfel a putut sluji ca preot paroh al comunității românești din Washington DC. A propovăduit până la moarte, cu o cuceritoare dăruire apostolică, dragostea lui Hristos, puterea pocăinței și a milei lui Dumnezeu.

Pe 21 noiembrie 2006, la vîrstă de 81 de ani - din care 21 petrecuți în închisoare - s-a mutat din Biserica luptătoare în cea biruitoare, cu credința că cea mai mare comoară a inimii sale a fost suferința pentru Hristos și aproapele. De acolo ne face auzit un glas care ne cheamă, un glas cu putere multă, fiindcă nu este al unui mort, ci al unui înviat...



Mănăstirea Diaconești
7 octombrie 2016,
la pomenuirea Sfintilor Mari Mucenici Serghei și Vah



Father George Calciu was born on November 23, 1925 in Mahmudia, a small village in the Danube Delta. He was the eleventh child in a pious and God-fearing family of humble country people. With tender gratitude and fine humor, Father George confessed to the end of his life that he learned more theology from his mother than from his academic education; the simple woman was the living example of what prayer and the power of faith in Christ truly mean.

His youth was intertwined with the bloody history Romania experienced after the establishment of the communist regime. In 1948, at the age of twenty-two, while he was a student at the Medical School in Bucharest, George Calciu was arrested for the crime of hosting a young legionnaire in the residence hall. Sixteen years of prison followed, time during which he underwent extreme experiences: the Pitesti „re-education”, the extermination cell of Jilava, the Aiud „re-education”. He dwells in the memory of his fellow sufferers for the gesture - humanly insane and irrational - of cutting open his veins and offering his lymph to extend the life of a dying inmate. Such “foolish” evangelical love, which never allowed him to waver in laying down his life for his friends ...

Tried and refined as gold is in a furnace, George Calciu understood the call to dedicate his entire life to God early on during his time in prison. Upon his release, he did his studies at the Schools of Philology and Theology and became a priest professor at the Theological Seminary in Bucharest. After several years of exemplary service to God and man, he delivered his *Seven Words to the Young* in 1978, both as a protest against the demolition of the Enei Church in Bucharest by the communist authorities and as an exhortation to his young students for a spiritual flight beyond the shackles of materialistic ideology.

He was arrested once more, snatched from the midst of the students who cherished him and separated from his beloved family - his wife and his twelve-year-old child. For five years he suffered again in the dungeons of the Securitate

(the communist Department of Security), the hospital for the insane of Jilava, and the Aiud prison. Due to the international protests organized on his behalf, he was released, defrocked and exiled to the United States. There, three patriarchates recognized his canonical priest-hood, and thus he was able to serve as a parish priest in the Romanian community of Washington DC.

With a captivating apostolic dedication, he preached about Christ's love, the power of repentance, and the mercy of God until the day he died. On November 21, 2006, at the age of eighty-one years -twenty-one of which he had spent in prison - Father George left the Church Militant and joined the Church Triumphant, with the belief that the greatest treasure of his heart was suffering for Christ and his neighbor. From up above, he calls onto us with a voice so powerful, for it is not the voice of the dead but that of the resurrected ...

The present album is a humble response of our love for Father George Calciu - who loved us first - and it includes a brief biography in pictures and short spiritual reflections gathered from his well-known *Seven Words to the Young*. Uttered in Bucharest in 1978, in the midst of communist dictatorship, they surprise not only through their strength for bearing witness, but especially through their power of conveying light and bringing comfort to the contemporary man.

Diaconești Monastery, October 7, 2016,
The commemoration of the Holy Martyrs Sergius and Bacchus

Ο Γέροντας Γεώργιος Κάλτζιου γεννήθηκε στις 23 Νοεμβρίου 1925, σε ένα μικρό χωριό στην Δέλτα του Δούναβη. Ήταν το ενδέκατο παιδί μιας οικογένειας απλών θεοφοβουμένων χωρικών.

Με στοργική ευγνωμοσύνη και λεπτό χιούμορ, ο Γέροντας Γεώργιος ομολογούσε προς το τέλος της ζωής του ότι από την μητέρα του έμαθε περισσότερη θεολογία από την ακαδημαϊκή παιδεία, επειδή αυτή η απλή γυναικά ήταν γι' αυτόν ένα ζωντανό παράδειγμα προσευχής και πίστεως στον Χριστό.

Η νεότητά του πλέχθηκε με την ματωμένη ιστορία της Ρουμανίας μετά την εγκαθίδρυση του κομουνιστικού καθεστώτος. Το 1948, σε ηλικία 22 χρονών, όντας φοιτητής της Ιατρικής Σχολής του Βουκουρεστίου, συλλαμβάνεται και φυλακίζεται για την ενοχή ότι φιλοξένησε στο οικοτροφείο έναν νεαρό λεγεωνάριο. Πέρασε 16 χρόνια στην φυλακή, κατά την διάρκεια των οποίων δοκίμασε ακραίας μορφής εμπειρίες: η τρομακτική «αναμόρφωση» στην φυλακή Πιτέστι, το εξολοθρευτικό κελλί στην φυλακή Ζιλάβα, η «αναμόρφωση» στην φυλακή Αϊούντ. Έμεινε στην μνήμη των άλλων συμβασανιζομένων του εξαιτίας της χειρονομίας που έκανε στην φυλακή - τρελή και παράλογη σύμφωνα με την ανθρώπινη προοπτική - όταν έκοψε στο κελλί τις φλέβες του για να δώσει σε έναν άλλο κρατούμενο που είχε φυματίωση και ήταν ετοιμοθάνατο να πιει μια καραβάνα με την λέμφο από το αίμα του, ελπίζοντας ότι με αυτόν τον τρόπο θα παρατείνει έστω και για λίγο την ζωή του. Τρελή ευαγγελική αγάπη που δεν δίστασε «την ψυχήν αυτού θήναι υπέρ των φίλων αυτού»...! (Ιω, 31, 4)

Δοκιμασμένος σαν τον χρυσό στο καμίνι, ο Γεώργιος Κάλτζιου κατάλαβε ακόμα από τον καιρό που ήταν στην φυλακή το κάλεσμα να αφιερώνει ολόκληρη την ζωή του στον Θεό. Μετά την αποφυλάκιση σπουδασε στην Φιλολογική Σχολή και μετά στην Θεολογική Σχολή και έγινε με την πρόνοια του Θεού ιερέας και καθηγητής της Ιερατικής Σχολής του Βουκουρεστίου. Μετά από μερικά χρόνια παραδειγματικής διακονίας ενώπιων του Θεού και των ανθρώπων, το 1978 εξεφώνησε τους 7 Λόγους για τους νέους, ως διαμαρτυρία για το γκρέμισμα της εκκλησίας. Ένεα από το Βουκουρέστι - κατόπιν εντολής της κομουνιστικής κυβέρνησης - και ως ώθηση προς τους μαθητές του για ένα πνευματικό πέταγμα πέρα από τα κάγκελα της υλιστικής ιδεολογίας.

Αποσπάται από την μέση των μαθητών του οι οποίοι τον αγαπούσαν, χωρίζεται από την αγαπημένη του οικογένεια - την σύζυγο και ένα παιδί 12 χρονών - και φυλακίζεται πάλι. Ακολουθούν άλλα πέντε μαρτυρικά χρόνια στα υπόγεια της Ασφαλείας, στο ψυχιατρικό νοσοκομείο της φυλακής Ζιλάβα και μετά, στην γνωστή φυλακή Αϊούντ. Στην συνέχεια, εξ αιτίας των παραστάσεων και διαμαρτυριών από την Δύση, αποφυλακίζεται, καθαιρείται και εξορίζεται στις Ηνωμένες Πολιτείες της Αμερικής. Εκεί τρία Πατριαρχεία αναγνωρίσαν την κανονική ιερωσύνη του και έτσι μπόρεσε να λειτουργήσει ως εφημέριος της ρουμανικής κοινότητας από το Γουάσινγκτον ΔΣ.

Κήρηξε μέχρι στον θάνατό του με σαγηνευτική αποστολική αφοσίωση, την αγάπη του Χριστού, την δύναμη της μετανοίας και το έλεος του Θεού. Στις 21 Νοεμβρίου 2006, σε ηλικία 81 χρονών - από τα οποία 21 πέρασε στην φυλακή - , μετετέθη από την στρατευόμενη Εικλησία στην θριαμβεύουσα Εκκλησία έχοντας την πίστη ότι ο μεγαλύτερος θησαυρός είναι η θλίψη που υποφέρουμε για τον Χριστό και τον πλησίον. Από εκεί, από την θριαμβεύουσα Εκκλησία, ακούμε την φωνή του η οποία μας καλεί μετά μεγάλης δυνάμεως, διότι δεν είναι φωνή νεκρού, αλλά αναστημένου...

Το παρόν λεύκωμα αποτελεί μια μικρή φωτογραφική βιογραφία. Τις φωτογραφίες ακολουθούν μικρά αποφθέγματα αποσπασμένα από τους 7 Λόγους για τους νέους. Αυτά τα λόγια τα οποία ο Γέροντας Γεώργιος εξεφώνησε στην μέση της κομουνιστικής δικτατορίας, εκπλήσσουν μέχρι σήμερα τόσο για την ανδρεία της ομολογίας όσο και για την δύναμη τους να μεταλαμπαδεύουν φως και παρηγοριά στον σύγχρονο άνθρωπο.

Ιερά Μονή Διακονέστι, 7 Οκτώβριου 2016
Εορτή των Αγίων Μεγαλομαρτύρων Σεργίου και Βάκχου

