



The Most Reverend Charles C. Thompson
Archdiocese of Indianapolis

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Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Decades ago, the bishops of the United States established the annual **Collection for the Church in Central and Eastern Europe** to help rebuild the Church after 40 years, and in some places 70 years of oppressive communist rule. Through the generosity of U.S. Catholics churches have been rebuilt, children have been educated, religious vocations have been fostered, and hope has been strengthened.

Current conditions, with the war in the Ukraine have brought on new challenges. Those migrants displaced by the war have fled to other regions and countries seeking safety. So the Church is reaching out to provide shelter and humanitarian relief to these victims, while still assisting the priests and religious who have opened their churches, monasteries, and convents to respond to the urgent needs.

The annual **Collection for the Church in Central and Eastern Europe** will be taken up in parishes of the Archdiocese of Indianapolis on the weekend of **March 1-2, 2025**. We bear witness to our identity as Christians when we meet the needs of these, our brothers and sisters by our financial offerings and our prayers. Your assistance not only helps the people of Ukraine but supports the resurgence of faith in 27 other countries once persecuted under communism.

Please be generous as you can for the restoration of the Church and a better future for Central and Eastern Europe.

Gratefully yours in Christ,

+ *Charles C. Thompson*

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