



# RESTORE THE CHURCH BUILD THE FUTURE

Dear Diocesan Director,

Our Catholic mission calls us to encourage and comfort our brothers and sisters in need. As Pope Francis said to the people of Latvia during his visit in September 2018, “Do not yield to disappointment or grief. Do not lose your gentleness, much less your hope.” By supporting the Collection for the Church in Central and Eastern Europe, you show gentleness and bring hope to those most in need.

The ongoing restoration of the Church in Ukraine since the fall of the Soviet Union has created a pressing need for priests to minister to a Church being restored. Fortunately, the Church has seen a corresponding increase in vocations to the priesthood. In June 2010, His Beatitude Lubomyr Husar, the late major archbishop of Kyiv-Halych of the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church, established the Kyiv Three Holy Hierarchs Spiritual Seminary to form men for ministry who answer the call to priesthood from territories throughout central, eastern, and southern Ukraine. Having begun with 10 seminarians, each year, the number grows; today, more than 60 seminarians are studying in Kyiv, including those from missionary territories. At the seminary, they receive philosophical and theological training, as well as priestly formation that prepares them for lives of service and for communion with God.

Under Ukrainian law, the Church in Ukraine is funded solely by donations from believers and the support of other donors. Low salaries (\$150–350/month) and a struggling economy due to upheaval caused by the war in eastern Ukraine all hinder attempts to secure the funding needed for the seminary program. But with assistance from the Collection for the Church in Central and Eastern Europe, the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church in central and eastern Ukraine can support the education and community life of the seminarians and their instructors in Kyiv. Your support of the collection helps to rebuild the Church by fostering these young men’s priestly vocations.

Collection materials are available and free for download at [www.usccb.org/ccee/collection](http://www.usccb.org/ccee/collection). There, you will find a sample letter from the bishop, web banners, and a social media tool kit, among other resources. Please use these materials, and encourage your parish staff to use these items as well to support our efforts to promote the collection.

Thank you for your continued support of this collection. If you have any questions, please contact me at 202-541-3365 or at [ngermain@usccb.org](mailto:ngermain@usccb.org).

Gratefully in Christ,



Nicole Germain  
Assistant Director, Promotions, Office of National Collections



## Collection for the Church in Central and Eastern Europe

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