



RESTORE THE CHURCH BUILD THE FUTURE



Dear Diocesan Director,

The ongoing war in Ukraine has caused not only hundreds of thousands of casualties within Ukraine, but also the displacement of millions of refugees who have fled the violence by escaping to neighboring countries throughout Central and Eastern Europe. More than 2 million of those refugees have fled to Ukraine's western neighbor, Poland, with thousands settling in the Polish city of Lublin, about 60 miles west of the Polish-Ukrainian border.

While Lublin has a strong Roman Catholic identity, it has only one parish of the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church, the largest of the Eastern Catholic Churches that are in full communion with Pope Francis and the Holy See. This church, the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary Greek Catholic parish, has therefore become a special center for ministry to Ukrainian refugees facing the challenges of poverty, the grief of loss, and the need for help to adapt to life in a foreign land. With support received through the Collection for the Church in Central and Eastern Europe, the parish's I Was a Stranger and You Welcomed Me program brought together 45 Ukrainian refugee children, ages 13 to 18, for five separate two-day sessions that integrated prayer, community building, and personal development through games, music, sports, and counseling to meet their emotional needs.

Your diocesan participation in the Collection for the Church in Central and Eastern Europe helped this parish respond with mercy and compassion to the enormous needs of refugee children. With your continued support for the collection, Catholics in your diocese will make a truly lasting positive impact here and in other countries of the region for years to come.

Collection materials are free and available to download at www.usccb.org/ccee. There you will find a sample letter from the bishop, web banners, and a social media tool kit, among other resources. Please follow the USCCB's social media pages for posts about the collection and other news using the hashtags #BuildTheFuture and #1Church1Mission, and repost these items on your diocesan channels.

Thank you for your continued support of this collection. If you have any questions, please contact me at 202-541-3365 or mhren@usccb.org.

Gratefully in Christ,

Margaret Hren
Assistant Director, Promotions



Collection for the Church in Central and Eastern Europe

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