



## RÍMSKOKATOLÍCKA CIRKEV, FARNOSŤ BOŽSKÉHO SRDCA JEŽIŠOVHO, KORŇA

IČO: 37801252  
✉ Vyšná Korňa 886,  
023 21 Korňa  
[www.zivcakova.sk](http://www.zivcakova.sk)



☎ +421 414 356 211  
+421 905 449 625  
mail: [mahrik@rcc.sk](mailto:mahrik@rcc.sk)

Korňa, August 27th, 2012

Re: Plea for financial help

Dear Friends,

Our parish, Korňa, is located in the North of Slovakia, in the district of Čadca. We are a part of the Žilina diocese. Our parish is rather young, it was created by splitting from the parish of Turzovka on July 1st, 2000. We have about 2100 inhabitants. There is a famous place of pilgrimage – the Živčákova Mountain – in our parish. The mountain was declared a Virgin Mary place of pilgrimage and a place of prayer by the diocesan bishop, H. E. Tomáš Galis, who did so by his decree on September 18th, 2008. The top of the mountain is 756 metres above the sea level. The history of this place of pilgrimage started on June 1st, 1958, when Mr. Matuš Lašut, a local gamekeeper, had an apparition of the Virgin Mary. In that very year, the century of Marian apparitions was celebrated in Lourdes, France. Since 1958, the Živčákova Mountain started to be visited by believers – at first from the nearest vicinity, then from more distant areas and even from abroad. Not even the totalitarian communist regime could prevent people from coming. The numbers of pilgrims kept growing – despite the fact that the official state authorities had been burning religious paintings and statues and intimidating and persecuting the pilgrims. The intimidation intensified at the times of regular Marian celebrations. Mr. Lašut himself was investigated by the communist police and treated in a psychiatric ward several times. As years passed, thanks to perseverance of the pilgrims, the Živčákova Mountain became a place of prayer, consecrated by the sacrifices and prayers of the faithful. After the fall of the communist regime, H. E. Ján Chryzostom Cardinal Korec, those days the diocesan bishop, initiated construction of a chapel on the top of the Živčákova mountain – so that the Holy Mass could be regularly served there, especially on Sundays, and so that Jesus in the Eucharist could be permanently present and adored by the pilgrims. In the chapel, there is a statue of the Virgin Mary (by Mr. Lasak, a miner from Hlučín) and a painting of Mary and the little Jesus. During one of the communist raids in 1964, the painting was rescued from fire – damaged, but with the contours of Mary and the Child intact. The painting was restored by a German physician and returned to the chapel in 1994. As there are more and more pilgrims coming every year, the idea came up to build a big church on the top of the mountain. The petition in support of the plan was signed by 30.000 people. And so, with God's help – and after having received the consent by H. E. Tomáš Galis, the bishop of the Žilina diocese, and all the other official permits – we started to construct the pilgrimage church on the Živčákova Mountain on June 11th, 2009. Total construction budget of the church is 2.800.000 EUR; so far, we have spent 1.400.000,- EUR. The outside part of the tower is complete, including the bell. Top of the tower is decorated with a cross and a golden crown of the Virgin Mary. The roof above the whole building is also finished.



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Before the end of winter, we succeeded in installing all the windows. We decided not to install doors (despite the fact they had already been made) as they might get damaged during the construction; we'll install them when the construction reaches its final phase. In the church building, just above the sacristy, there are two flats for the priests who are responsible for spiritual administration of the place of pilgrimage. They started their work on June 1st, 2012.


We'd very much like to pay for the windows and the doors as soon as possible – the price amounts to 117.012,84 EUR. That is why we dare to ask for financial help. Our situation was worsened by the world economic crisis which resulted in palpable decrease of contributions from the pilgrims. So far, the construction has been funded solely by gifts from the pilgrims and financial collections among believers. We are repaying a loan of 660.000 EUR by the SLSP (Slovak Savings Bank) according to its repayment schedule, and are paying the constructor's invoices.

quarterly payments / year	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
march		30.179,51	24.600,48	22.725,34	24.742,20
june		64.914,89	63.072,47	61.325,18	63.286,14
september	66.304,51	64.261,00	62.466,14	60.69,93	
december	30.663,44	28.607,10	26.845,43	25.030,85	

Our next construction steps include the thermo-insulation of the church's ceiling and plastering of the inner walls. As soon as this is done, we'd like to install central heating system. It will gain heat from heat-pumps and its total price will be 228.840,- EUR.

That is why we do address all the people of good will to help us financially. In 2013, we will be celebrating 1150 years since the arrival of Cyril and Method – the saints who had brought Christian faith to our country. We'd like to celebrate the anniversary by consecrating the church of the Virgin Mary and opening it for the pilgrims. For this to happen, we need your help, dear friends and benefactors.

Thank you in advance for all your donations, let our Lord reward your generosity through the intercession of the Virgin Mary.

  
Ivan Mahrik,  
dean, parish priest



Banking info: SLSP Turzovka account number 0051981195/0900

IBAN: SK4009000000000051981195

BIC: GIBASKBX