

*Most Rev. Dr. Francis Serrao SJ*  
*Bishop of Shimoga*



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04 December 2016

Rev. Fr Josef Stuchly SJ  
Bohemia Provincialát  
Jecná 2  
120 00 Praha 2  
Czech Republic

Dear Father Josef,

Greetings from the Diocese of Shimoga, India

This letter comes to you from Bishop Francis Serrao, SJ. You will surely remember of my visit to your office in May 2016 along with the Social Work Director, Fr Veeresh Moras. I carry still very pleasant memories of meeting you and of your kind hospitality. I sincerely thank you for assuring financial assistance for educational and development works in the diocese of Shimoga. During our meeting **you said that you will find out from your financial office how and to what purpose to transfer the limited funds you have at your disposal.** Herewith I submit to you a concrete and urgent need of the diocese, viz, for the construction of a **multipurpose community hall** at Mavinakere, a rural Mission Centre, for **conducting kindergarten classes, Sunday Catechism classes, seminars and training programmes** for adult Catholics and tuition classes for the children of the village in the evening hours etc.

Mavinakere is a Mission Centre in the Diocese of Shimoga located in a remote village. The total number of families in the village is 1500 of which only 22 are Catholic families. The literacy rate as per the 2011 census is 71% with female 67% and male 74%. The economically poor people of this village totally depend on agriculture for their livelihood. But due to unscientific methods of cultivation, lack of proper rainfall, and other related problems agriculture is not flourishing in this area. Public transportation is very poor. There are no decent approach roads. This also has largely adversely affected the development of the village. During my recent visits to this Mission Centre people of the village have requested me to support them financially to realize their dream of having a multipurpose community hall in the Church premises so that the hall could be used for conducting kindergarten classes during the day and tuition classes in the evenings, seminars and training programmes during summer holidays for people of all faiths and catechism classes on Sundays for Catholic Children. The diocese of Shimoga is a mission diocese without any source of local income whatsoever. Therefore it is next to impossible for the Diocese to provide the much needed infrastructure in the premises of Mavinakere Church. This Mission Centre has a very small piece of land near the existing Church and Presbytery. The proposed project will be

executed in this small piece of land because buying of land near the Church is not possible due to government regulations.

Having a multipurpose community hall in the Church premises of Mavinakere will also serve as a means to evangelization. People of other faiths in Mavinakere have great regards for the Catholicism and the resident Priest there. They also have much regard to different activities, programmes the Church organizes for people of that village. As there is no hall, people have to sit under the coconut trees or in the open space, the dusty ground, where we now intend to construct the community hall. The total cost of the project is Rs 16,75,000 (Rupees sixteen lakh fifty thousand only). The Pontifical Society for the Propagation of the Faith has already granted us **Rs 5,85,000** (Rupees five lakh eighty five thousand only), that is, \$ **9,000** (USD nine thousand only) towards this project. We still need **Rs 10,90,000** (Rupees ten lakh ninety thousand only), that is, **€ 15,000** (Euro fifteen thousand only) to complete the project. Since the need is genuine and urgent I earnestly request you to provide us with the necessary matching grants to actualize the long cherished dream of having a multi-purpose community hall. Bank account particulars are enclosed herewith for transferring money to us.

Please be rest assured of the prayers of our Priests, the Religious and all our people & add my own! May God bless all you, your Province and all your undertakings.



Yours in the Lord's Mission

✠ Francis Serrao SJ  
Diocese of Shimoga

**Bank account particulars**

The Number of the Bank Account: **518777412**

The name and full address of the A/c holder:

**Diocese of Shimoga**

Bishop's House, Malligenahalli, Sagar Road, Shimoga – 577 205, Karnataka  
– India.

The full address of the Bank where the A/c. is held:

**Indian Bank, Shimoga branch**

Bank Code: BS Code 00489

The I.F.S. Code of the Bank: **IDIB000S020** (5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> characters are zero)

SWIFT Code: In Chennai: Head Office of Indian Bank: **IDIBINBBINT**

Address: The Manager, Indian Bank, Head Office, International Division,  
P.B. No. 1384, 66, Rajaji Salai, Chennai – 600 001, INDIA