



**Diocese of Worcester**  
Office of the Bishop  
49 Elm Street  
Worcester, Massachusetts 01609

July 30, 2021

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

“Restore the Church – Build the Future” is the theme for the **Collection for the Church in Central and Eastern Europe** (CCEE) which will be taken up in our diocese on the weekend of August 8. Your donation supports strengthening Catholic education, charitable programs and development of new lay leaders in 28 countries.

The worldwide coronavirus outbreak restricted nonessential travel across the globe. Stay-at-home orders, physical distancing, and quarantine practices implemented to mitigate the spread of the disease revealed great and urgent needs, especially in those countries of Eastern Europe still in turbulent transition stages. There, weak economies were made more vulnerable, and those affected included the elderly as well as doctors, nurses, and medical chaplains. In Ukraine, the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church (UGCC) came to the assistance of homebound senior citizens in many cities, using Church facilities to organize the work and engaging both local volunteers and assistance from abroad. Using the Lviv Patriarchal Center kitchen, volunteers prepared meals and delivered them to needy seniors throughout the city. In addition, the UGCC mobilized its network of about 120 hospital chaplains and collected and distributed badly needed protective clothing, masks, sanitizer, and other necessities to ensure their safety as they ministered to the sick throughout the country.

“When you know that someone cares about you and that you are not alone in your struggles,” said Fr. Volodymyr Malchyn of the UGCC, “it is much easier to go through all kinds of challenges.” Your participation in the Collection for the Church in Central and Eastern Europe expresses your care and support for the people in Ukraine and throughout the region, especially in times of crisis and disruption.

For more information about the collection and who it supports, visit [www.usccb.org/ccee](http://www.usccb.org/ccee). I ask that you keep these programs in your prayers and that you join our fellow Catholics in the United States in contributing generously to this collection. Thank you for your help to restore the Church and build the future in Central and Eastern Europe.

With every prayerful best wish, I am

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Most Reverend Robert J. McManus  
Bishop of Worcester

*Please announce the Collection for Central and Eastern Europe on the weekend of August 1  
and take up the collection on the weekend of August 8.*