



# RESTORE THE CHURCH BUILD THE FUTURE



Dear Communications Director/Editor,

The Roma people of Central and Eastern Europe have long experienced exclusion and poverty in the countries where they live. Large communities of Roma live in eastern Slovakia, where some villages are nearly 40% Roma. They still face exclusion and often live in poverty with scarce job opportunities for adults and educational opportunities for children; in some places, they lack even basic amenities such as running water and electricity.

Through outreach to Roma communities, the Greek Catholic Archeparchy of Prešov in eastern Slovakia has served as a bridge between the Roma and Slovak peoples. Many of the Roma are also Catholic. Through a series of documentary films, the archeparchy has worked to show the positive contributions that Roma have made to the Church, as well as testimonies of both Roma and non-Roma people who minister to the community, as a way to dispel myths and prejudices that contribute to exclusion.

With support from the Collection for the Church in Central and Eastern Europe, the archeparchy evangelizes and ministers to this frequently misunderstood ethnic group while also helping their Slovak neighbors know and understand them better. When your (arch) diocese participates in the collection, it helps the Church fulfill its mission to go out to the margins and show God's mercy to all.

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 the Archeparchy of Prešov's ministry of outreach to the Roma people, or use the additional resources available online, including the social media tool kit. These resources can be found at [www.usccb.org/cee](http://www.usccb.org/cee). It may be helpful to know that [#iGiveCatholicTogether](https://www.usccb.org/give-catholic-together) also accepts funds for this program if parishioners in your diocese are looking for a way to support this collection through online donations.

If you have any questions, please contact me at 202-541-3365 or [ngermain@usccb.org](mailto:ngermain@usccb.org).

Gratefully in Christ,

Nicole Germain  
Assistant Director, Promotions



## Collection for the Church in Central and Eastern Europe

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