



United States
Conference of
Catholic Bishops

Collection for the Church in Central and Eastern Europe
Office of National Collections
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202-541-3400 • fax 202-541-3460 • www.usccb.org/nationalcollections



THE CHURCH IN CENTRAL AND EASTERN EUROPE

Your people shall rebuild the ancient ruins;
the foundations from ages past you shall raise up;
“Repairer of the breach,” they shall call you,
“Restorer of ruined dwellings.”
—Isaiah 58:12



Dear Pastor/Administrator,

Communist regimes in the countries of Central and Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union greatly restricted the ministries and public life of the Church for decades during the 20th century. When the communist systems collapsed in the late 1980s and early 1990s, the Church was once again free to worship in public, reestablish convents, and engage in ministries to accompany families as they raise and educate their children.

Down syndrome causes certain delays in physical and intellectual development in the children born with this genetic condition. Preschool education that forms the child’s basic skills and provides parents with support and skills to help their child is crucial for the development of a child with Down syndrome.

In Kokshetau, in the former Soviet republic of Kazakhstan, sisters from the Community of the Beatitudes expanded their mission of evangelization in 2023 by opening a special day center for preschool children with Down syndrome. Here, children and their parents receive special instruction and support that the state educational system does not offer, including special training for teachers and consultation with a specialist. With funding received through the Collection for the Church in Central and Eastern Europe, the center expanded both its teaching staff and its admission rates by 50% in October 2024.

The most effective way for you to promote the collection is to mention it at Mass. Please use the parish appeal and bulletin announcement found inside this mailer, as well as additional resources available at www.usccb.org/ccee. If you have questions, please contact Margaret Hren, assistant director for promotions, at 202-541-3346 or ncpromo@usccb.org.

With every best wish and an assurance of prayers, I remain

Yours in Christ,

+ *Gerald L. Vincke*

Most Rev. Gerald L. Vincke
Chairman, USCCB Subcommittee on Aid to the Church in Central and Eastern Europe

2024 DISTRIBUTION OF GRANTS

Total Number of Grants Approved: 547
Total Amount Approved: \$9,588,486

PROGRAM AREA	
Emergency*	23.81%
Evangelization	19.43%
Construction	18.49%
Equipment/Accommodation Purchase	7.35%
Operational Support	7.22%
Scholarships	5.86%
Social Aid	5.86%
Education	5.18%
Vehicle Purchase	2.93%
Seminary Support	2.75%
Multimedia	1.11%

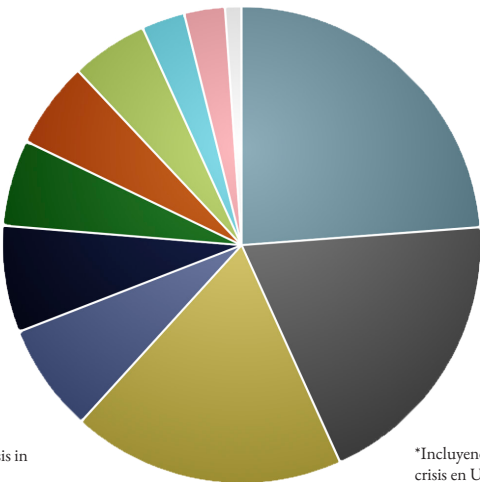
*Including grants for urgent humanitarian and pastoral responses to the crisis in Ukraine.

EXPENSES

Grants and Donations	91.78%
Program Costs	4.52%
Promotions and Fundraising Expenses	2.84%
Administrative Expenses	0.85%
Total Expenses	\$10,449,046

DISTRIBUCIÓN DE LAS DONACIONES EN EL 2024

Número total de donaciones aprobadas: 547
Monto total aprobado: \$9,588,486



ÁREA DE PROGRAMA	
Emergencia*	23.81%
Evangelización	19.43%
Construcción	18.49%
Compra/convenio de equipo	7.35%
Apoyo operacional	7.22%
Becas	5.86%
Asistencia social	5.86%
Educación	5.18%
Compra de vehículo	2.93%
Apoyo a seminarios	2.75%
Multimedia	1.11%

*Incluyendo subvenciones para respuestas humanitarias y pastorales urgentes a la crisis en Ucrania.

GASTOS

Subvenciones y donaciones	91.79%
Costos del programa	4.52%
Gastos de promoción y recaudación de fondos	2.84%
Gastos administrativos	0.85%
Total de gastos	\$10,449,046

2026 COLLECTION INFORMATION INSIDE

To learn more about this collection or to find additional resources, please visit www.usccb.org/ccee.



Parish Appeal

ENGLISH

This week our special collection supports the Church in Central and Eastern Europe. Communism in this region fell more than 30 years ago, but the Church still struggles to rebuild after decades of oppressive rule. Under communism, **religion and religious practices were openly persecuted, and atheism was actively propagated and enforced.** Your support for this collection funds grants for vital pastoral ministries throughout the region. That means you support seminary programs, promote ministries and education for children and families, rebuild churches, and renew community life. Thank you for your generosity in supporting this collection today.

SPANISH

Esta semana, nuestra colecta especial apoya a la Iglesia en Europa Central y Oriental. La caída del comunismo en esta región ocurrió hace más de 30 años, pero la Iglesia aún sigue luchando para reconstruir después de décadas de un régimen opresivo. Bajo el comunismo, **la religión y las prácticas religiosas fueron perseguidas abiertamente y el ateísmo se propagó y se impusó activamente.** El apoyo de ustedes a esta colecta financia subvenciones para unos ministerios pastorales vitales en toda la región. Esto significa que ustedes financian programas para seminaristas, promueven ministerios y la educación para niños y familias, reconstruyen iglesias y renuevan la vida de la comunidad. Muchas gracias por su generosidad dando su apoyo a la colecta de hoy.

Visit www.usccb.org/ccee and select “Parish Resource Guide” under “Collection Resources” for an electronic version of the text that you can copy into your parish bulletin.

Simple Steps

to promote the Collection for the Church in Central and Eastern Europe:

- 1 USE** the bulletin announcements and parish appeal to educate your parishioners about the collection and the people it supports. Additional resources, including a social media tool kit and print ads, can be found online.
- 2 PREACH** about the troubles facing people in the region—and celebrate how the Church in Central and Eastern Europe is combating these troubles. For example, share the story from Kazakhstan included in the cover letter of this resource guide.
- 3 PRAY** as a community for the Church in Central and Eastern Europe—that God will give strength to those who serve and send relief to those who suffer. A digital prayer card is available for you to download and share with parishioners.
- 4 SHARE** collection information on your social media channels and website using the web banners and social media tool kit found online.



Bulletin Announcements

ENGLISH

Week Before the Collection

Next week we will take up the Collection for the Church in Central and Eastern Europe. This collection supports the Church in more than 25 countries that are still struggling to recover from former communist rule. It also aids communities throughout the region that are affected by the war in Ukraine. Funds support pastoral care, catechesis, renovations of church properties, and seminary formation. Your contribution restores the Church and builds the future in this region. Please prayerfully consider how you can support the collection next week. You can find more information at www.usccb.org/ccee. iGiveCatholic also accepts funds for this collection if you prefer to donate online (see QR code).

Week of the Collection

This week our special collection supports the Church in Central and Eastern Europe. Your donation helps restore the Church and build the future in more than 25 countries still struggling to recover from former communist rule. Funds from this collection support reconstruction, education, formation, and poverty outreach. Thank you for your generosity to the collection today. For more information, please visit www.usccb.org/ccee. iGiveCatholic also accepts funds for this collection if you prefer to donate online (see QR code).

Week After the Collection

Thank you for your generous contributions to the Collection for the Church in Central and Eastern Europe last week! As a parish, we collected \$[amount] to restore the Church and build the future in more than 25 countries. If you missed the collection, it's not too late to give. Visit www.usccb.org/ccee. iGiveCatholic also accepts funds for this collection if you prefer to donate online (see QR code).



SPANISH

Semana antes de la colecta

La próxima semana realizaremos la Colecta para la Iglesia en Europa Central y Oriental. Esta colecta apoya a la Iglesia en más de 25 países que aún siguen luchando para recuperarse del antiguo régimen comunista. También da su apoyo a las comunidades de esa región que están siendo afectadas por la guerra en Ucrania. Los fondos financian el cuidado pastoral, la catequesis, las renovaciones a propiedades de la iglesia y la formación de seminaristas. Sus contribuciones restauran la Iglesia y construyen el futuro en esa región. Por favor, en oración, consideren cómo pueden dar su apoyo a la colecta la próxima semana. Para más información, entren a www.usccb.org/ccee. iGiveCatholic también acepta donativos para esta colecta en el caso que prefieran donar en línea, vean el código QR.

Semana de la colecta

Esta semana nuestra colecta especial apoya a la Iglesia en Europa Central y Oriental. Sus donativos ayudan a restaurar la Iglesia y construir el futuro en más de 25 países que aún siguen luchando para recuperarse del antiguo régimen comunista. Los fondos de esta colecta ayudan en la reconstrucción, educación, formación y programas sociales dirigidos a los pobres. Muchas gracias por su generosidad en la colecta de hoy. Para más información, por favor, visiten www.usccb.org/ccee. iGiveCatholic también acepta donativos para esta colecta en el caso que prefieran donar en línea, vean el código QR.

Semana después de la colecta

¡Muchas gracias por sus generosas contribuciones la semana pasada a la Colecta para la Iglesia en Europa Central y Oriental! Como parroquia, hemos recaudado \$[cantidad] para restaurar la Iglesia y construir el futuro en más de 25 países. Si no alcanzaron a dar en la colecta, aún lo pueden hacer. Visiten www.usccb.org/ccee. iGiveCatholic también acepta donativos para esta colecta en el caso que prefieran donar en línea, vean el código QR.

ALL COLLECTION RESOURCES CAN BE FOUND AT WWW.USCCB.ORG/CCEE.

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