



*“The Journey is to follow the Star wherever it leads...”*

When Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, in the days of King Herod, behold, Magi from the east arrived saying, “where is the newborn King of the Jews? We saw his star at its rising and have come to do him homage.”  
Matthew 2:1-3

Dear Friends,

Much like the Magi who followed the star and came to Bethlehem long ago, two of our Brazilian sisters set out to follow the same star and came to the Amazon region to minister to the rural youth and homeless poor and bring them the good news of the Gospel.

In the parish of Our Lady of Nazareth-Lago Grande do Curuai in the Diocese of Santarem in Para, Brazil, a new mission is staffed by Sr. Mariana Barbosa de Souza, OSF and Sr. Maria da Paz de Jesus, OSF.



Sr. Maria taking an 8-hour boat trip on Curuai Lake to reach the mission area.

Dear Sister Chris,

*Yes, I would like to reach out to the poor to make their Christmas special.*

I am enclosing my gift of: \_\_\_\_\_\$200 \_\_\_\_\_\$100  
\_\_\_\_\_ \$50 \_\_\_\_\_ \$25 \_\_\_\_\_ \$10 \_\_\_\_\_ \$

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State & Zip \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail Address \_\_\_\_\_



A Christmas Gift  
You and your intentions  
will be remembered in a Mass  
to be celebrated on Christmas Eve  
in the Motherhouse Chapel  
of the Franciscan Sisters  
as well as Masses  
celebrated throughout the year.

*and believe that the  
God who loves us,  
is with us...always.*

\*\*Please send me \_\_\_\_\_ Christmas Cards.

In this very poor area of 63 riverain and urban communities the sisters contribute to the religious, human and social formation of the people as well as direct environmental workshops.

St. Elizabeth Mission Society recently awarded two grants to provide food, medicine, housing and transportation. In addition, another grant funded the “Organic Vegetable Garden.” The goal of this project was to teach needy women how to produce healthier food for their families.

Once again it is Christmas time and our work especially during this time consists of giving monetary gifts to our missions. This helps the sisters assist the poor and homeless families they serve to make their Christmas *special*.

You, our benefactors, know all about this ministry because you have been so generous throughout the years providing the means for us to accomplish it.



Everyone is attending the workshop offered by the Sisters.

And, for this and so much more we say **THANK YOU**.

So as you journey out to visit family and friends this Holy Season, as the Magi visited Jesus bearing gifts and as our sisters bearing gifts in our mission countries, please know that the prayers and blessings of the Franciscan Sisters of Allegany will accompany you always.

May yours be a Blessed Christmas believing that the God who loves us, the *Star* of Bethlehem, will lead us always!

Lovingly,  
*Sr. M. Chris Doherty, OSF*  
 Sr. M. Chris Doherty, OSF  
 St. Elizabeth Mission Society Director



Sr. Maria and Sr. Mariana traveling in town using local transportation.

*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**

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

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