



St. Elizabeth Mission Society

A Ministry of the Franciscan Sisters of Allegany, NY

Christmas 2022

Hope Was Born That Night

“For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.” – Isaiah 9:6

Dear

Isaiah 9:6 is a prophecy about a future child who would bear the government on his shoulders and be called titles that could only rightfully be attributed to God. At the time, the people of Judah felt powerless against their enemies. They didn't know if God was for them or against them, or if he had simply abandoned them.

This verse brings comfort, giving many names for the anticipated Messiah. Not only will Jesus bear the responsibility of governing the people (“authority rests on his shoulders”), but Verse 7 tells us he'll do it forever.

The titles used speak to Jesus' role as a living God.

- **Wonderful Counselor**—Jesus Christ is an advocate and gives guidance for life through His divine wisdom.
- **Mighty God**—A human couldn't save the people. Only God Himself was powerful enough to deliver us.
- **Everlasting Father**—The people of the time understood



Providing Bi-lingual Fertility Care – St. Gianna's Center for Women's Health & FertilityCare (St. Petersburg, Florida)

A Mission Society grant helped two bi-lingual students become FertilityCare practioners in Miami, FL and Costa Rica. They teach Spanish-speaking clients from underserved and immigrant communities how to use natural family planning.

“Fertility care can be ‘too much’ to add to a woman's challenges of job instability, family difficulties and lack of support. My plan is to communicate the truth about fertility, womanhood, chastity and marriage with hope and encouragement.” – Katherine

Christmas Intentions

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

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what it meant to be fatherless or orphaned. The Messiah's arrival was assurance that people would never again feel vulnerable.

- **Prince of Peace**—Sometimes peace in the world can feel like it's never going to come, but Jesus is unlike any earthly king or ruler. He brings peace from all the forces of evil.

All four titles work together to give us everything we need: wise counsel; almighty power; the nurture and protection and love of a father; and the one who will bring peace.

Some of us can't possibly understand the challenges that some people face – homelessness, hunger, racism, personal safety, being a single parent, unemployment, and lack of health care. **Please prayerfully consider a gift that will bring love and comfort to so many of our brothers and sisters in need.**

On behalf of all the Franciscan Sisters of Allegany and their partners in ministry, thank you for your supporting God's work in serving those who are poor in Bolivia, Brazil, Jamaica, Mozambique and the United States. We wish for your family to have a Christmas filled with peace, joy and the wonder of Christ's birth.

May you find comfort in the hope that was born with Jesus,

Laura

Laura Whitford, President

2022 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.



Protecting School Children – St. Isidore Church and School (La Gonave, Haiti) Mission Society funding provided a security wall, offering safer and more worry-free educational and worship experiences in the compound.



Helping Families in Need – Social Ministries (Anápolis, Goiás, Brazil) Mission Society support made it possible for our Sisters to help people with medical exams, bus tickets, and especially with the distribution of basic food baskets.

CHRISTMAS CARD INSIDE MESSAGE:

The true joy of Christmas is in the everlasting love of Christ. Wishing you a joyous Christmas and blessings in the coming New Year.



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

- 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



November 29, 2022

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.**