



## Diocese of Springfield in Illinois

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Office of the Bishop

February, 2021

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

The worldwide coronavirus outbreak restricted nonessential travel across the globe. Stay-at-home orders, physical distancing, and quarantine practices implemented to mitigate the spread of the disease revealed great and urgent needs, especially in those countries of Eastern Europe still in turbulent transition stages. There, weak economies were made more vulnerable, and those affected included the elderly as well as doctors, nurses, and medical chaplains. In Ukraine, the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church (UGCC) came to the assistance of homebound senior citizens in many cities, using Church facilities to organize the work and engaging both local volunteers and assistance from abroad. Using the Lviv Patriarchal Center kitchen, volunteers prepared meals and delivered them to needy seniors throughout the city. In addition, the UGCC mobilized its network of about 120 hospital chaplains and collected and distributed badly needed protective clothing, masks, sanitizer, and other necessities to ensure their safety as they ministered to the sick throughout the country.

“When you know that someone cares about you and that you are not alone in your struggles,” said Fr. Volodymyr Malchyn of the UGCC, “it is much easier to go through all kinds of challenges.” Your participation in the Collection for the Church in Central and Eastern Europe expresses your care and support for the people in Ukraine and throughout the region, especially in times of crisis and disruption.

Please be generous to the collection, because your support helps foster nurturing communities in which Catholics can share and grow in faith. For more information about the collection and who it supports, visit [www.usccb.org/ccee](http://www.usccb.org/ccee). Thank you for your help to restore the Church and build the future in Central and Eastern Europe.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Most Reverend Thomas John Paprocki  
Bishop of Springfield in Illinois

**PASTORS/PARISH LEADERS:** Please announce this collection to your parishioners in your bulletins, website, or other social media platforms the weekend of **February 13/14, 2021** and gather it on **Ash Wednesday, February 17, 2021**. The proceeds gathered should be forwarded to our **Office for Finances** within thirty (30) days. Thank you!