

“On either side of the river grew the tree of life that produces fruit twelve times a year, once each month; the leaves of the trees serve as medicine for the nations.” – Revelation 22:2



Everything Grows with Love

St. Elizabeth Mission Society

# TREE OF LIFE

— Honor a Life . . . Help those who are Poor —

Supporting the ministries of the Franciscan Sisters of Allegany, NY since 1947

Dear Friends of the Franciscan Sisters of Allegany,



**Throughout all ages, to all men, to all religions, trees have stood as symbols of life.**

Our first Tree of Life was established in 1998 to commemorate the Mission Society's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary and to honor those people who have a direct connection to the Franciscan Sisters of Allegany, NY and their ministries. It consists of 567 leaves engraved with the names of the living as well as the deceased.

We are proud to announce that this tree is completely full and has planted the roots for the growth of our next tree. These trees are beautiful pieces of art and symbolism that stand prominently in the foyer of the lower level of the St. Elizabeth Motherhouse, just outside the Mission Society office.

**Help our NEW Tree of Life blossom!** Commemorate a joyous event (like a birthday, wedding or anniversary) or memorialize a loved one with a permanent dedication. **Your gift for a leaf (\$250), acorn (\$1,000), branch (\$1,500) or stone (\$2,000) allows you to leave a lasting legacy.** Donations made to the Tree of Life giving program assist us in helping the Sisters continue to serve those who are poor, homeless, sick and hungry in Brazil, Bolivia, Jamaica and the United States.

Through your gift, the growth of our **NEW Tree of Life** will make it possible for you to have a significant and meaningful part in one of man's noblest endeavors – that of relieving human suffering.

Peace and all good,

*Laura C. Whitford*

President  
St. Elizabeth Mission Society



### ONE LEAF HELPS CHILDREN...

President Laura Whitford (center back), visits with children at NACRI Community Center in Anapolis, Brazil where \$250/month is sent to help children with school work, arts/crafts, and other social services.



## TREE OF LIFE

### A LASTING TRIBUTE

Honor or memorialize a loved one or your family with this beautiful expression of your love.



Each person named on the tree will share in the ministry of the Franciscan Sisters of Allegany at home and abroad and receive **Perpetual Mission Society Spiritual Benefits.** (see other side)

The name(s) will be engraved, per donor preference, and placed on the **NEW** tree for all to see and remember.



**ST. ELIZABETH MISSION SOCIETY**

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**BOLIVIA • BRAZIL • JAMAICA • UNITED STATES**

# HOW YOUR DONATION IS USED:

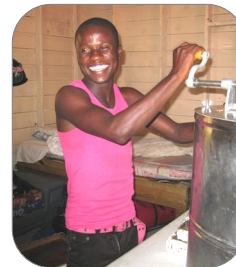
Each year, through the generosity of donors like you, the St. Elizabeth Mission Society allocates funds (as grants or monthly support) to projects in which the Franciscan Sisters of Allegany and their partners in ministry are actively engaged. Below are a few examples of how these funds are used . . .



## HONEY HOUSE AT PORZIUNCOLA FARM

Franciscan Ministries Braes River, Jamaica Sr. Grace Yap, OSF

Porziuncola Farm is a project to assist poor young men and women from the Braes River area. It is organic (*not certified*) and protects and promotes bees and their honey. As primarily a training ground in entrepreneurship, its goal is to become a sustainable business for the people. The main product is honey, and the process of bottling it needs to be sanitary to pass government inspection. A "Honey House" was constructed to meet this need with help from Mission Society funding.



## FORMING AND EVANGELIZING WITH LOVE

Centro Comunitário Aliança – NACRI Anápolis, Brazil Sr. Aldenir Mota Ribeiro, OSF

NACRI is a social community center in Anapolis, Brazil for at-risk youth. Funding from the Mission Society supports classes to help the children and adolescents with their school work, arts and crafts and other social services. Perhaps the most important part is the work of evangelization – extending this to the families residing in the area and to the children and adolescents of the NACRI.

## PERSONAL HYGIENE FOR THE DISENFRANCHISED

Daystar Life Center, Inc. St. Petersburg, FL Sr. Marita Flynn, OSF

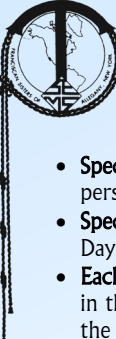
The Center's mission is to provide the basic necessities of life to their neighbors in need. Staying clean is a daily struggle for the poor and homeless. More often than not, these individuals lack a safe place to wash up and the toiletries needed to do so. Lack of hygiene affects their dignity and self-worth, impacts their ability to gain or maintain employment, and can lead to many harmful diseases and infections. Mission Society funding helps provide these items.



## GIVING WHAT IS RECEIVED

La Paz, Bolivia Sr. Elvira Donaldson, OSF and Sr. Maria Miranda, OSF

Our Sisters ministering in Bolivia receive monthly support from the Mission Society in the amount of \$800/mo. to conduct their ministry to the poor and marginalized. Funds are used to subsidize programs to serve the poor, such as families in need of food, clothing, medical supplies and transportation to school. An important part of their ministry is to teach the word of God to all, especially the young children.



### SPIRITUAL ENROLLMENT BENEFITS

Each person(s) named on the Tree of Life will share in the ministry of the Franciscan Sisters of Allegany and their partners at home and abroad and receive **Perpetual Mission Society Spiritual Benefits**, which include:

- **Special Masses offered twice a month** in the Motherhouse Chapel for the intentions of the person enrolled and all other members of the Mission Society.
- **Special Masses are also offered on** Christmas Eve, Easter, Feast of St. Anthony, All Souls' Day and Feast of St. Elizabeth of Hungary.
- **Each day, Members are remembered** in the Mass celebrated in the Motherhouse Chapel, in the prayers of the Motherhouse Sisters, and in the Masses and prayers of the Sisters in the Missions.
- **The special intentions of Members are also remembered** throughout the Christmas and Easter seasons; during the month of June honoring St. Anthony; and during the month of November, remembering the deceased.



**THANK YOU FOR HONORING A LIFE . . . AND HELPING THOSE WHO ARE POOR . . .**