

DUMBRĂVIȚA

Local Council Office: Dumbrăvița, str. Petőfi Sándor no. 31, telephone 0256/214272, fax 0256/214399;

Coordinates:

45°48'07" N lat.;

21°14'51" E long.;

Historical landmarks:

-1889 - 127 persons from Szentes, Hungary, decided to buy 6 kilometres of land north of Timișoara;

- according to the contract, the value of the land was paid in 20 years, and, as the land was located on the cleared area of the Green Forest, the new settlement was called **Vadászerdőközség** ("the commune from the Green Forest").

-1891 - the de facto constitution of the locality of **Újszentes** took place when 133 Hungarian families coming from Szentes (Hungary) settled in the locality;

- their settling in the area was organised and supported by the government from Budapest;

-1897 - the building of the reformed church began with the money of the Hungarian state, and, in 1901, the church was consecrated;

-1921 - families from the Serbian Banat, but also from Comloșu Mare, settled in Dumbrăvița;

-1921 - the commune residence;

-1924 - it was mentioned under the name of Sântești;

-1927 - 42 Romanian families received land (7 jochs of land, for a house and a garden);

- after 1945 - Hungarians coming from Székely land, but also Romanians from Transylvania, settled in the area;

-1964 - **Újszentes** received the name of **Dumbrăvița**;

-1990 - the locality had a bilingual name - **Dumbrăvița-Újszentes**;

-1996 - "**The Pensioners' Club**", the first rural club of this type in county, was inaugu-



rated;

-1999 - the monthly magazine "**The Farm**" was first published nationally, in 18,000 copies; it contained information about the agro-zootechnical field, the agricultural technologies, agricultural legislation;

-2000-2010 - the population of the commune increased significantly as a consequence of the building of houses by numerous middle-class people from Timișoara;

Total population on 1 January 2010:

4,452 persons, of which:

- male = 2,216 persons

- female = 2,336 persons

Number of households 1 January 2010:

2,341

Educational institutions: Elementary Schools (I-VIII); Kindergartens with extended hours;

Health facilities: Local clinic; Dentist practices (three); Drugstore; Sanitary-veterinary drugstore;

Cultural institutions: Community centre; Library (founded in 1974);

Churches: Reformed Church (1897 - 1901); Roman-Catholic Church (1985); Pentecostal Church (1987); Romanian Orthodox Church (parish from 1927, the church from 2005);

Annual Church Festivals and other cultural and religious events: Annual orthodox church festival (Pentecost); Annual catholic church festival (the first Sunday from October); The Days of Dumbrăvița (the penultimate week of September).

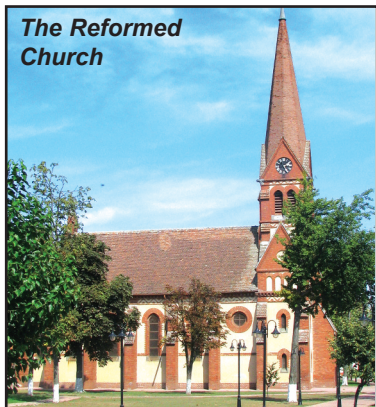
THE CITY HALL AND THE LOCAL COUNCIL OF DUMBRĂVIȚA

Szilágyi Géza	Mayor	Kádár Gheorghe, LC member	DUHR
Malac Victor	Vice Mayor	Madaras Gáspár Csaba, LC member	DUHR
Benkó Hajnal, LC member		Marinescu Ioan, LC member	DLP
Dénes Ildikó, LC member		Mihăieș Marius-Cristian, LC member	NLP
Drapoș Iosif, LC member		Paucec Vasile, LC member	DLP
Foray Attila, LC member		Popa Ioan, LC member	SDP
Hațegan Ioan, LC member		Toma Iulian, LC member	DLP

DUMBRĂVIȚA

THE SMALL GREAT ROMANIA

The first inhabitants of Dumbrăvița, “the settlers”, were 33 families from the area of Szentes, Csongrád county, from the south-west of present-day Hungary. They came here because of the 1891 floods, when the Tisa river destroyed their main source of income: the onion and garlic fields.



The Reformed Church

The Romanian community from Dumbrăvița was founded during the interwar period. In 1923, several Romanian families from Toracul Mare and Toracul Mic, the Serbian Banat, settled in the locality. Then, between 1940 and 1941, refugees came here from Herta county, North Bucovina, Basarabia and Transnistria, invaded by Soviet troops. Other people from the Quadrangle given to the Kingdom of Bulgaria by the order of nazi Germany and fascist Italy, also settled in the locality. After 1945, Romanians from Transylvania and Bucovina, but also from other parts of country, settled here. This made the Romanian orthodox priest **Vasile Baboș** describe Dumbrăvița as “a miniature Great Romania” in 2007. The same hard-working priest tells the story of the Romanian orthodox community from Dumbrăvița - Újszentes: “The first ortho-

dox community was formed in 1928, when the priest Traian Bârză gathered the community into a branch of the parish from Cerneteaz. The first priest ordained in the parish was Reja Atanasie, a teacher from Gaiu Mic, in 1933. On this occasion, the community received from the Romanian state a part of the state kindergarten from the village and turned it into a chapel. The Romanians used this chapel until the elevation and the consecration of the first orthodox church, in 2005. The design of the Romanian church from Dumbrăvița was started by IPROTIM between 1976 and 1978. The author of the design is professor architect **Nicolae Dancu**. The plan to build an orthodox church in Dumbrăvița was postponed until after the Revolution from December 1989.

In 1995, the parish priest Vasile Baboș took over the design of IPROTIM and, together with the architect, he improved and updated it to the needs of the community. The cornerstone was set on 27 June 1996. The place was consecrated by the metropolitan of Banat His Holiness Nicolae Corneanu (see image, right). “The building was brought to an advanced stage of execution in the next few years and was consecrated on 27 December 2005 by the Vicar Bishop Lucian Lugojanu. The church is a model of modern architecture, inspired by the old Romanian byzantine architecture”, according to the scholar priest Vasile Baboș.



The Romanian Orthodox Church



DUMBRĂVIȚA

PÉTER JECZA - THE MASTER OF SHAPES



The construction of the Roman-Catholic Church from Dumbrăvița began in 1972, and ended in 1979. The architect in charge of the work was **Hans Fackelmann**, a professor at the architecture school from Timiș. The engineer (structurist) was Ph.D. Eng. **Victor Gioncu**.

Although the wish of the architect Fackelmann and of the sculptor **Péter Jecza** was to build a tower as a church annex, the bell tower was located in the yard of the parish house. When the construction was almost finished, the dictator Nicolae Ceaușescu scheduled a visit to the hunting estate from Săvârșin and had to pass by Dumbrăvița. The communist county authorities did not want to annoy their leader with the sight of a tall and slender church building, especially a roman-catholic one. For the same reason, the church was built away from the street front, having a similar height with the buildings from the area. The exceptional

fantasy of the architect and the sculptor made them use the idea of the “**Tent of Meeting**” where the people of Moses gathered in prayer. The structure of the building imitates the Christians’ hands held in prayer (with the “fingers” made of concrete standing out as elegant gothic piers). The altar and the sculptural decorations were executed by sculptor Péter Jecza after the building was finished, upon the request of architect Fackelmann. This work is no longer considered by the master’s critics as one of his studies of the shape conducted inside his workshop.



PÉTER SZABÓ - KNIGHTS OF MALTA

It is a known fact that, at the beginning of the IIIrd millenium, there were four Knights of Malta in Romania: Count Hartig, Count Kálnoky, Prince Mihail Sturdza and... surprise, the catholic priest from the commune of Dumbrăvița, Timiș County, **Péter Szabó**, who comes from Hunedoara county. Count Hartig was the ambassador of the Order of Malta in România. The noble Kálnoky returned to the country after the Revolution, reclaimed his castle from Covasna and his estate and decided to live among the people from the Székely land. Prince Mihail Sturdza is far less known in comparison with his relative from Switzerland, billionaire Dimitrie Sturdza, and it is very surprising to find out that a catholic priest settled in Banat, Péter Szabó from Dumbrăvița, is among the few Knights of Malta of România (from Padre Péter Szabó we found out that, actually, there is a fifth Knight of Malta in Romania, the Apostolic Nuncio, who is the Pope’s Ambassador in Bucharest).



Reverendo Padre Péter Szabó Cappelanno Magistrale of the Military Sovereign Order of Malta was made Knight of Malta in Germany, after performing many good deeds, as the Order of Malta has as declared purpose to help the less fortunate. Péter Szabó, authentic Knight of Malta, left the roman-catholic parish from Dumbrăvița and for a while he was the headmaster of the Theological High School “**Gerhardinum**” from Timișoara (the former Piarist High School) taking over the Iosefin IV Roman-Catholic Parish.