



St. Elizabeth Mission Society

A Ministry of the Franciscan Sisters of Allegany, NY

Feast of Saint Anthony of Padua 2020

Promoting Solidarity in Our Time

“There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free person, there is not male and female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus.” – Galatians 3:28

Dear

The world has changed greatly since the start of this year. The Mission Society had to move our operations out of the Motherhouse in Allegany, NY in March, but the mission continues! I’m so thankful to report that our Sisters are safe and well, as I hope you are, too. Please be assured that our Sisters are offering daily prayers for the world and all of our benefactors. Whether it’s writing cards, visiting a neighbor through their window, or delivering food and supplies, our Sisters are still very active in their ministries.

We all know the realities in which we are living. Many in our world are suffering, but I’m inspired by the outpouring of love I have seen in many places. The term “solidarity” continues to come to mind as I hear stories of how people are using this time to take care of people in their communities. Solidarity is recognizing others as our brothers and sisters and working for their good. We are all one, single human family. Solidarity is moving through suffering with people. It is not a temporary act.

Our Brazilian Sisters frequently speak about solidarity. I



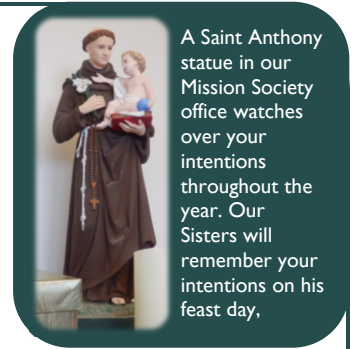
Sr. Maria José Monteiro, OSF makes home visits as part of the social assistance program in Anápolis, GO, Brazil. The Mission Society provides \$250/month for food baskets for unemployed families, medicine, health care, medical exams, school supplies & job training.

“Many people have been lifted from extreme poverty with this help. People who were sick are today working and taking care of their children. Some managed to get houses to live in and many children are no longer malnourished due to this monthly aid. We must continue this work.”

Persons/Intentions

Please remember the following persons and intentions in the Sisters’ prayers at the St. Elizabeth Motherhouse in Allegany, NY during Saint Anthony Feast Day.

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



A Saint Anthony statue in our Mission Society office watches over your intentions throughout the year. Our Sisters will remember your intentions on his feast day,



could see it in action when I visited. Many of them feel called to live and work among the very poorest of the poor. Sr. Maria José (front) has been active in various ministries, but she is happiest when she is helping those who are poor.

This important work needs to continue this year! Every month, the Mission Society provides \$4,400 to support ministries in Brazil, Jamaica and Bolivia. This funding provides much needed food and medicine to many families; diapers and health care for young mothers; school supplies, uniforms, tuition and lunch programs for students; job skills training; and religious education. Additionally, four of our Sisters will be starting a mission in Mozambique, Africa, and the Mission Society will be awarding \$60,000 in grants this summer.

I am asking for your help. It is only through your generosity that our Franciscan Sisters of Allegany and their partners in ministry are able to offer their loving ministries. Sr. Aparecida Maria Guimarães, who ministers in Ceres in the state of Goiás in Brazil, says it well:

“We thank the Mission Society for its generosity and kindness by sending this monthly budget that provides considerable help for the underprivileged people in the communities where we work. It is a way for the Congregation to extend a living example of solidarity among the poor, contributing to the improvement of the quality of life of the people benefitted by the program. Thank you very much.”

Saint Anthony is the patron saint of poverty and debt. That’s why the St. Elizabeth Mission Society specially celebrates his Feast Day on June 13 by offering prayers in thanksgiving for all the blessings, graces and gifts received from God through his intercession. Please list your concerns on this form so that our Sisters may remember them in their prayers. I implore you to consider helping even after the Feast so we can continue making a difference in the lives of so many.

May we all walk in solidarity with our fellow brothers and sisters,

Laura

Laura Whitford
President, St. Elizabeth Mission Society



Sr. Maureen Clare Hall, OSF (back) in Kingston, Jamaica continues her St. Francis Outreach program to 145 people during the pandemic. The Mission Society provides \$150/month for this monthly program that provides food and medicine to local people in need.

“The people so need the help at this time! The Lord sent us some extra money so each one was able to get a good-sized bun and a wedge of cheese.”



João da Silva Lima Rego, 76, in Araguacema, TO, Brazil suffers from hypertension, kidney stones and depression. Mission Society support of \$200/month helps our Sisters bring food and medicine to him and his family.



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

I am enclosing my gift of: \$200 \$50
 \$150 \$30
 \$100 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. Naming us as a beneficiary in your will, life insurance policy or retirement plan will further our work for future generations.

E-mail _____

Phone _____

Donations can also be made on our website, www.FranciscanHope.org, using PayPal or via PayPal Giving Fund at www.paypal.com/fundraiser/hub.