

Collection for the Church in Central and Eastern Europe

ANNUAL REPORT 2015





SUBCOMMITTEE ON AID TO THE CHURCH IN CENTRAL AND EASTERN EUROPE

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Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

It is an honor to present to you this annual report on the activities of the Subcommittee on Aid to the Church in Central and Eastern Europe for 2015. Once again you will see that so much good is being done in this region of the world where so many of us claim our cultural heritage. Just as immigrants from these lands made invaluable contributions to the

Church in the United States, our contributions are now rebuilding the church communities of many of our ancestors.

A new generation of Catholics need our support. They face many problems with the aftermath of communist rule—churches are deteriorating, the intellectual life of the Church has been inhibited, and pastoral programs need new energy and resources to meet the needs of people today. But with the generosity of the Church in this country, new generations of Catholics in these lands are taking up their challenges with a newfound hope. Donations to the Collection for the Church in Central and Eastern Europe provide the necessary resources for the Church to rebuild and provide for the growing, younger population.

Pope Francis during a recent visit challenged the youth in Bosnia and Herzegovina, “Being young does not mean being passive, but rather means being tenacious in your efforts to achieve important goals . . . The Church counts on you and will continue to count on you who are generous and capable of great energy and noble sacrifices.” Let us take up that same challenge by being generous and by making a noble sacrifice for this important collection.

I thank you for your continued support and generosity. May God abundantly bless you and your loved ones.

Sincerely in Christ,

Blase Cardinal Cupich
Archbishop of Chicago
Chairman, USCCB Subcommittee on Aid to the Church in Central
and Eastern Europe

For the 28 countries in Central and Eastern Europe that were under communist rule, continuing to rebuild is still a struggle. Many church buildings were confiscated, and people have very little on which to live. The Subcommittee on Aid to the Church in Central and Eastern Europe (CCEE) supports projects to build the future on strong foundations. Projects supported by the Subcommittee work to transform faith communities, giving hope to future generations.

Romania: Cathedral Construction

After the fall of communism in Romania, virtually none of the Greek Catholic churches that were confiscated by the communist regime were recovered. As a symbol of the sacrifice of their ancestors, the Eparchy of Cluj-Gherla began construction of the Cathedral of the Martyrs and Confessors of the Twentieth Century in Cluj-Napoca in 1992. With a grant from the CCEE Collection, the cathedral is on target to be completed in 2018. It will serve not only as a place of prayer but also as a location for pastoral care—hosting a library, conference hall, and activities for children and youth, as well as an exhibition of the history of the eparchy.

Estonia: Summer Camp

In Estonia, religious observance is rare and very little funding is available to assist youth in learning about Christianity or the Catholic faith. Last year, the CCEE Collection provided support to a summer camp program for youth. About 30 middle-school aged boys attended the camp where they not only learned about the Catholic faith but also had opportunities to attend Mass and receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Once they are in high school, boys who previously attended are excited to return as staff members to lead and help the new group of campers grow in their faith. With your support, the faith is taking root in this younger generation.

Slovenia: Archive and Library Construction

In the Diocese of Koper in Slovenia, historical church documents and records were simply stored on the floor, as there was no proper library



for them. Without proper storage, these documents, some dating to the 1700s, could get damaged and history would be lost. With a grant from the CCEE Collection, a new archive and library has been built to house these important documents. Now there is an archivist to ensure the history contained in these records will be preserved for years to come.

Montenegro: Prevention of Elderly Abuse

In the small country of Montenegro, the elderly are an at-risk population due to societal views that portray them as a burden. Consequently, there is a lack of care programs and community support. With a grant from the CCEE Collection, educational materials and videos were created to raise awareness of the dignity and rights of the elderly. In addition, training was provided for 100 people to support and advocate for the rights of this marginalized population.



COLLECTION FOR THE CHURCH IN CENTRAL AND EASTERN EUROPE

*Statement of Revenue, Expenses, and Other Changes in Net Assets for the
Year Ending in December 31, 2015.*

Revenue

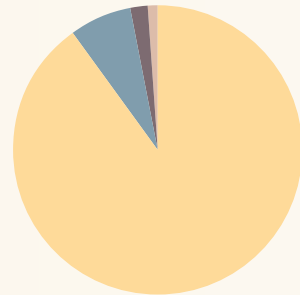
National Collections Contributions:	\$7,665,851
Income on Investments:	\$472,419

Total Revenue: **\$8,138,270**

Expenses

○ Grants and Donations:	\$7,700,488	90%
● Program Costs:	\$625,840	7%
● Promotions and Fundraising Expenses:	\$170,389	2%
● Administrative Expenses:	\$83,198	1%

Total Expenses: **\$8,579,915** **100%**



Changes in Net Assets from Operations:	(\$441,645)
Non-Operating Activities	
Unrealized (Loss) Gain on Investments:	(\$515,983)
Changes in Net Assets:	(\$957,628)

Net Assets at the Beginning of the Year:	\$11,974,662
Net Assets at the End of the Year:	\$11,017,034

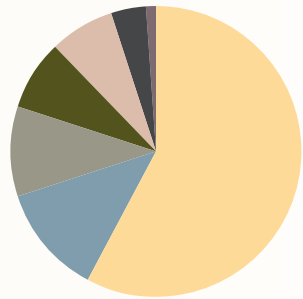
See the complete USCCB financial report at www.usccb.org/about/financial-reporting.

Thank you to all who have supported the Collection for the Church in Central and Eastern Europe. Without your generous contributions, these projects would not be possible. It is through your gifts that we can restore the Church and build the future for our brothers and sisters in Central and Eastern Europe.



2015 DISTRIBUTION OF APPROVED GRANTS

Total Number of Grants Approved: 274
 Total Amount Approved and Paid*: \$7,688,488



Program Area	Grant Count	Grant Amount	Percentage
• Construction and Equipment	114	\$4,495,533	58%
• Education, Formation, and Evangelization	44	\$941,377	12%
• Operational Support	31	\$775,211	10%
• Scholarships	40	\$591,731	8%
• Poverty Outreach and Miscellaneous Programs	26	\$501,341	7%
• Vehicle Purchase	14	\$281,005	4%
• Communications Programs	5	\$102,290	1%

* USCCB audited financials include two scholarship grants totaling \$12,000 that were subsequently cancelled.



For more information regarding the USCCB's work with the **Church in Central and Eastern Europe** and around the world, please visit www.usccb.org/cee or write:

Office of National Collections

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