

ANNUAL REPORT 2022

# COLLECTION FOR THE CHURCH IN CENTRAL AND EASTERN EUROPE

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## FROM THE CHAIRMAN



Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

The Russian invasion of Ukraine on February 24, 2022, filled me with horror—but horror soon gave way to pride and gratitude for what Catholics in the United States, in Ukraine, and in many former Soviet bloc countries were doing to aid the victims of war.

We are confident Pope St. John Paul II, who did so much to bring about the freedom of these nations, and who called for their rebuilding, is interceding so that justice, love, and mercy might prevail. The generosity of all parishioners who gave to the Collection for the Church in Central and Eastern Europe of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) is an answer to his prayers.

Of the \$8.5 million that the collection distributed through 354 grants in 2022, nearly 25% funded the construction and renovation of church facilities, and 23% supported urgent humanitarian and pastoral assistance related to the war in Ukraine. The collection also continued to fund ongoing works of evangelization, education, and pastoral care to strengthen the Catholic faith in 28 countries recovering from decades of communist rule.

In June of last year, I had the privilege to witness personally a truly remarkable ministry that is taking place in Moldova, a desperately poor nation where Catholics are a tiny minority. Thanks to the generosity of US parishioners to the Collection for the Church in Central and Eastern Europe, the Catholic Church in Moldova has become a powerhouse providing aid to Ukrainian refugees. In addition to assisting thousands of refugees at a center in Chişinău, these Moldovan Catholics worked with the Ukrainian Embassy to ship a container of relief supplies donated by Austrians into Ukraine.

Aid from the collection is likewise reaching the heart of Ukraine. One diocese is organizing a nationwide outreach to help victims of war—military and civilian including children—recover from traumatic stress.

All the while, this collection continues to support churches that are still recovering from the devastation and oppression of vicious, totalitarian rule. In Romania, your gifts are restoring a historically significant 250-year-old seminary. In Lithuania, you are supporting new approaches to marriage ministry.

In places torn by war, in churches with memories of priests dragged off to the gulags, and in communities once forbidden to teach children about Jesus, your gifts to the Collection for the Church in Central and Eastern Europe are bringing hope, renewing faith, and offering tangible mercy and love.

May Pope St. John Paul II and the 28 Blessed Martyrs of Ukraine pray with us for the success of these efforts. May God bless you for what you have so generously given. May our Lord Jesus Christ inspire you to continue to work and pray for peace, faith, hope, and love to prevail in these lands. I am.

Sincerely yours in Christ,



Most Reverend Jeffrey M. Monforton  
Auxiliary Bishop of Detroit  
Chairman, USCCB Subcommittee on Aid to the Church  
in Central and Eastern Europe

## SUBCOMMITTEE ON AID TO THE CHURCH IN CENTRAL AND EASTERN EUROPE

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Grants Administrator

Ms. Mariya Lupiy,<sup>o</sup>  
Grants Administrator

\*Elena Baydina's tenure ended in April 2022.

<sup>o</sup>Mariya Lupiy's tenure began in October 2022.



## SINCE THE US BISHOPS ESTABLISHED THE COLLECTION FOR THE CHURCH IN CENTRAL AND EASTERN EUROPE THREE DECADES AGO,

the need for aid has never been so acute than after the 2022 Russian invasion of Ukraine. Catholics in the United States rose to the occasion. Last year the collection awarded \$8.5 million that supported both humanitarian assistance to Ukrainians and the ongoing work of evangelization, pastoral care, and church construction for which the collection was founded.

Overall, 354 grants from the Collection for the Church in Central and Eastern Europe supported a wide range of pastoral and social needs in 2022. The largest categories were \$2.1 million for construction and \$1.9 million for humanitarian and pastoral assistance related to the war in Ukraine. Just over \$1 million was used for evangelization, while smaller amounts supported scholarships, education, seminaries, social services, equipment and vehicles, and ministry operations. The stories in this report describe a small sample of the good work that the collection makes possible

### UKRAINE

In western Ukraine, the Diocese of Kamyanets-Podilskiy is training teams of psychotherapists, social workers, pastoral counselors, and other professionals to provide psychological, spiritual, and practical support to those suffering war-related trauma. The diocese intends to continue this nationwide outreach long after the war, when 15 million veterans and civilians are expected to suffer varying degrees of post-traumatic stress. “Even those who were able

to endure the first months of the war will face mental exhaustion,” Auxiliary Bishop Radosław Zmitrowicz wrote to the bishops of the United States. If the Church can help them recover, he said, “it will be another great victory that we will gain—for the sake of our people who have suffered so much, the military, especially the wounded, their families, adults, and children who have faced violence, loss, traumatic experiences.”



## MOLDOVA

Moldova vies with Ukraine for the designation of “poorest nation in Europe.” Its Catholic population is so small that national surveys cannot measure it. Yet with aid from the Collection for the Church in Central and Eastern Europe, the Catholic Diocese of Chişinău assisted nearly 10,000 Ukrainian refugees during the first six months of the war, outpacing and outlasting local government efforts. The diocese operates a hotline for refugees and provides two family apartments, but its centerpiece is a bustling daytime service center. The center’s staff assesses the needs of all who arrive and provides food, hygiene supplies, trauma counseling, immigration assistance, and other services, including recreational activities. One day families visited a horse track, where children rode, fed, and learned to care for horses. The Moldovans have been especially concerned to support pregnant refugees, nearly all of whom had to leave their husbands behind to fight in Ukraine.

## ROMANIA

In Romania, where Catholics suffered the most violent oppression of the communist era, a diocese in Transylvania is fulfilling the motto of the Collection for the Church in Central and Eastern Europe: “Restore the Church. Build the Future.” Supported by the heavenly prayers of the many martyred Greek Catholic bishops, priests, religious, and laity who died in political

prisons for refusing to renounce the faith, the Archdiocese of Făgăraş and Alba Iulia is restoring a 250-year-old seminary that is also a national landmark. Founded in 1754, it needs a century’s worth of deferred maintenance to strengthen its foundations and repair damaged walls. The students’ cramped, dark living quarters are being renovated to include large, bright rooms with modern utilities, practical furniture, kitchenettes, and semi-private bathrooms. Provisions are also being made for handicap accessibility. As this national treasure is restored to its former beauty, a new generation of priests is being raised up within its walls to restore faith and the sacraments to the people of Romania.

## LITHUANIA

In Lithuania, the Diocese of Telšiai has created a support system of volunteer mentors for engaged and married couples. The grant first provides training in Catholic teachings about marriage, methods of pastoral outreach, and ways to recognize and prevent a family crisis. Your gifts also fund continuing support to help the mentors avoid burnout. This grant allows mentors to attend a Catholic summer camp with a program designed just for them, where they can unwind, share experiences, and receive encouragement and inspiration from the clergy and each other. About 120 marriage mentors from the diocese are expected to attend the camp this summer.

## COLLECTION FOR THE CHURCH IN CENTRAL AND EASTERN EUROPE

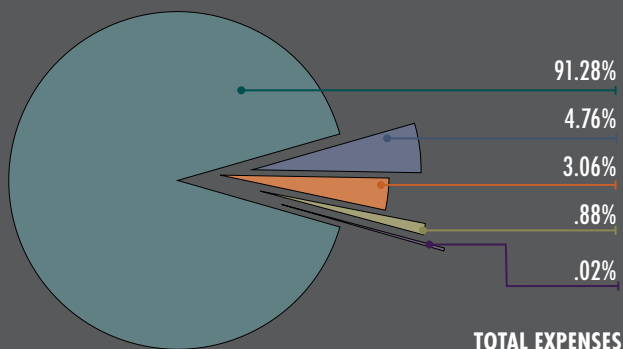
Statement of Revenues, Expenses, and Other Changes in Net Assets for the Year Ending December 31, 2022.

### REVENUES

|                                    |                     |
|------------------------------------|---------------------|
| National Collections Contributions | \$23,354,031        |
| Grants, Bequests, and Other        | \$250,000           |
| Income on Investments              | \$1,726,209         |
| <b>Total Revenue (Sum)</b>         | <b>\$25,330,240</b> |

### EXPENSES

|  |                    |             |
|--|--------------------|-------------|
| Grants and Donations*  | \$8,513,509        | 91.28%      |
| Program Costs  | \$444,331          | 4.76%       |
| Promotions and Fundraising Expenses                            | \$285,539          | 3.06%       |
| Administrative Expenses  | \$82,374           | .88%        |
| Allocations-Internal Grants**                                  | \$959              | .02%        |
| <b>Total Expenses</b>  | <b>\$9,326,712</b> | <b>100%</b> |
| <b>Total Expenses, Excluding Internal Grants</b>               | <b>\$9,325,753</b> |             |
| <b>Total Grants &amp; Donations, Including Internal Grants</b> | <b>\$8,514,468</b> |             |



|  |                     |
|--|---------------------|
| Changes in Net Assets from Operations    | \$16,003,528        |
| Non-Operating Activities:                |                     |
| Unrealized Loss on Investments           | (\$5,871,284)       |
| Changes in Net Assets                    | \$10,132,244        |
| Net Assets at the Beginning of the Year  | \$10,671,205        |
| <b>Net Assets at the End of the Year</b> | <b>\$20,803,449</b> |

\*Grants approved in 2022 totaled \$8,522,439. Grants and donations in 2022 totaled \$8,514,468, which includes payments and write-offs to grants approved in 2022 and prior years.

\*\*Includes donation to Catholic Media Council and small fund transfers credited to the collection.

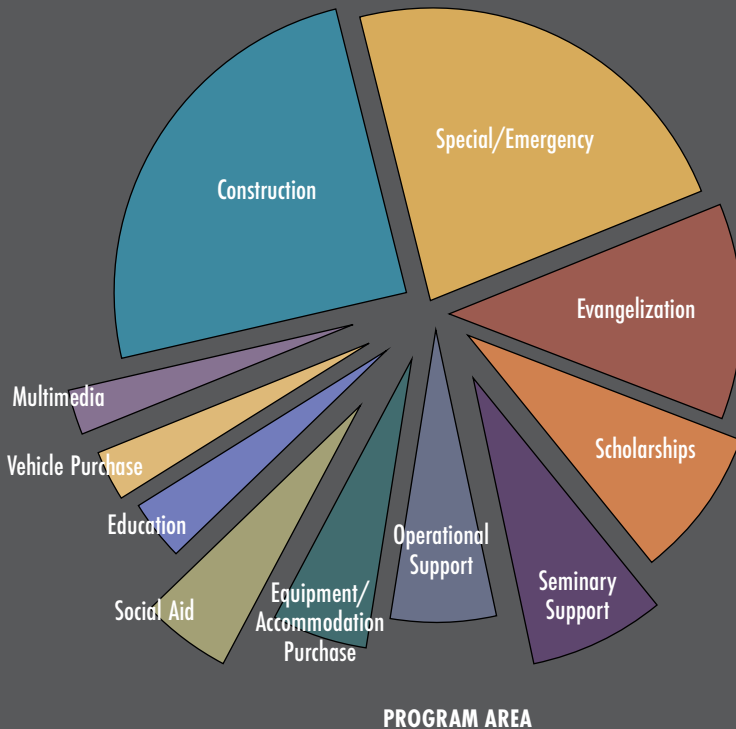
## 2022 DISTRIBUTION OF GRANTS

Total Number of Grants Approved: 354

Total Amount Approved: \$8,522,439

| PROGRAM AREA                     | NUMBER OF GRANTS | GRANT AMOUNT       | PERCENTAGE  |
|----------------------------------|------------------|--------------------|-------------|
| Construction                     | 73               | \$2,108,439        | 24.75%      |
| Special/Emergency*               | 9                | \$1,951,804        | 22.90%      |
| Evangelization                   | 77               | \$1,007,437        | 11.82%      |
| Scholarships                     | 80               | \$728,122          | 8.54%       |
| Seminary Support                 | 16               | \$629,884          | 7.39%       |
| Operational Support              | 28               | \$503,860          | 5.91%       |
| Equipment/Accommodation Purchase | 19               | \$452,180          | 5.31%       |
| Social Aid                       | 21               | \$412,320          | 4.84%       |
| Education                        | 10               | \$283,976          | 3.33%       |
| Vehicle Purchase                 | 11               | \$242,423          | 2.84%       |
| Multimedia                       | 10               | \$201,994          | 2.37%       |
| <b>TOTAL</b>                     | <b>354</b>       | <b>\$8,522,439</b> | <b>100%</b> |

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





*If you miss the collection or wish to give outside of the collection, #iGiveCatholicTogether (<https://uscgb.org/organizations/uscgb-church-in-central-and-eastern-europe>) accepts funds online to support the good work of the Collection for Central and Eastern Europe.*

*Thank you for your support!*

For more information about the USCCB's work with the **Collection for Central and Eastern Europe** and around the world, please visit [www.usccb.org/ccce](http://www.usccb.org/ccce).

or write:

**Office of National Collections**

3211 Fourth Street NE | Washington, DC 20017

