



St. Elizabeth Mission Society

A Ministry of the Franciscan Sisters of Allegany, NY

Living the Gospel by Joyfully Serving Others in Jamaica

Dear Benefactors,

On Saturday, June 13 we will celebrate the Feast of Saint Anthony of Padua and commemorate a true missionary and Franciscan. Saint Anthony is one of the most well-loved and universal saints in the Church. Known for many miracles during his lifetime and for even more after his death in 1231, he is now the patron saint of lost articles, poverty, debt and Portugal (his home country).

Many of you may have petitioned Saint Anthony, especially when you have lost something! However, if you take the time to look into his history, you will find Saint Anthony was a man who lived the Gospel like our Lord Jesus Christ by living simply, traveling and preaching, calling for social justice, creating reform for those in debt, and for having a special love for the poor and oppressed.

I recently had the opportunity to visit our Sisters in Jamaica and witness their love for those who are poor. This love manifests itself in many different ways. Sr. Maureen Clare, OSF provides comfort to mostly elderly people and others who can't help themselves through her "Back Door Ministry." Sr. Grace Yap, OSF brings medical

Feast of St. Anthony of Padua 2015



Sr. Maureen Clare, OSF (pictured) oversees the "Back Door Ministry" at Immaculate Conception Convent in Jamaica. Kingston's very poor, especially the elderly, receive food, clothes, medicine and a meal once a month.



Sr. Grace Yap, OSF empowers communities to help its citizens rise above the struggles of poverty. She is pictured here with Braes River community leaders.

Persons/Intentions

Please remember the following persons and intentions in the St. Anthony Feast Day Mass at the St. Elizabeth Motherhouse Chapel in Allegany, NY.

- Family Peace* *Youth Guidance* *Employment* *Peace* *Good Health*
 Spiritual Help *Happy Marriage* *Motherhood* *Recovery of Lost Items*

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help and coordinates the building of new houses in the poorest sections of Kingston and surrounding areas. She also gives young men the hope of a positive future by employing them at Porziuncula Farm. When I asked both Sr. Maureen and Sr. Grace how they do so much with so very little, they both said the same thing, "God is good," and were very humble about the blessings they had received over the years.

I also visited seven schools where our Sisters still have a presence. At every school, the children knew the Sister who was touring me, and you could see the love and joy on their faces. I watched a five year old perform a dramatic speech about a person who is frustrated about being overlooked and cast aside. When I asked her teacher how someone so small could perform with such passion, she said that she might witness violence in her poor living conditions.

As vowed members, Associates, donors and partners of the Franciscan Sisters of Allegany, we are called to proclaim the Gospel, be witness to God's love, and joyfully serve others, especially the poor, just like Saint Anthony. It is only through your generosity, our dear benefactors, that our Sisters in Jamaica, Brazil, Bolivia and the U.S. are able to offer their loving ministries of education, health care and compassion for those who are poor.

We will honor Saint Anthony of Padua on June 13 with a Mass in thanksgiving for all the blessings, graces and gifts received from God through his intercession. We invite you to list your needs and concerns on this form so that we may place your intentions on the altar.

"For it is in giving that we receive..."

Laura C. Whitford

Laura Whitford
President, St. Elizabeth Mission Society



Sr. Teresita DeSouza, OSF (pictured) has ministered in Jamaican education for many years as a teacher, principal and school board member. When she visits the schools, the children all call out her name and run to give her hugs.



Laura Whitford (pictured) with St. Francis Infant/Primary School students. Mission Society funding supports the "Feeding Program" at four Jamaican schools to provide lunch to students who can't afford it.



A St. Anthony statue in our Mission Society offices watches over your intentions daily in the gold box. On his feast day, your intentions will be placed on the altar for a special Mass.

Yes! I would like to help the Franciscan Sisters of Allegany reach out to those who are 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 _____ Ph _____

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