



# St. Elizabeth Mission Society

A Ministry of the Franciscan Sisters of Allegany, NY

Feast of Saint Anthony of Padua 2024

## Feeding Those Who Are Hungry

*"If you lavish your food on the hungry and satisfy the afflicted; Then your light shall rise in the darkness, and your gloom shall become like midday."*

– Isaiah 58:10

Dear

St. Anthony of Padua was a teacher, preacher, lover of the poor, peacemaker and social justice advocate. He has been called a "wonder worker" due to the many miracles attributed to him by those praying for his intercession. "St. Anthony's Bread" often refers to the money collected and given to those in need in the saint's name. At the Mission Society, we consider our St. Anthony appeal to be a year-round fundraising effort as people offer gifts in thanksgiving for St. Anthony's intercession throughout the year.

In honor of St. Anthony's Feast Day, I'd like to highlight a Franciscan organization that has done so much to feed our neighbors who are experiencing food insecurity. For 50 years, The Warming House in Olean, New York has been providing community, dignity and nourishment to the 400 guests it serves each year. It's a ministry of St. Bonaventure University's Franciscan Center for Social Concern and is one of the oldest student-run soup kitchens in the country.

Sunday through Friday, the doors open at 2:30 p.m., and a



**The Warming House - A Ministry of St. Bonaventure University (Olean, New York)**

Mission Society funding supported food purchases for this student-run soup kitchen to offer nutritious, homemade meals six days a week for guests to eat in the dining room or take home.

*"Guests arrive to have a cup of coffee, a snack and companionship. Visiting with the guests is very important and all are welcome. It is the interaction of the students with the guests that is such a powerful witness. Our Franciscan values call us to be brothers and sisters to all."* – Sr. Patrica Reid, OSF

## Persons/Intentions

Please remember the following persons and intentions in the Sisters' prayers at the St. Elizabeth Motherhouse in Allegany, New York.

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

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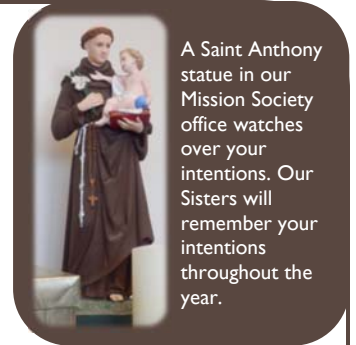
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A Saint Anthony statue in our Mission Society office watches over your intentions. Our Sisters will remember your intentions throughout the year.



hot meal is served at 4 p.m. after a brief prayer. Before the meal, guests can enjoy a snack, a cup of coffee, juice and a warm or cool place to be, depending on the weather. Take-out meal service is available at the back door for those who don't wish to stay. Besides a hot meal, guests are offered conversation and companionship. They know the students and volunteers preparing their meals and have come to know they will be treated with kindness and dignity when they come to The Warming House.

The number of meals served has continued to significantly increase over the last several years, with almost 20,000 being served last year. Mission Society grant funds have helped with food purchases as well as take-out containers. The Warming House began offering take-out meals during the pandemic and has continued the practice since. Food insecurity affects more people in Olean than previously, and it's an issue with many layers. Rising costs of food, rent and utilities, as well as access to adequate medical care, caring for family members in intergenerational homes, and unemployment/underemployment due to a lack of reliable transportation or affordable child care are all factors. Many who come to The Warming House have children, relatives or friends at home who cannot come due to illness, age or other limitations. "So to bring a meal home is a joy," said Sr. Pat.

The Mission Society provided over \$60,000 in food-related funding last year to families experiencing poverty in Bolivia, Brazil, Jamaica, Mozambique and the United States. This assistance supported food pantries and homeless shelters, community gardens, school lunch programs, and direct assistance from our Sisters to people in remote areas or to visitors at their convents. It is only through your generosity that our Franciscan Sisters of Allegany and their partners in ministry are able to offer their loving ministries. Please include your intentions on the form as we specially celebrate St. Anthony's Feast Day by offering prayers in thanksgiving for all the blessings, graces and gifts received from God through his intercession.

May your light shine on others and bring the blessing of food,

*Laura*

Laura Whitford, President



*"Fran is a 93-year-old woman who received meal delivery during the pandemic. She doesn't have the energy to prepare nutritious meals for herself. As I got to know her, I found out that she had outlived her retirement funds. She always worked and never lived extravagantly, but the reason we take her meals is so she can pay her taxes and utilities every month. I never thought about the possibility of someone outliving their retirement savings."*

- A Warming House Student Volunteer



*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:**  \$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](http://www.FranciscanHope.org), using PayPal or via PayPal Giving Fund at [www.paypal.com/fundraiser/hub](http://www.paypal.com/fundraiser/hub).