



Diocese of Worcester
Office of the Bishop
49 Elm Street
Worcester, Massachusetts 01609

My dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

In Pope Benedict XVI's encyclical, *Charity in Truth*, the Holy Father wrote, "Charity in truth, to which Jesus Christ bore witness by his earthly life and especially by his death and resurrection, is the principal driving force behind the *authentic development* of every person and of all humanity."

The **2010 Collection to Aid the Church in Central and Eastern Europe**, inspired by our charity, will truly strengthen the courageous endurance of people who wish to keep their Catholic faith alive. For over fifty years these people experienced a defenselessness against the inroads of atheistic communism and its drive to eradicate life's religious purpose.

The world of Central and Eastern Europe needs our help! Church buildings, destroyed or used for secular purposes, must be rebuilt. Catechetical centers to educate the faithful and prepare the young for the sacraments must be re-established. Clergy, religious, and the laity must be trained in the teaching of the Second Vatican Council.

The Church in Central and Eastern Europe must be built anew. Your assistance is necessary to help the Church identify its most pressing needs and take steps to assure that our faith will be passed on. Please be generous in the special offering to be taken at all parish Masses on the weekend of August 7-8, that assists the people in this fragile part of the world.

Since 1990, this appeal has provided \$45 million to more than 1,200 projects in 22 countries. Through your generosity, seminaries and religious education programs have been reestablished, social ministry programs have begun, young people now hear the Gospel proclaimed, and Catholic media organizations are being created.

I ask that you keep the people of Central and Eastern Europe in your prayers, and that we join our fellow Catholics in the United States in making a generous contribution to nourish the faith in this part of Europe.

With every prayerful best wish, I am

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Most Reverend Robert J. McManus
Bishop of Worcester

(Please read or print this letter in the parish bulletin on the weekend of July 31-August 1, and take the 2010 Collection to Aid the Catholic Church in Central and Eastern Europe at all Masses on August 7-8.)