



RESTORE THE CHURCH BUILD THE FUTURE



Dear Communications Director/Editor,

For those living in Central and Eastern Europe, while religious persecution by the communist regime may be in the past, the effects of decades of oppression still resound today. During the time of communist rule, many churches were confiscated and people were often forced to practice the faith in secret. Amid the fear that permeated everyday life, people lived in the hope of their faith. Now, they continue to rebuild their communities that were once devastated. The Collection for the Church in Central and Eastern Europe (CCEE) is a way for your parishioners to support the faithful who have given us such a witness of faith as they restore the Church in this region.

Croatia not only suffered under a communist regime but also faced the pain of war. Those living in Croatia now face high unemployment and strained efforts to renew communities in the face of the distrust sown by decades of oppression. These challenges have caused many young people to doubt themselves and their future, and they struggle to find community support. But in the Diocese of Šibenik, Camp Modrave is giving young people an experience of Christ, so that they can build a trusting relationship with him and receive the hope of the Gospel. Each summer, over 600 young people age 17-30 attend the camp over the course of seven weeks, to learn about themselves and God and to build quality relationships with one another. Attendees say the camp is a life-changing experience, giving them hope and courage, and inspiring them to build and nurture stronger Catholic communities when they go home. With the support of your diocese to CCEE, this camp can continue to provide these young people with spiritual support and resources. With this help they can grow in their faith and learn to share it with others.

We rely on your help to promote this collection. Use your publication(s), website, social media channels, and any other outlets available to you to help get the word out about the collection. Tell the story of the work being done in Croatia, or use the additional resources available online, including the social media tool kit. These resources can be found at www.usccb.org/cceel/collection. If you have any questions, please contact me at 202-541-3365 or at ngermain@usccb.org.

We truly appreciate your support of this collection.

With gratitude,

Nicole Germain
Assistant Director, Promotions, Office of National Collections



Collection for the Church in Central and Eastern Europe

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