



St. Elizabeth Mission Society

A Ministry of the Franciscan Sisters of Allegany, NY

Fall 2021

Give and It Will Be Given to You

"Give and gifts will be given to you. A good portion - packed down, shaken and overflowing - will fall into your lap. For the portion you give will determine the portion you receive in return." – Luke 6:38

Dear

As our monthly support and grant reports have been coming in the last several months, we're continuing to see the affects of the COVID-19 pandemic. Most of the greatest concerns can be seen in the areas of education and basic human needs. Unemployment, coupled with rising costs due to inflation, has caused much suffering for families in Brazil, Jamaica and the United States, and it's not ending yet.

Jamaican schools closed last year for in-person learning creating not only technological challenges for the students and teachers, but also unemployment worries for the teachers. In Kingston, a grant to Alvernia Prep helped purchase computers to assist with remote learning and kept the students engaged. Monthly support helped St. Joseph's Infant School with face shields (see photo on reverse), as well as helping re-employ teachers in arts programs (music, dance, speech and sign language) in the virtual classroom. In Olean, New York, a Mission Society grant purchased whiteboards for Southern Tier Catholic Schools (reverse).



Unemployment Relief – Bom Jesus da Lapa (Bahia, Brazil) This ministry received \$150/month plus a grant of \$5,000 to help our Sisters provide personal hygiene & cleaning supplies, mattresses, school supplies, clothing and food for families in extreme poverty during the pandemic.

"The monthly support has greatly helped our ability to meet the needs of very poor families, especially families with many children. It also helped us to become better acquainted with the reality of those members of the community who have been left without work and without basic conditions for survival." – Sisters Maria José, Mariana & Clêusa

Departed Loved Ones to Be Remembered

Please remember the following persons on All Souls' Day (November 2) and all the Masses offered during the month of November at the St. Elizabeth Motherhouse Chapel in Allegany, NY.



The Mission Society provides a total of \$1,800 per month to ten of our Brazilian Sisters' ministries. Many of these ministries are so very critical to the health and well being of the people involved. Our Sisters and their partners make personal visits to families living in extreme poverty, many of them in very rural areas. These families already have difficulties receiving proper health care and feeding their families, but the pandemic has worsened their conditions. Assistance comes in the form of food baskets, baby clothes, diapers, maternal care, dental work, doctor's appointments, medicines, the creation of vegetable gardens, school supplies and fuel for visits. Not only has unemployment increased these basic human needs, but there has been more demand for personal hygiene and cleaning supplies, medicines for victims of COVID, and materials to make masks.

One example of this dire situation can be seen in Macajuba, Bahia, where our Sisters receive \$250/month to help 117 families.

"During 2020, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, poverty in the municipality of Macajuba suffered a massive increase. Many of the unemployed, as well as several families, who had migrated to the south/southeast of the country in search of better living conditions, returned to Macajuba without a job, without any source of income, without housing. These funds were then used to support families during this very difficult time, providing urgent relief of hunger. I am extremely grateful for the help. In this very challenging time, it has helped us to provide relief and, in this way, reveal the presence of God to these families."
 – Sister Lilian Cristina

If you feel that God has blessed your life, I humbly ask you to consider sharing this blessing with others so that they may find comfort during this distressing era. It is only through your generosity that our Franciscan Sisters of Allegany and their partners in ministry are able to offer their loving ministries.

Blessings on your family during this season,

Laura

Laura Whitford, President



Mission Society support of \$250/month helped teachers at St. Joseph's Infant School in Kingston, Jamaica purchase protective face shields to periodically meet with students for consultations during the pandemic.



A grant to Southern Tier Catholic Schools in Olean, New York purchased interactive whiteboards to enhance classroom learning and educate students on more "high-tech" equipment that they struggled with during the COVID-19 shutdown.

"Whenever we have the opportunity to meet students where they are comfortable learning, the students' experiences and outcomes are improved."
 – STCS Educators



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