



DIOCESE OF METUCHEN

VICARIATE FOR ADMINISTRATION

MEMORANDUM

To: All Pastors & Parish Administrators

From: Rev. Msgr. Joseph G. Celano, Episcopal Vicar
Vicariate for Administration *JGC*

Date: March 1, 2022

Subject: Ash Wednesday Special Collection - Collection to Aid the Church in Central and Eastern Europe

Brothers,

As we begin the holy season of Lent, I write with a special appeal for the Church in Ukraine and the surrounding countries, where a humanitarian crisis is unfolding. As you know, this crisis is not only in the center of the news but also is in the center of our thoughts and hearts. The news is full of disturbing images of cities and towns caught up in the violence of warfare and refugees fleeing the advancement of Russian troops.

This Ash Wednesday, Bishop Checchio asks all our parishes to participate in a special Collection to Aid the Church in Central and Eastern Europe, which will allow the faithful to provide assistance to the victims of war in Ukraine, and many other projects the Collection supports in the region. The works of mercy, which we as a diocese are committing ourselves to during this season, are many. This collection is one such way we can provide practical assistance to those in need as the crisis in the Ukraine continues to unfold.

If you do not or cannot take up the Collection on March 2, I urge you to find a way to give to the Collection by other means at this critical time. Donations made by check should be made payable to the Diocese of Metuchen, with "Ash Wednesday Collection" noted in the memo line.

We ask that collection proceeds be remitted to the Office of Finance by March 15. Those who wish to donate to this collection online may visit <https://diometuchen.org/Ukraine>

The USCCB is uniquely positioned to provide aid to the region, having built strong relationships with our brother bishops there these last 30 years, and having given so much assistance in the development of the Church's capacity to respond to pastoral and social needs. A robust response at this moment will allow the Church in the United States to continue to be a strong partner in the rebuilding and restoring of the Church in Central and Eastern Europe, and to give critical and timely humanitarian aid now for Ukraine.

Let us ask Our Lady, Queen of Peace, to bring a swift end to the violence, and thank you for your support of the Church in Central and Eastern Europe.

Sample Pulpit/Bulletin Announcement

On this Ash Wednesday, our special collection supports the Church in Central and Eastern Europe. Your donation today will provide humanitarian aid to the victims of war in Ukraine, and help restore the Church and build for the future in more than 25 countries still struggling to recover from former communist rule. Funds from this collection support reconstruction, education, formation, and poverty outreach. Please be generous to the collection.