



ROMAN CATHOLIC  
**DIOCESE**  
**OF CHARLESTON**  
OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

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January 2020

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Soon, our diocese will take up the Collection for the Church in Central and Eastern Europe, and I ask for your support for this important mission.

The collection helps people such as our brothers and sisters of Armenia, who have experienced persecution and displacement throughout their history and now live scattered throughout the world — many in areas of the former Soviet bloc countries such as Georgia, Russia, and other areas of Eastern Europe. Coping with difficult life circumstances and often isolated from their religious and cultural heritage, Armenian Catholic youth are particularly vulnerable.

To address this situation in 2018, the Armenian Catholic Ordinariate of Eastern Europe, with help from our Collection for the Church in Central and Eastern Europe, hosted nearly 300 Armenian Catholic participants for a week of worship, study, pilgrimage, and fellowship. Not only did participants hear discussions on the theme “Identity, Belonging, and Witnessing,” but together they also participated in sessions on Catholic social teaching, witnessed ordinations and the clothing of seminarians in their vestments, and worshipped at monastic complexes. Your invaluable support of this effort helped build their faith, unity, and solidarity, thereby strengthening Armenian Catholic youth in Eastern Europe.

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

In the Lord’s Peace,

Most Reverend Robert E. Guglielmo  
Bishop of Charleston

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The collection date for the Diocese of Charleston is Feb. 26, 2020.