Deer Father,

Belarus is situated between Russia, Ukraine, Poland, and the Baltic states of Lithuania and Latvia. One of the first republics to be incorporated into the Soviet Union, Belarus suffered under communism for over 70 years. Although Belarus declared independence in 1991, the work to restore the Church continues even now, decades after the fall of the Iron Curtain.

In Baranovichi, Belarus, the parish of Divine Mercy and Our Lady of the Gate of Dawn was created in November 2013 by Bishop Antoni Dziemianko of the Pinsk diocese to meet the growing need of the faithful in the region. This residential region of the city, built in the Soviet era, has no churches. However, as the town of Baranovichi grows, the Catholic community grows—and with it grow spiritual and social needs that include, first and foremost, a parish church building in which to worship and a place to meet as a community for religious education and other pastoral programs. Now that the Diocese has secured land, the parish needs help to construct a church and pastoral center, which includes facilities for children’s catechesis, youth meetings, pastoral care for families, and social gatherings for all members of the community.

Through local efforts, plus supplementary funding from the Collection for the Church in Central and Eastern Europe, this dream of building a parish home for hundreds of Catholics in Baranovichi, Belarus, is becoming a reality.

Thank you for your generosity to this critical collection. The faithful of Belarus need parish churches to address their pastoral needs. Please promote this collection by mentioning it at each one of your Masses. Use the parish appeal and bulletin announcement found inside this mailer, and find additional resources at www.usccb.org/ccee/collection. If you have questions, please contact Nicole Germain, assistant director for promotions, at 202-541-3365 or at ncpromo@usccb.org.

In gratitude for your continued support in building the future in Central and Eastern Europe, I remain, Sincerely yours in Christ,

Most Rev. Jeffrey M. Monforton
Bishop of Steubenville
Chairman, Subcommittee on Aid to 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
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 still struggles 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 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

Esta semana, nuestra colecta especial apoya a la Iglesia en Europa Central y Oriental. La caída del comunismo ocurrió hace más de 25 años atrás pero la Iglesia aún sigue luchando para reconstruir luego de haber pasado años bajo un régimen opresivo. Muchas iglesias en esta región fueron confiscadas o destruidas, dejando a los fieles sin un lugar donde rendir culto o encontrar una ayuda pastoral. El apoyo que ustedes le den a esta colecta ayuda a reconstruir iglesias, financia programas para seminaristas, fomenta ministerios y educación para niños y familias y renueva la vida de la comunidad en la región. Por favor, sean generosos y, en oración, consideren cómo pueden apoyar a esta colecta 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/cee/collection.

2 PREACH about the troubles facing people in the region, and celebrate how the Church in Central and Eastern Europe is combating these troubles—for example, share the story from Belarus included in the cover letter to this resource guide.

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 for you to download and share with parishioners at www.usccb.org/cee/collection.

4 SHARE collection information on your social media channels and website using the web banners and social media tool kit at www.usccb.org/cee/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 still struggle to recover from 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/cee.

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 build the future in more than 20 countries still struggling to recover from Communist rule. Funds from this collection support reconstruction, education, formation, and poverty outreach. Please be generous to the collection today. For more information, please visit www.usccb.org/cee.

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.

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 siguen luchando para recuperarse del régimen comunista. Los fondos de esta colecta financian el cuidado pastoral, la catequesis, la renovación de sus edificaciones y la formación de seminaristas. Su apoyo restaura la Iglesia y construye el futuro en esa región. Por favor, en oración, consideren cómo pueden dar su apoyo a la Colecta la próxima semana. Para más información, entren a: www.usccb.org/cee.

Semana de la colecta

Esta semana nuestra colecta especial apoya a la Iglesia en Europa Central y Oriental. Sus contribuciones de hoy ayudan a restaurar la Iglesia y a construir el futuro en más de 20 países que siguen luchando para recuperarse del régimen comunista. Los fondos de esta colecta ayudan financiando la reconstrucción, la educación, la formación y los programas de extensión dirigido a los pobres. Por favor, sean generosos en la colecta de hoy. Para más información, por favor, visiten www.usccb.org/cee.

Semana después de la colecta

¡Muchas gracias por sus generosas contribuciones la semana pasada en la Colecta para la Iglesia en Europa Central y Oriental! Como parroquia, recaudamos $[cantidad] para ayudar a restaurar la Iglesia y construir el futuro en más de 20 países. Si no alcanzaron a dar en la colecta, aun lo pueden hacer. Visiten www.usccb.org/nationalcollections.
To learn more about this collection or to find additional resources, please visit [www.usccb.org/ccce](http://www.usccb.org/ccce).

**2018 DISTRIBUTION OF GRANTS**

Total Number of Grants Approved: 339  
Total Amount Approved: $8,147,983

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

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