



# St. Elizabeth Mission Society

*A Ministry of the Franciscan Sisters of Allegany, NY*

## *Leading Women from Homelessness to Home*

*The Dwelling Place of NY celebrates 40 years of ministry*

Dear Friend,

Behind an unassuming door on West 40<sup>th</sup> Street in Manhattan is a ministry that has led 3,000 women from homelessness to home. In the 1970s, five Franciscan Sisters of Allegany were looking for a simpler lifestyle and moved to New York City. This was at a time in the city's history when homelessness was becoming a problem, and "bag ladies" could be seen in the streets and in the main transportation hubs. After witnessing a woman eating out of a garbage can one day, one of the Sisters knew what their ministry would be - to be a beacon of hope, a place of love and comfort, and a home for women without homes.

Today, The Dwelling Place provides shelter for 15 women at a time who receive two daily meals and weekly meetings with a case manager who helps them set goals. Each of the women is given a sense of dignity by having their own bed and a place for their personal things in a closet and night stand. They have to leave at 10 a.m. every day to work or find jobs. Many are ordinary women who have lost their jobs, suffered an illness or something else that has upset the fine balance of their finances and resulted in eviction.

**Feast of St. Anthony of Padua 2017**



**The Dwelling Place of NY** welcomes each and every woman as a guest despite her race, religion or background; offers hot meals and shelter from the cold; provides services that support independence; creates a safe place for women to re-energize, refresh and renew as they rebuild their lives; and is a voice for women who cannot be heard, the homeless, the hungry, the hurting.

### *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
- Spiritual Help     Happy Marriage     Motherhood     Good Health
- Recovery of Lost items

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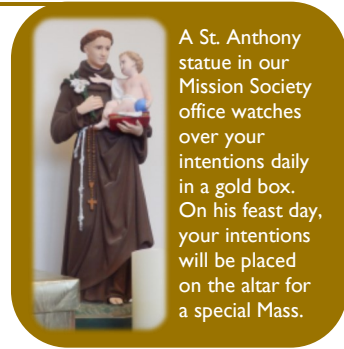
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A St. Anthony statue in our Mission Society office watches over your intentions daily in a gold box. On his feast day, your intentions will be placed on the altar for a special Mass.

I learned this story when I recently attended the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration of The Dwelling Place of NY and visited their ministry. Or, as founder and case manager Sr. Nancy Chiarello, OSF, says, "It wasn't a ministry, it was a way of life. It was of God." From the very beginning, God's hand was evident when the Franciscan Sisters gave their blessing, even though they had decided they weren't starting any more ministries, and when the Diocese changed its mind about selling the building so The Dwelling Place could be housed there.

Since 1999, St. Elizabeth Mission Society has provided The Dwelling Place with \$40,000 in grant funding to help with the residents' meals as well as the Wednesday night Community Dinner that welcomes former residents, elderly neighbors living on fixed incomes, and women who are living on the streets. The Mission Society has also chosen The Dwelling Place as this year's recipient of \$200 per month for its ongoing support of a U.S. mission.

I find it fitting to feature The Dwelling Place for this year's Feast of St. Anthony because his special love for those who are poor earned him his role as the patron saint of poverty. Have you ever found yourself in need of help from others? Perhaps someone reached out a hand when you needed it the most. St. Anthony challenged people of his time to give alms to the poor, even adopting a life of complete poverty, just like Jesus and St. Francis, so they would take him seriously. I ask you to please consider a gift to help someone who desperately needs the basic foundations of life - food and shelter.

We celebrate St. Anthony's Feast Day on Tuesday, June 13 by offering a Mass in thanksgiving for all the blessings, graces and gifts received from God through his intercession. Please list your concerns on this form so that we may place your intentions on the altar.

In the name of those who are poor,

*Laura C. Whitford*

Laura Whitford  
President, St. Elizabeth Mission Society



Sr. Nancy Chiarello, OSF, (right) with one of the residents at the one window seat in the house. It is a favorite spot for the women with its plants and comfy chairs, making them feel like they have a small piece of home every day.



"To be safe is the biggest thing, and to have a place to call home," says Director Sr. Joann Sams, CSA, who is pictured (left) here with two of the founding members, Lynn Sennett and Gerry Mullen. (right) "Some women don't even know how to lay down when they first come here."



**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:**

<input type="checkbox"/> \$200	<input type="checkbox"/> \$25
<input type="checkbox"/> \$100	<input type="checkbox"/> \$10
<input type="checkbox"/> \$50	<input type="checkbox"/> Other \$ _____

Please make checks payable to: **St. Elizabeth Mission Society**

### *What's your legacy?*

Please consider including the St. Elizabeth Mission Society in your estate planning. Gifts to our Endowment Fund further our work for future generations.

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

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

**Donations can also be made on our website, [www.FranciscanHope.org](http://www.FranciscanHope.org), using PayPal or via PayPal Giving Fund at [www.paypal.com/fundraiser/hub](http://www.paypal.com/fundraiser/hub).**