



The Church in Central and Eastern Europe

OFFICE OF NATIONAL COLLECTIONS

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February, 28, 2022

Dear Brothers in Christ:

As we approach the holy season of Lent, I write with a special appeal for the Church in Ukraine and the surrounding countries, where a humanitarian crisis is unfolding.

This Ash Wednesday, I ask you to encourage your priests to promote the Collection to Aid the Church in Central and Eastern Europe, which will allow the faithful to make a timely contribution and provide assistance to the victims of war in Ukraine, among many other projects the Collection supports in the region. If you do not or cannot take up the Collection on March 2, I implore you to find a way to give to the Collection by other means at this critical time.

The USCCB is uniquely positioned to provide aid to the region, having built strong relationships with our brother bishops there these last 30 years, and having given so much assistance in the development of the Church's capacity to respond to pastoral and social needs. A robust response at this moment will allow the Church in the United States to continue to be a strong partner in the rebuilding and restoring of the Church in Central and Eastern Europe, and to give critical and timely humanitarian aid now for Ukraine.

Let us ask Our Lady, Queen of Peace, to bring a swift end to the violence, and thank you for your support of the Subcommittee and its work. I am,

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Most Reverend Jeffrey M. Monforton
Chairman, Subcommittee on Aid to the Church in
Central and Eastern Europe