

ROMANIAN CATHOLIC DIOCESE
Eparchy of St. George in Canton



Office of the Bishop

**RESTORE THE CHURCH
BUILD THE FUTURE**

July 15, 2020

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Soon, our diocese will take up the Collection for the Church in Central and Eastern Europe, and I ask for your support for this important mission.

The collection helps our brothers and sisters like the people of Armenia, who have experienced persecution and displacement throughout their history and now live scattered throughout the world—many in areas of the former Soviet bloc countries such as Georgia, Russia, and other areas of Eastern Europe. Coping with difficult life circumstances and often isolated from their religious and cultural heritage, Armenian Catholic youth are particularly vulnerable.

In an earlier I noted that I am privileged to be a member of the committee of bishops that oversees this collection for the USCCB. Armenia is one of the countries I am responsible for, so I have been able to see firsthand how your generosity benefits our fellow Eastern Catholics there.

To address this situation in 2018, the Armenian Catholic Ordinariate of Eastern Europe, with help from our Collection for the Church in Central and Eastern Europe, hosted nearly 300 Armenian Catholic participants for a week of worship, study, pilgrimage, and fellowship. Not only did participants hear discussions on the theme “Identity, Belonging, and Witnessing,” but together they also participated in sessions on Catholic social teaching, witnessed ordinations and the clothing of seminarians in their vestments, and worshipped at monastic complexes. Your invaluable support of this effort helped build their faith, unity, and solidarity, thereby strengthening Armenian Catholic youth in Eastern Europe.

Please be generous to the collection, because your support helps foster nurturing communities in which youth can share and grow in faith, especially our brothers and sisters in Romania. For more information about the collection and who it supports, visit www.usccb.org/ccee. Thank you for your help to restore the Church and build the future in Central and Eastern Europe.

Sincerely in Christ-God,

(Most Reverend) John Michael Botean, DD
Bishop of the Eparchy of St. George

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