

A Brief Biography of Blessed Tit Liviu Chinezu

photos: <https://flic.kr/s/aHBqjA71yg>

The son of Ioan Paul, a Greek-Catholic priest, and Elena Ceușan, Tit (or Titus) was born on December 22, 1904 in Iernuțeni (Reghin), Mureș County in Romania. He was baptized and chrismated on December 26 of that same year. After elementary school in Huduc and High School in Reghin, he attended the last two years of schooling in Blaj, at St. Basil the Great High School, taking his final exam in 1925. He was then sent to Rome for further studies, to the Pontifical Greek College, obtaining his doctorate in philosophy at *De Propaganda Fide* Athenaeum in 1927 and a degree in theology at the *Angelicum* Athenaeum in 1931.

Returning to Romania, he served as chaplain of the schools in Blaj. In 1932 he was appointed professor of theology. Between 1941 and 1945 he was the rector of the Theological Academy in Blaj. He was actively involved in the establishment and operation of the Society of Saint Niceta of Remesiana (for celibate priests). In 1946 he was appointed archpriest of Bucharest, and in 1948, he was made a canon in the Capitulum of Blaj.

He was considered by the Security as “one of the strongest opponents of the union between the Greek-Catholic Church and the Romanian Orthodox Church.” He was arrested on the night of October 28/29, 1948, along with the Greek-Catholic bishops and 25 other priests with responsibilities in their eparchies, during the communist persecution that suppressed the United Romanian Church. While in prison in the Căldărușani camp, he was consecrated a bishop in secret on April 25, 1949, through a mandate from the Apostolic Nunciature. Giving his life for the Pope, he refused to give up his Church, and was transferred on May 25, 1950 to the Sighet extermination prison. He became seriously ill because of the living conditions there. Not receiving any medical care, the disease worsened; he was isolated in a cell, where he died a few hours later, on January 15, 1955. He had the consolation of receiving the sacramental absolution from the “sweeping” bishops on that day by the Rt. Rev. Alexandru Todea and Rt. Rev. Adalbert Boros.

He was buried in the “Cemetery of the Poor” in Sighet, and his grave can no longer be identified today.