THE CHURCH IN CENTRAL AND EASTERN EUROPE

"Your people shall rebuild the ancient ruins; the foundations from ages past you shall raise up; 'Repairer of the breach,' they shall call you, 'Restorer of ruined dwellings.'"

—Isaiah 58:12

"Reedificarán, de ti, tus ruinas antiguas, levantarás los cimientos de pasadas generaciones, se te llamará Reparador de brechas, y Restaurador de senderos frecuentados”.

—Isaías 58:12

Dear Pastor/Parish Administrator,

In Eastern Europe, in the Caucasus region, the small country of Georgia is home to three catholic rites: Latin rite, Armenian rite and Chaldean rite. Seventy years of religious oppression under communist rule left its mark on each of these communities. Since Georgian independence in 1991, the Churches in Georgia entered a new era of freedom. No longer ruled by a repressive regime, the people of Georgia are rebuilding the Church and society after decades of persecution. The communities have made strides to recover from this period, but being located in rural areas and poverty have made the work more difficult.

The most dire situation has been in the village of Tambovka, about 30 miles from the regional center, on the shores of a high mountain lake called Lake Paravani. About 200 people live in this small village populated by ethnic Armenians, which locals call the ‘Georgian Siberia’. Previously a place of exile, today it continues to be cut off due to harsh winters which bring heavy snowfalls that close the only road into town for months. This community has been without a priest for decades.

But with your support for the Collection for the Church in Central and Eastern Europe, you are helping Fr. Mykhail to renew the faith in Tambovka. In a restored abandoned house you have helped to create a youth center for the children of this village. In this center the children have the opportunity to learn the faith and grow as a community. It is also a place where they receive help with homework and improve their language skills. They participate in music, dance, and art classes, and they take field trips outside the village. You have given the children a place that is theirs.

Please support the collection, because these children need the gift of faith and a place to belong. The **most effective thing you can do to promote the collection is to mention it at Mass.** Use the parish appeal and bulletin announcement found inside this mailer, and find additional resources online at [www.usccb.org/ccel/collection](http://www.usccb.org/ccel/collection). If you have questions, please contact Nicole Germain, assistant director for promotions, at 202-541-3346 or at ncpromo@usccb.org.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Bishop Jeffrey Monforton
Bishop of Steubenville
Chairman, Subcommittee on Aid to the Church in Central and Eastern Europe
Parish Appeal

ENGLISH

This week our special collection supports the Church in Central and Eastern Europe. The fall of communism occurred over 25 years ago, but the Church in former communist countries continues to struggle to rebuild after years of oppressive rule. Many churches in this region were confiscated or destroyed, leaving the faithful without a place to worship or to find pastoral support. Your support of this collection helps rebuild churches, supports seminary programs, promotes ministries and education for children and families, and renews community life around the region. Please be generous, and prayerfully consider how you can support this collection today.

SPANISH

Nuestra colecta especial esta semana apoya a la Iglesia en Europa Central y Oriental. La caída del comunismo ocurrió hace más de 25 años atrás pero la Iglesia en aquellos países que fueron comunistas continúa luchando para reconstruir luego de estar muchos años bajo un régimen opresivo. Muchas iglesias en esta región fueron confiscadas o destruidas, dejando a los fieles sin un lugar en donde rendir culto o encontrar un apoyo pastoral. Su contribución a esta colecta ayuda a reconstruir las iglesias, financiar programas en los seminarios, promover ministerios y educación para niños y familias y renovar la vida de la comunidad alrededor de esa región. Por favor, contribuyan generosamente y, en oración, consideren la manera de apoyar a la colecta de hoy.

Simple Steps
to promote the Collection for the Church in Central and Eastern Europe:

1. USE the bulletin announcements and parish appeal to educate your parishioners about the collection and the people it supports. Additional resources, including a social media tool kit and print ads, can be found at www.usccb.org/ccee/collection.

2. PREACH about the troubles facing the people in the region. Explain how the Collection for the Church in Central and Eastern Europe combats these troubles—for example, by sharing the story from Georgia in the cover letter.

3. PRAY as a community for the Church in Central and Eastern Europe, that God will give strength to those who serve and relief to those who suffer. A digital prayer card is available online for you to download and share with parishioners at www.usccb.org/ccee/collection.

4. SHARE collection information on your social media channels and website using the Web banners and social media tool kit online at www.usccb.org/ccee/collection.
Week Before the Collection

Next week we will take up the Collection for the Church in Central and Eastern Europe. This collection supports the Church in more than 20 countries that are still struggling to recover in the aftermath of communist rule. Funds from this collection support pastoral care, catechesis, building renovations, and seminary formation. Your support restores the Church and builds the future in this region. Please prayerfully consider how you can support the collection next week. More information can be found at www.usccb.org/ccee.

Week of the Collection

This week our special collection supports the Church in Central and Eastern Europe. Your donation today helps restore the Church and builds the future in more than 20 countries still struggling to recover in the aftermath of communist rule. Funds from this collection help support reconstruction, education, formation, and outreach to alleviate poverty. Please be generous to the collection today. For more information, please visit www.usccb.org/ccee.

Week After the Collection

Thank you for your generous contributions last week to the Collection for the Church in Central and Eastern Europe! As a parish we collected $[amount] to help restore the Church and build the future in more than 20 countries. If you missed the collection, it’s not too late to give. Visit www.usccb.org/nationalcollections, and click on the “How to Give” link on the left.

SPANISH

Semana antes de la colecta

La próxima semana realizaremos la Colecta para la Iglesia en Europa Central y Oriental. Esta colecta apoya a la Iglesia en más de 20 países que aún están luchando por recuperarse de las secuelas del régimen comunista. Los fondos de esta colecta financian el cuidado pastoral, la catequesis, la renovación de edificios y la formación de seminaristas. El apoyo de ustedes restaura la Iglesia y construye el futuro en esta región. Por favor, en oración, consideren la manera de apoyar a la colecta la próxima semana. Pueden encontrar más información, entrando a www.usccb.org/ccee.

Semana de la colecta

Nuestra colecta especial esta semana apoya a la Iglesia en Europa Central y Oriental. Sus donativos de hoy ayudan a restaurar la Iglesia y a construir el futuro en más de 20 países que aún están luchando por recuperarse de las secuelas del régimen comunista. Los fondos de esta colecta ayudan a financiar la reconstrucción, la educación, la capacitación y las labores comunitarias para aliviar la pobreza. Por favor, sean generosos en la colecta de hoy. Para más información, por favor, visiten www.usccb.org/ccee.

Semana después de la colecta

Support the Collection for the Church in Central and Eastern Europe

To learn more about this collection or to find additional resources, please visit www.usccb.org/ccce.

2017 DISTRIBUTION OF GRANTS

Total Number of Grants Approved: 317
Total Amount Approved: $9,182,320.00

PROGRAM AREA
- Construction and Equipment
- Poverty Outreach and Miscellaneous Programs
- Education, Formation, and Evangelization
- Scholarships
- Operational Support
- Vehicle Purchase
- Communications Programs

ÁREA DE PROGRAMA
- Construcción y equipo
- Programas de extensión dirigido a los pobres y otros programas
- Educación, formación, y evangelización
- Becas
- Apoyo operativo
- Adquisición de vehículo
- Programas para las comunicaciones

DISTRIBUTIÓN DE DONACIONES 2016

Número total de donaciones aprobadas: 317
Monto total aprobado: $9,182,320.00

Collection for the Church in Central and Eastern Europe

OFFICE OF NATIONAL COLLECTIONS
3211 Fourth Street NE • Washington, DC 20017-1194
202-541-3400 • FAX 202-541-3460 • www.usccb.org/nationalcollections