



RESTORE THE CHURCH BUILD THE FUTURE



Dear Diocesan Director,

Estonia has undergone significant change since the Soviet Union dissolved in 1991. The country has developed a trade-based economy that counts electronics and technology among its strongest sectors and that enjoys the advantages of membership in the European Union. It is also a strongly secular country, with 54% of its population unaffiliated with any religious group.

Despite Estonia's overall economic strength, its small Catholic population of about 7,000 faces distinct challenges. Many of these Catholics are Russian speakers who came to Estonia from Belarus and Ukraine during the days of the Soviet Union and have still not fully integrated into the broader Estonian society. The Church has helped heal the community as it faces challenges such as poverty, substance abuse, and HIV/AIDS. With the COVID-19 pandemic causing increased hardship, the parishes in Estonia's poorest regions near the Russian border have required assistance from the Collection for the Church in Central and Eastern Europe to fulfill their mission.

Your diocese's support for the collection has been integral to helping parishes in the poorest parts of Estonia and in 27 other countries in Central and Eastern Europe serve their communities' material, pastoral, and spiritual needs.

Collection materials are free and available to download at www.usccb.org/ccee. There you will find a sample letter from the bishop, web banners, and a social media tool kit, among other resources. Please follow the USCCB's social media pages for posts about the collection and other news using the hashtags #BuildTheFuture and #1Church1Mission and repost these items on your diocesan channels.

Thank you for your continued support of this collection. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me at 202-541-3146 or mmencarinicampbell@usccb.org.

With gratitude,

Mary Mencarini Campbell
Executive Director
Office of National Collections



Collection for the Church in Central and Eastern Europe

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