



January 12, 2023

Dear Monsignor or Father,

Annually, our Diocese participates in the Collection for the Church in Central and Eastern Europe on the first Sunday of February. This year, the Collection should be taken at all parish Saturday evening Masses and Sunday Masses on February 4 and 5, 2023. The proceeds from this collection will help the Church to overcome the challenges of rebuilding after decades of atheistic communist rule, bringing light to twenty-nine nations in Central and Eastern Europe, such as Croatia, the Czech Republic, Poland, Serbia, Slovakia, and Ukraine. The citizens of Central and Eastern Europe have been freed from the evil of communism for over thirty years, but great need still remains. Although the tyranny of communism did not snuff out the Catholic faith in these countries, the people of Central and Eastern Europe do need our assistance and financial help because they do not have the resources to "Restore the Church and Build the Future" on their own.

Because of the generous response from parishioners in past years, the Bishops of the United States were able to provide aid immediately to Ukraine when Russia attacked that nation last February. Grants were made available for humanitarian aid to victims and refugees in Ukraine, Poland, Slovakia, and Moldavia. Food, tents, blankets, and personal hygiene products were provided at various relief centers during the early days of the invasion. I hope that our parishioners will be comforted in knowing that their contributions to this collection did indeed make a real difference in the lives of many last year.

Our participation and our parishioners' participation in the Collection for the Church in Central and Eastern Europe expresses our care and support for the people in Central and Eastern Europe, especially in times of crisis and disruption. We are called to continue to offer hope to our fellow Catholics in Central and Eastern Europe by providing both material and spiritual assistance as they face enormous challenges. Please pray with your parishes for the Church in Central and Eastern Europe, asking God to strengthen those who serve and to relieve those who suffer. Please encourage your parishioners to be generous to the collection because their support helps foster nurturing communities in which Catholics can share and grow in faith. For more information about the collection and whom it supports, visit www.usccb.org/ccee. Thank you for your help to restore the Church and build the future in Central and Eastern Europe.

Thank you for your support of this Collection. Please forward the proceeds from the Collection directly to the Mission Office; the check should be payable to the Diocese of Greensburg and mailed no later than February 22, 2023. Our participation in this Collection is another example of the good that today's Catholic Church effects.

Yours in Christ,

The Most Reverend Larry J. Kulick, JCL
Bishop of Greensburg