



# St. Elizabeth Mission Society

A Ministry of the Franciscan Sisters of Allegany, NY

Summer 2019

## Building Community in Brazil

*"I have done what was mine to do; may Christ teach you what you are to do."* – St. Francis of Assisi

Dear

If you spend time with Franciscans, at some point you will probably hear them say, "I did what was mine to do." This common phrase is taken from St. Francis' deathbed quote. Our Sisters begin and end ministries in different areas based on the needs of the people. As part of this process, they work with local people to develop community leaders and programs that will continue after they leave.

Last year, our Sisters closed a small convent they had in Goianorte in the state of Tocantins, Brazil. Our Sisters were the first ones to offer health care in the town. For almost 20 years, they worked with the local people to develop a health care clinic, which the Mission Society had supported over the years. The government decided that it could better manage health care in the state and built a new clinic in town.

When I visited in late 2017, the Sisters' clinic had recently closed. This saddened me, but Sr. Valdete said, "I did what was mine to do. I took care of my part. I embraced the people of Goianorte." She felt it was the government's responsibility to administer health care. She continued to visit new mothers and their babies (right) and give advice until she moved.



**Helping Rural Families in Rio dos Bois**  
The Mission Society supports food baskets that Sr. Paz (R) brings to families in rural areas.



**Visiting New Mothers in Goianorte**  
Sr. Valdete (L) and ministry partner Maria Abadia (R) visit a young mother (pink shirt) to check on the health of her newborn.

St. Elizabeth Mission Society

### Summer Raffle

Drawing held  
Sept. 6, 2019

1<sup>st</sup> Prize: \$500 2<sup>nd</sup> Prize: \$200 3<sup>rd</sup> Prize: \$100

Please complete your information on the back.

St. Elizabeth Mission Society

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Please complete your information on the back.

Please remember the following

*Persons and Intentions* in the Sisters' prayers.

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Return completed raffle ticket to:

ST. ELIZABETH MISSION SOCIETY, INC.

P.O. Box 86, Allegany, NY 14706

Phone: 716-373-1130 • Fax: 716-373-9324

E-mail: StElizMission@FSAllegany.org • Website: www.FranciscanHope.org

Last year our Sisters started a new ministry in Rio dos Bois, Tocantins at the local bishop's request because much help was needed in this area. Sr. Maria da Paz "Paz" de Jesus and Sr. Valdeci Ribeiro da Silva have been working closely with about 250 adults, young people and children in seven rural and urban communities in the Miracema diocese. They help develop leadership—in the community, in the church and in their own homes—and focus on living the Gospel in human and fraternal relations.

Mission Society ongoing support of \$100/month supports assistance to local families in need (see photo on front) in the form of food and fuel to reach settlements in remote areas, as well as training materials and snacks for Bible study, the Children's Pastoral program (see photo below), youth groups and other leadership programs. A 2018 grant for \$5,000 also assisted with the start up of these leadership programs.

For this year's Raffle appeal, please consider giving in support of our Sisters' foreign missionary work. Every month we send \$800 to Bolivia, \$1,800 to Brazil and \$1,800 to Jamaica to help with food, medicine and education. In gratitude for your generous support throughout the entire year, we would like to include your name in our Summer Raffle. Please complete the tickets below, and return them before September 6 for a chance to win.

May Christ reveal what is "yours to do,"

*Laura C. Whitford*

Laura Whitford  
President, St. Elizabeth Mission Society



**Teaching Parents and Children in Rio dos Bois**  
Sr. Valdeci (top) and Sr. Paz (left) teach parenting skills and catechism to parents and children. Mission Society monthly funding and a 2018 grant supports our Sisters' children's pastoral care program.

## 2018 Summer Raffle Helps Sisters' Foreign Missions



Sr. Mary Conboy (a former Bolivian missionary) draws winning ticket with Laura Whitford, Mission Society President.

Thank you to the generous donors who responded to our appeal last summer. A special thank you goes to Sr. Mary for drawing the lucky raffle winners, who are listed below. All donations support the Sisters' foreign ministries.

- 1<sup>st</sup> Prize: **Jeannette Roback**  
*Clinton, NY*
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Prize: **Barbara J. Joyce**  
*Collingswood, NJ*
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Prize: **Sr. Catherine Moran, OSF**  
*Bronx, NY*



**Yes!** I would like to help the Franciscan Sisters of Allegany reach out to those who are poor in Jamaica, Brazil and Bolivia.

**I am enclosing my gift of:**

- \$200       \$100       \$30  
 \$150       \$50       Other \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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

**PLEASE PRINT:**

NAME \_\_\_\_\_  
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