

ANNUAL REPORT 2024

COLLECTION FOR THE CHURCH IN CENTRAL AND EASTERN EUROPE

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FROM THE CHAIRMAN



Dear Sisters and Brothers
in Christ,

Over my years as chairman of the US bishops' Subcommittee on Aid to the Church in Central and Eastern Europe, I have been humbled to see the Catholic Church in places of great need to launch ministries to serve their neighbors in the name of Jesus.

The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) started the Collection for the Church in Central and Eastern Europe in 1991 to rebuild dioceses, churches, religious communities, and Catholic institutions that had been crushed under several decades of militantly atheist communism. Our work of basic recovery continues. But thanks to you, a new generation of Catholics has become the hands and face of Christ to others in the region who are lost or marginalized.

Of the four examples of ministry described in this report, three funded programs helped Catholic organizations to promote human life and dignity.

In Ukraine, the Eparchy of Buchach has transformed a former public hospital into a rehabilitation center for men, women, and children wounded in war. Catholics in Kazakhstan account for less than 1% of the population yet support children with Down syndrome. And in Slovakia, the Catholic humanitarian agency Caritas runs an outreach program for Roma children and youth, who typically live in great material and social deprivation.

The apostolic efforts of the local church are awe-inspiring in these places, where believers who face many obstacles of their own choose to serve others—and do so in such innovative ways. They can do it only with your help.

This work of rebuilding and strengthening the Church extends beyond helping it meet humanitarian and material needs. It includes addressing the spiritual and pastoral challenges of our age through the cultural and

○ educational engagement envisioned by the Second Vatican Council. Consequently, a leading monastery in Hungary—the fourth example described herein—is offering a series of symposiums and workshops on ecumenism, liturgical renewal, and spirituality in the arts.

Parishioners in the United States have consistently been generous to the Collection for the Church in Central and Eastern Europe, especially those whose own families immigrated from these lands. As you see what your gifts have accomplished already, I pray that God blesses you for your generosity. Much of the original work of restoration remains, while war and related upheaval is creating both greater need and greater opportunity for ministry. I invite you to read on to learn how your gifts are changing lives and bringing the love of Christ to nations that once tried to silence him. I remain,

Sincerely yours in Christ,



Most Reverend Jeffrey M. Monforton
Auxiliary Bishop of Detroit
Chairman, USCCB Subcommittee on Aid to the
Church in Central and Eastern Europe

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Ms. Mariya Lupiy,
Grants Administrator



GIFTS FROM SUPPORTERS OF THE COLLECTION FOR THE CHURCH IN CENTRAL AND EASTERN EUROPE FINANCED 547 PROJECTS

in 2024, delivering more than \$9.5 million in aid. The collection continues to help Catholic ministries in 28 countries to recover from communist rule, which systematically destroyed churches, religious communities, and the lives and leadership of priests and bishops. The collection is also helping the victims of the Russian Federation's war against Ukraine. Your gifts have been used to provide a wide range of assistance, including evangelization, social ministry, emergency aid, education, reconstruction of churches, and seminary expenses for the next generation of priests.

In Ukraine, the city council of Chortkiv gave the Eparchy (Diocese) of Buchach an antiquated hospital to convert into a multifaceted rehabilitation center for war victims. A grant of \$50,000 from your gifts allowed the eparchy to replace the heating system of this building so that it could move its existing House of Mercy social center into the building and expand it into a new rehabilitation center offering support and recovery for wounded and suffering victims of war. The center will employ specialists to serve people of all ages, from children to families who lost loved ones to elderly adults.

In Kazakhstan, where the government provides no early intervention for children with

intellectual disabilities, the Archdiocese of Most Holy Mary in Astana runs an intensive program for preschool children with Down syndrome. Enrollment in this special daycare is currently limited to six children—up from just four two years ago—allowing highly personalized academic, social, and practical enrichment. A grant of \$20,000 from the Collection for the Church in Central and Eastern Europe permitted this little school to add a third teacher last year, in addition to subsidizing the cost of food, teaching materials, and rent.

In Hungary, the Archabbey of Pannonhalma is not only a site of historical and cultural significance but also a center for prayer, learning, and encounter. The monastery



received \$20,000 from your gifts, enabling it to organize and host courses and workshops for clergy and lay people seeking a deeper understanding of ecumenism, liturgy, and sacred art. In February 2025, the monastery held two weeklong art courses, allowing Catholic leaders to explore how the arts can stimulate spiritual growth. In August 2025, a four-day workshop on liturgy encouraged clergy and lay leaders to address liturgical issues in the Hungarian Church, with the goal of offering liturgies that inspire renewal. An international symposium on ecumenism in September 2025 gathered 150 Christians from the Catholic, Orthodox, and Protestant traditions to appreciate what they have in common and examine ways to work together while respecting genuine differences.

In Slovakia, the Catholic aid organization Caritas Slovakia has partnered with government agencies and private foundations to educate and assist children and teens from the Roma minority. The USCCB encourages such partnerships whenever possible to magnify the impact of outreach projects.

More than 90% of Roma youth are culturally isolated, live in poverty, and are subject to great prejudice and discrimination. Academically, they typically lag significantly behind their non-Roma peers. The Slovak bishops' conference launched this outreach in 2020 as a pilot project to discover the impact of academic support, pastoral care, guidance, and other assistance delivered through churches and Catholic ministries in 29 Roma communities. This initial work was so successful that Caritas is strengthening the mission by engaging and training Roma pastoral workers in 15 Roma communities in eastern Slovakia. To support a total project budget of more than \$727,000, the Collection for the Church in Central and Eastern Europe contributed \$20,000 toward the salary paid to the area coordinator and toward costs related to pastoral and educational activities in the 15 new outreach centers.

These vital ministries are promoting spiritual renewal, supporting human life and dignity, and bringing the love of Jesus Christ to people in spiritual and material need. Your gifts make all of it possible.

COLLECTION FOR THE CHURCH IN CENTRAL AND EASTERN EUROPE

Statement of Revenues, Expenses, and Other Changes in Net Assets for the Year Ending December 31, 2024.

REVENUES

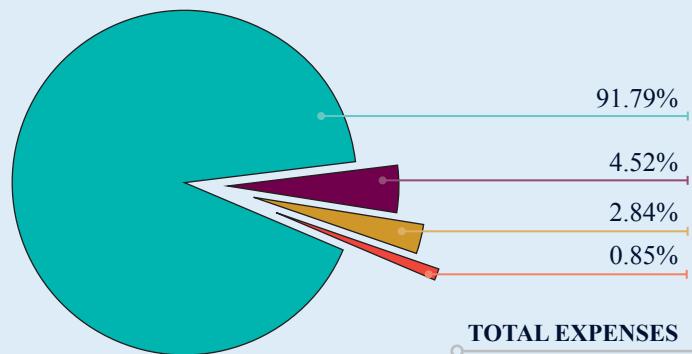
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|-------------------------------------|--------------------|
| National Collections Contributions* | \$7,492,925 |
| Income on Investments | \$1,376,75 |
| Total Revenues | \$8,869,675 |

*Includes diocesan Church in Central and Eastern Europe collection remittances and direct individual and institutional contributions.

EXPENSES

| | | |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------|-------------|
| Grants and Donations* | \$9,591,486 | 91.79% |
| Program Costs | \$472,039 | 4.52% |
| Promotions and Fundraising Expenses | \$296,454 | 2.84% |
| Administrative Expenses | \$89,067 | 0.85% |
| Total Expenses | \$10,449,046 | 100% |
| Total Grants and Donations | \$9,591,486 | |

*Grants approved in 2024 totaled \$9,588,486. Grants and donations in 2024 totaled \$9,591,486, including payments and amendments to grants approved in 2024 and prior years.



| | |
|--|---------------------|
| Changes in Net Assets from Operations | (\$1,579,371) |
| Non-Operating Activities: | |
| Unrealized Gain on Investments | \$976,931 |
| Changes in Net Assets | (\$602,440) |
| Net Assets at the Beginning of the Year | \$23,956,947 |
| Net Assets at the End of the Year | \$23,354,507 |

2024 DISTRIBUTION OF GRANTS

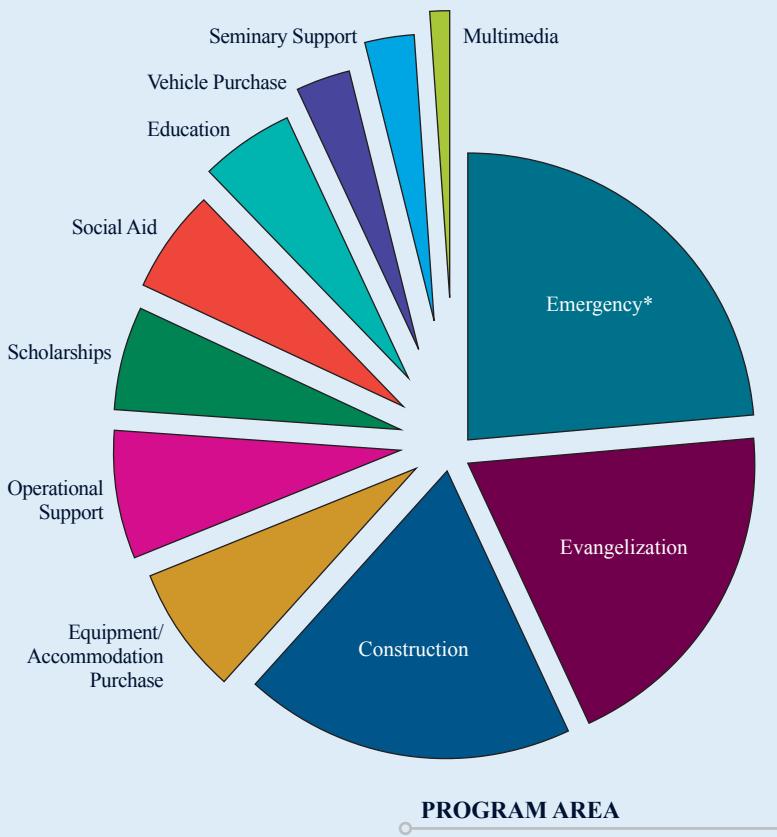
Total Number of Grants Approved: 547

Total Amount Approved: \$9,588,486

PROGRAM AREA

| PROGRAM AREA | NUMBER OF GRANTS | GRANT AMOUNT | PERCENTAGE |
|----------------------------------|------------------|--------------------|-------------|
| Emergency* | 8 | \$2,283,000 | 23.81% |
| Evangelization | 121 | \$1,862,944 | 19.43% |
| Construction | 145 | \$1,772,954 | 18.49% |
| Equipment/Accommodation Purchase | 33 | \$704,306 | 7.35% |
| Operational Support | 50 | \$692,726 | 7.22% |
| Scholarships | 79 | \$562,314 | 5.86% |
| Social Aid | 44 | \$561,935 | 5.86% |
| Education | 24 | \$497,085 | 5.18% |
| Vehicle Purchase | 15 | \$280,758 | 2.93% |
| Seminary Support | 14 | \$263,687 | 2.75% |
| Multimedia | 14 | \$106,777 | 1.11% |
| TOTAL | 547 | \$9,588,486 | 100% |

*Including grants for urgent humanitarian and pastoral responses to the crisis in Ukraine.





To support the good work of the Church in Central and Eastern Europe with an online donation, please use this QR code or visit [#iGiveCatholic](https://igivecatholic.org/story/USCCB-CCEE) at igivecatholic.org/story/USCCB-CCEE.

Thank you for your support!



For more information about the USCCB's work with the **Collection for Central and Eastern Europe** and around the world, please visit usccb.org/ccee.

Or write to
Office of National Collections
3211 Fourth Street NE | Washington, DC 20017

