



St. Elizabeth Mission Society

A Ministry of the Franciscan Sisters of Allegany, NY

Christmas 2014

Rejoice the Miracle of Christ's Birth!

“But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you, he is the Messiah, the Lord.” ~ Luke 2:10-11

Dear Friends,

As I reflect on the infancy narratives of Jesus Christ in the New Testament, several themes are apparent to me: fear of the unknown, miracles and hope. Christ’s birth, while at first causing apprehension for Joseph and the Virgin Mary, was a miracle that brought hope to all humanity for salvation.



A single mother and her children in Bolivia with Sisters Margaret Magee, Elvira Donaldson and Maria Miranda.



Our Sisters provided assistance to help this Bolivian family expand and finish their home.

I see some of the same themes in the work of our Franciscan Sisters of Allegany. As a newcomer to the St. Elizabeth Mission Society, I have been reading the history of our Sisters. Did you know that the Franciscan Sisters of Allegany were the **FIRST** American Congregation to establish a mission abroad? In 1879, the Sisters accepted a group of Scottish Franciscan tertiaries who were ministering in Jamaica into the Congregation, and they sent several Alleghanies to join them in Kingston. The Sisters ventured into Brazil, South America in 1946 and then began serving in Bolivia in 1965.

Please remember the following persons and intentions in the Mass at the Motherhouse Chapel on Christmas and in all the Masses to be celebrated during the Christmas Season.

Persons/Intentions

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

I imagine that these courageous Sisters all had a fear of the unknown when they were called to these foreign missions. However, they trusted in the Lord. While they may not perform “miracles” exactly, they bring hope to those living in extreme poverty and their loving influence is seen in schools, health care and their spiritual direction.

I’d like to introduce two of our Sisters who are currently serving in Bolivia: Sr. Maria Miranda, OSF and Sr. Elvira Donaldson, OSF. They staff our ministry in La Paz, Bolivia and reach out to the poor in the surrounding hillside townships in ministry and support – realizing the Chapter Initiatives of the Franciscan Sisters of Allegany! With them, walk thousands of supporters who can be part of their mission activities. Just as the Holy couple, Mary and Joseph, experienced their own miracle so many years ago, you could say that Sr. Maria and Sr. Elvira, as well as our many other Sisters in missions, bring small miracles to the poor they serve with the help of YOU, our benefactor.

On behalf of all the Franciscan missionaries of Allegany we wish to thank you for your generosity in providing the means for us to accomplish God’s work in serving the poor in Jamaica, Brazil, Bolivia and the United States. Please accept our Christmas card as our gift to you by indicating how many you would like in the form below.

Many Christmas Blessings,

Laura C. Whitford

Laura Whitford
President, St. Elizabeth Mission Society

2014 Christmas Card

Give the gift of prayer this Christmas by including your loved ones' intentions in Christmas masses at the Motherhouse Chapel.



*Rejoice
the
miracle!*

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- Luke 2:10-11

Inside message: “Celebrate With Joy the Wonder of Christ’s Birth! Praise and serve Him with great humility. (St. Francis) Blessed Christmas.”

Yes! I would like to help the Franciscan Sisters of Allegany reach out to the poor in Jamaica, Brazil, Bolivia and the U.S. I am enclosing my gift of:

_____ \$200 _____ \$100 _____ \$50 _____ \$25 _____ \$10 _____ Other

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

E-mail Address _____

Please send me a gift receipt for my 2014 contributions.

*Please send me _____
Christmas cards.*

Donations can also be made on our website, www.franciscanhope.org, using PayPal.