Dear Father,

Each year, the Collection for the Church in Central and Eastern Europe assists Catholics who live in countries once dominated by the Soviet regime in order to rebuild their communities. The collection allows many Catholics in the United States to show their gratitude for the faith handed down to them from heroic ancestors who persevered under communist persecution.

The aging population represents a major problem in Romania, where it is estimated that nearly 63 percent of the elderly live below the poverty level due to the collapse of the communist-era pension system. In the Diocese of Oradea, Romania, Frentiu House is a new 48-bed facility designed to care for the poverty-stricken elderly. Most elderly men and women cannot afford to pay both their rent and their living expenses. The city of Oradea, with a population of over 200,000, currently has assisted-living facilities for only 60 elderly people.

Our faith calls us to serve vulnerable communities and to care for every human life. In answer to our calling and to the increasing elderly population, Frentiu House presents a unique model of sustainable business. In this model, the apartments owned by the elderly will be rented out while they reside at Frentiu House. The revenue from their personal apartments will be sufficient to fund their stay at the center. Upon the death of the residents, their apartments will revert to the estate of their heirs. In addition to a permanent resident administrator, the facility will offer three workshop rooms for activities, two social rooms, a dining room, a kitchen, and a chapel.

In order to fund projects like Frentiu House, the collection needs your help. The most important thing you can do to help us promote the collection is to speak about it during Mass. You will soon receive any promotional materials your (arch)diocese ordered for you. If you have any questions, please contact Bevin Kennedy at 202-541-3346 or ncpromo@uscob.org. Thank you for your support and for helping to restore the Church and build the future.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Most Rev. Blase J. Cupich
Chairman, Subcommittee on Aid to the Church in Central and Eastern Europe
Parish Appeal

ENGLISH

For many in the Church in Central and Eastern Europe, as well as parts of Asia, the aftermath of 70 years of Soviet rule is still felt in the form of poverty, infrequent pastoral care, and lack of buildings in which the faithful can worship. Your support is needed to strengthen the Church in this region through grants that promote ministries for children and families, create affordable housing, and provide a cultural and spiritual education. Please be generous in your parish collection. Your gift will continue to restore the Church and build the future in Central and Eastern Europe.

SPANISH

Para muchas personas en la Iglesia en Europa Central y Oriental, así como en partes de Asia, las secuelas de los 70 años de régimen soviético aún se dejan sentir en forma de pobreza, de un cuidado pastoral poco frecuente y por la falta de lugares en los cuales los fieles puedan rendir culto. Necesitamos su apoyo para fortalecer la Iglesia en esta región a través de donaciones que sirvan para promover los ministerios para niños y familias, creando viviendas asequibles y ofreciendo formación espiritual y cultural. Por favor, contribuya generosamente en la colecta de su parroquia. Su donativo continuará restaurando a la Iglesia y construyendo el futuro en Europa Central y Oriental.

Simple Steps

Here are five simple steps for promoting the Collection for the Church in Central and Eastern Europe:

1 USE the bulletin announcements, parish appeal, collection envelopes, and posters that have been provided to educate your parishioners about the collection and the people it supports.

2 INSERT the flier for the Church in Central and Eastern Europe into your bulletins.

3 PREACH about the troubles facing the people in the region and the work being done by the Church in Central and Eastern Europe to overcome them.

4 ANNOUNCE the collection during Mass. This is the easiest and most effective way to help make the collection successful.

5 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.
**ENGLISH**

**Week Before the Collection**

Next week we will take up the Collection for the Church in Central and Eastern Europe. This collection supports Catholic organizations that provide affordable shelter and train seminarians in a region that still struggles from the effects of Soviet rule. By providing pastoral care, catechesis, and funding for building renovations, your donations help to **restore the Church and build the future** in the region. Please give generously to the collection next week. Visit [www.usccb.org](http://www.usccb.org) (search “Church in Central and Eastern Europe”) to learn more.

**Week of the Collection**

The Collection for the Church in Central and Eastern Europe eases the way for the people of the region by helping Catholic organizations offer affordable shelter, train seminarians, and provide pastoral care and catechesis. Your donation today helps to **restore the Church and build the future** in the aftermath of Soviet rule. Please be generous to the Collection for the Church in Central and Eastern Europe. Visit [www.usccb.org](http://www.usccb.org) (search “Church in Central and Eastern Europe”) to learn more about the important projects funded by the collection.

**Week After the Collection**

Thank you for your generous contributions to the Collection for the Church in Central and Eastern Europe. Your gift is an expression of solidarity with the suffering people of this region. Through joining in the work of this collection, you are helping to **restore the Church and build the future**. Please visit [www.usccb.org](http://www.usccb.org) (search “Church in Central and Eastern Europe”) to learn more about what your donations have accomplished.

**SPANISH**

**Semana antes de la colecta**

La próxima semana realizaremos la Colecta para la Iglesia en Europa Central y Oriental. Esta colecta le da apoyo financiero a organizaciones católicas que proveen viviendas asequibles y que capacitan a seminaristas en una región que aún lucha contra los efectos del régimen soviético. Al proporcionar cuidado pastoral, catequesis y financiamiento para la renovación de edificios, sus donativos ayudan a **restaurar la Iglesia y construir el futuro** en esa región. Por favor contribuyan generosamente a la colecta de la próxima semana. Para informarse más, visiten [www.uscb.org](http://www.uscb.org) (busquen “Church in Central and Eastern Europe”).

**Semana de la colecta**

La Colecta para la Iglesia en Europa Central y Oriental les facilita el camino a los pueblos de esa región ayudando a las organizaciones católicas que ofrecen viviendas asequibles, la formación de seminaristas y proporcionan cuidado pastoral y catequesis. Sus donaciones de hoy ayudan a **restaurar la Iglesia y construir el futuro** luego de los efectos dejados por el régimen soviético. Por favor, sean generosos en la Colecta para la Iglesia en Europa Central y Oriental. Visiten [www.uscb.org](http://www.uscb.org) (busquen “Church in Central and Eastern Europe”) para informarse más acerca de los importantes proyectos financiados por la Colecta.

**Semana después de la colecta**

Muchas gracias por sus generosas contribuciones a la Colecta para la Iglesia en Europa Central y Oriental. Sus donaciones son una expresión de solidaridad con el sufrido pueblo de esta región. Al unirse a la labor que realiza esta colecta, ustedes están ayudando a **restaurar la Iglesia y construir el futuro**. Por favor, visiten [www.uscb.org](http://www.uscb.org) (busquen “Church in Central and Eastern Europe”) para informarse más sobre lo que se ha logrado con sus donaciones.
In 2013, the Subcommittee on the Church in Central and Eastern Europe approved 256 grants for a total of $6,543,522.

These grants represent scholarship and pastoral grants funded by your donations. In 2013, 61 scholarship grants were awarded, totaling $561,930. Over $5 million of the collection was allocated to support construction, pastoral assistance, social justice, and peace projects. All grants serve one purpose—to rebuild pastoral capacity and create future leaders of the Catholic Church in Central and Eastern Europe.