

Diocese of Colorado Springs

Office of the Bishop
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January 30, 2018

Dear Friends in Christ,

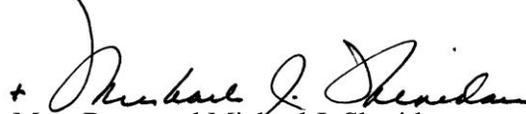
Our diocese will take up the **Collection for the Church in Central and Eastern Europe** on Ash Wednesday, February 14, 2018. During the time of communist reign in many countries, practicing the faith became illegal, church buildings were confiscated, and people were forced to hide and secretly share the truths of the Gospel. After decades of institutional oppression and persecution, Catholics still struggle to rebuild not only their physical places of worship but also their church ministries and communities. With your support of this collection, the Church is providing resources to these communities to breathe new life into the faith once again.

In 1996, the congregation of sisters known as the Company of Mary Our Lady founded a kindergarten, in Albania on the Adriatic Sea, the first Catholic school in the entire capital city. Since then, they have opened a school for grades 1-9 and a daily activity center for children. The sisters are now serving over 700 children daily from all different backgrounds, faiths, and ethnic groups. With your support of CCEE, these sisters will be able to make critical repairs to their building to continue their ministry. Your generosity helps the sisters to continue teaching children and equips the congregation to provide a space to build peaceful communities.

Your donations make a difference for those still struggling in the aftermath of communist rule. Please prayerfully consider how you can support the collection this year or if you can increase your contribution. For more information about the collection and who it supports, visit www.usccb.org/cee.

Thank you for your help to restore the Church and build the future in Central and Eastern Europe.

Sincerely yours in Christ,


+ Most Reverend Michael J. Sheridan
Bishop of Colorado Springs