



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

Dear Diocesan Director/Collection Coordinator,

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, unhealthy, and inhospitable. 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, where most of the children are underdeveloped and disabled. The state has been unable to provide adequate medicine and care for this orphanage, so it relies 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. These gifts 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. Please encourage your pastor to use the bulletin/pulpit announcements, parish appeal, and bulletin insert we have provided for you. Additional resources and stories are available on the Web: www.usccb.org/nationalcollections. Please contact Office of National Collections Promotions staff at 202-541-3346 or ncpromo@usccb.org if you have questions.

Thank you for your help in promoting this Collection for a Church that truly believes in the power of the Spirit of Love. Together in solidarity, we can help the unique and faithful Church in Central and Eastern Europe to flourish.

Rev. James M. McCann, SJ

Director, Collection for the Church in Central and Eastern Europe
United States Conference of Catholic Bishops

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