



St. Elizabeth Mission Society

A Ministry of the Franciscan Sisters of Allegany, NY

Christmas 2020

God Is With Us

“Behold, the virgin shall be with child and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel, which means ‘God is with us.’” – Matthew 1:23

Dear

When Joseph was betrothed to Mary, he learned that she was pregnant. In those times, an engagement was as binding as a marriage, and being a “righteous man,” he was going to discretely divorce her rather than publicly shame her. However, Joseph was visited by an angel in a dream, who told him that she had conceived through the Holy Spirit and to proceed with the marriage. This son, to be called Jesus, would save his people from their sins. The angel said that this birth would fulfill the prophecy that “a virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel (which means, God with us).”

This brief line is so comforting - “God is with us.” It tells us that God kept His promise to send us salvation. He didn’t forget us. He came to us through Jesus. This is still true today. In so many ways, we can see how God is with us as our Sisters bring comfort to those who are poor.

Besides the programs highlighted in the photos, I would also like to mention our Brazilian Sisters’ social assistance and instruction program in Anápolis, Goiás called AFIA.



The Warming House in Olean, NY received a Mission Society grant for a new commercial range. This student-run soup kitchen serves hot meals 6 days/week and opens early for guests to read, knit, socialize, and get warm or cool. The guests struggle to find work, earn a living wage, and care for themselves and their families.

“We’re very grateful to the Mission Society. It’s so nice having a range that allows us to focus on caring for our guests rather than worry about if the oven will work each day.”
– Sr. Barbara Bartkowiak, OSF

Christmas Intentions

Please remember the following persons and intentions in the Christmas Eve Mass at the St. Elizabeth Motherhouse Chapel in Allegany, NY and in all the Masses celebrated during the Christmas Season.

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____



People visit the main convent every month to learn craft skills for income, receive food baskets, socialize and more. Our Sisters also visit community members and help in many ways. All of this is supported by the Mission Society's monthly assistance as well as grants. Program organizer Sr. Isa Maria Batista shared the account of Cláudia, who is 43 years old and a mother of two children.

"I thank the Sisters a lot because they always help me when I need it. I received construction material when I began to build my shed: doors, windows and tiles. I also got glasses for my son who has a vision problem, as well as medicine, clothes and food. If the Sisters weren't helping me, I would never have been able to have a place to live."

On behalf of all the Franciscan Sisters of Allegany and their partners in ministry, thank you for your generosity in helping them accomplish God's work in serving those who are poor in Jamaica, Brazil, Bolivia and the United States. We wish for your family to have a Christmas filled with peace and joy. **Please prayerfully consider a gift that will bring the love of Christ to so many of our neighbors in need.**

May we all feel that God is with us this Christmas,

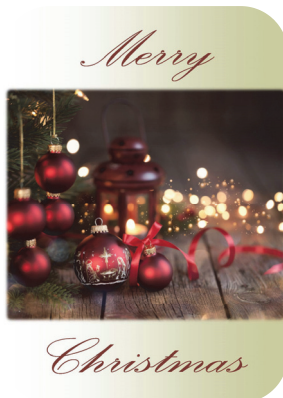
Laura

Laura Whitford, President

2020 Christmas Card

Give the gift of prayer this Christmas by including your loved ones' intentions in Christmas Masses at the Motherhouse Chapel.

Please accept our Christmas card as our gift to you by indicating how many you would like in the form below.



Celebrating Life - NACRI Community Center (Anápolis, GO, Brazil) Mission Society monthly support provides snacks for special celebrations, like this monthly party for the children celebrating their birthdays.



College Scholarships (La Paz, Bolivia) A Mission Society grant helps young women attend college with assistance for tuition, books and transportation. The Sisters believe this helps young people rise from poverty.

CHRISTMAS CARD INSIDE MESSAGE:

Matthew 1:23 verse

Wishing you a Christmas filled with the peace and joy of His love



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"/> \$50
<input type="checkbox"/> \$150	<input type="checkbox"/> \$30
<input type="checkbox"/> \$100	<input type="checkbox"/> Other \$ _____

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

Please send me _____
Christmas cards.

E-mail _____

Phone _____

Donations can also be made on our website, www.FranciscanHope.org



A day to raise awareness, collect donations, and continue changing the world for the better!

Go to www.CattaraugusGives.org and search **St. Elizabeth Mission Society.**