

A PROJECT PROPOSAL FOR A FORMATION HOUSE

Purpose: - A formation house for young girls to grow in their Catholic faith.

Goal: - To provide a functional and inclusive space for worship, community programmes, and spiritual growth.

Brief History – Servants of Mary in India: - The first community of the Servants of Mary Congregation was established in India in 1981, at Panakahalli- a remote village near the forest, in the State of Tamilnadu, Erode district, within the diocese of Ooty .It was an area where people were not yet known Jesus.

Our first and foremost mission was to make Jesus known among them. Since then we have continued our efforts in faith formation as well as in promoting social development particularly through education. We always listen to the needs of the hour and respond to them as part of our charism transmitted by our Founder **Fr. Louis Edward Cestac**.

Today our mission extended to several States across India including, Andhra Pradesh, Tamilnadu, Karnataka, Kerala and Chhattisgarh. The main focus of our mission is the empowerment of women and girls through pastoral ministry, faith formation, Youth Ministry, Monica Group (a prayer group for mothers), health care, family apostolate, caring for the differently abled as well as the home for women in distress, education and geriatric care.

Introduction and Vision:-

Background: - Kotba is a remote village located in the Tribal belt area at the boarder of three states - Odisha, Chhattisgarh and Jharkhand. On June 29th 2004 Kotba was declared a full pledged Parish. The parish consists of 18 sub-stations, with about 450 families and 2500 Catholics spread over a 20km radius. It is a remote area with a various mission possibilities, especially family apostolate, catechism, Faith formation and education. We need to actively participate in all the activities of the Parish. At present there is a Parish priest who administers the Sacraments.

Three of our sisters have been working for the past three years. They are involved in Parish work, faith formation, preparing children and youth for

various sacraments such as marriage rectification, basic catechism and foundational education. As the villages are quite far from the main parish and the traveling facilities are limited. At present, we accompany Parish priest, who has a four wheeler, to visit the sub-stations and administer the sacraments. Once every two weeks, we visit the villages to distribute Holy Communion to the sick and elderly. We use a two - wheeler sponsored by "Communio" for this purpose.

It is a challenging mission we have taken to propagate our catholic faith among people of different religions and cultures and languages. The majority of the people in this are Hindu extremist. In this context we have taken up this mission to make Jesus known. To fulfill our mission we have introduced various programmes such as faith formation sessions, youth camps, Home mission, and the Monica group (a prayer group for mothers).

Priorities: We the sisters are very much involved with the people in our Christian community. During this time, we have been receiving girls from the local area who wish to join us and become members of the Servants of Mary. At present there are six young girls with us for their formation. Our plan to keep these girls here for one year, and we expect a similar number of girls to join each year from this region. Their faith is very simple and we aim to deepen it through indifferent means such as catechism, basic prayers, Bible classes, language learning, and lessons on history, charism and spirituality of the Congregation. Currently for the sisters to stay the Diocese has constructed a building.

We plan to build an additional structure for young girls on the top of this building. At present the Diocese is not in a position to construct it, so we are seeking the help of well-wishers and generous sponsors.

Budget: – The proposed building will include a Dormitory, multipurpose hall, one bed room with attached toilet, Corridor and common toilets.

Funding sources- Total cost is Rs.1500000/.

Local contribution -15%

Contribution from Congregation 30%.

Balance required 55% (Rs 750000/-) needed for the completion of construction.

Time Line

Division of the rooms and concreting - Three months.

The first phase will include the division of the rooms, wall works, and concreting, to be completed within three months.

Interior works: Three months.

This phase will cover windows, electrical and plumbing works, and tiling, to be completed within three months.

Monitoring and Evaluation: - The congregation will appoint a sister as the supervisor to monitor the progress of the work. Updates on the works, progress will be regularly communicated to the association and the Congregation via WhatsApp or e-mail.

Conclusion: - We humbly submit this project proposal for your kind consideration. Trusting in the providence of the Almighty, we firmly believe that God will work through you to guide and bless this initiative. Your zeal for evangelization and the propagation of faith will, we hope, continue to inspire and support us in completing this project, as we strive to carry forward our mission for the greater glory of God.

We look forward to your favorable response and assure you of our prayers for you, your family and the association to which you belong.

Thanking you,

Yours faithfully.

Sherly Varghese

Sr.Sherly Varghese.

Regional Superior

For the Congregation of Servants of Mary.

Bangalore,

Date: 20-11-2025.

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