



RESTORE THE CHURCH BUILD THE FUTURE



Dear Communications Director/Editor,

The Catholic Church faces a unique set of challenges in the Republic of Serbia, where the Catholic population constitutes a minority of about 325,000 people in a country with a total population of about 6.5 million. With an at-risk-of-poverty rate of over 25%, approximately 500,000 Serbs are unable to meet their own basic needs. Given the republic's central location on migration routes to Western European countries such as France and Germany, thousands of migrants who make their way through the area are also marginalized and vulnerable.

Radio Maria is the only Catholic radio station in Serbia, broadcasting 24 hours a day across the country from five transmitters. Through this powerful platform, Radio Maria raises awareness among Catholics, especially youth, of the needs of such vulnerable groups as migrants, the poor, and pregnant women in crisis who need material and pastoral support. By implementing a program of gathering information and connecting vulnerable groups with Catholic communities and relief organizations through special broadcasts, Radio Maria is helping Catholic Serbs make concrete differences in the lives of the poor and marginalized. It connects people and communities across Serbia and strengthens the formation of the faithful and their witness to others outside of the Church. Without your support of the Collection for the Church in Central and Eastern Europe, faith-building and outreach programs like Radio Maria's would not be possible. Thank you for your continued support.

We rely on your help to promote this collection. Use your publications, website, and social media channels (using the #BuildTheFuture and #1Church1Mission hashtags), as well as any other outlets available to you, to get the word out about the collection. Tell the story of Radio Maria Serbia's efforts in service of migrants and other vulnerable people, or use the additional resources available online, including the social media tool kit. These resources can be found at www.usccb.org/ccee. If you have any questions, please contact me at 202-541-3365 or ngerman@usccb.org.

Gratefully in Christ,

Nicole Germain
Assistant Director, Promotions



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

Photos: © Damian Wojciechowski, SJ.



ALBANIA • ARMENIA • AZERBAIJAN • BELARUS • BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA • BULGARIA • CROATIA • CZECH REPUBLIC • ESTONIA
GEORGIA • HUNGARY • KAZAKHSTAN • KYRGYZSTAN • LATVIA • LITHUANIA • MACEDONIA • MOLDOVA • MONTENEGRO • POLAND
ROMANIA • RUSSIA • SERBIA • SLOVAKIA • SLOVENIA • TAJIKISTAN • TURKMENISTAN • UKRAINE • UZBEKISTAN