



Collection for the Church in Central and Eastern Europe

OFFICE OF NATIONAL COLLECTIONS

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“Believe in the power of the Spirit of Love!”

—Pope Benedict XVI, 2008 World Youth Day Address

Your Eminence/Excellency,

In May 2008, construction work on a missionary house in Mukachevo, Ukraine, was finally completed. Prior to these improvements, living conditions for the sisters of the mission were grim, and few made use of the retreat center because of the unhealthy accommodations. Now, the sisters have healthier living conditions, and the mission is being used to its full potential for meetings, catechesis, and evangelization of children, teenagers, adults, and seniors.

In the territory of the Eparchy of Stryi, also in Ukraine, nine orphanages house 596 children, most of whom are underdeveloped and disabled. The state has been unable to provide adequate medicine and care for this orphanage, so they rely on outside support for medical supplies, diapers, equipment, and repairs.

The Collection for the Church in Central and Eastern Europe funds vital pastoral and social projects like these in 28 countries throughout Central and Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union. Gifts from parishioners to the Collection continue to help revitalize and strengthen the Church, but there is a long way to go.

We need your help to ensure a successful Collection this year. Please set and communicate a goal for your diocese, personalize and send the letter we have prepared for you, and encourage your pastors to use the bulletin/pulpit announcements, parish appeal, and bulletin insert provided. Additional resources and stories are available on the Web: www.usccb.org/nationalcollections. Finally, please ask your pastors to actively participate in the promotion of the Collection. **The most important thing they can do to affect the outcome of the Collection is to mention it during Mass.** Please contact the Office of National Collections Promotions staff at 202-541-3346 or ncpromo@usccb.org with questions.

Thank you for your help in the promotion of this year's Collection for the Church in Central and Eastern Europe. In solidarity, we can help this unique and faithful part of the Church to flourish.

Sincerely in Christ,

Cardinal Justin Rigali, Archbishop of Philadelphia
Chairman, Subcommittee on the Church in Central and Eastern Europe
United States Conference of Catholic Bishops