

A MOMENT IN TIME

***Celebrating 130th Anniversary of the Bernardine Franciscan Sisters
1894-2024***

Our First Brazilian Mission

Missionary Bernardine Sisters from Poland arrived in a small rural village in Brazil called Dom Feliciano in 1929. In the mid 1930's the superior of that group wrote to Mother Angela in Reading asking for assistance for their mission. Mother Angela sent two Bernardines from Reading to explore the possibilities of sending our sisters there. By the end of 1937 a group of North American Bernardines arrived to begin working with parishioners to establish educational possibilities for children and to do catechesis. Soon the pastor of a parish in a nearby city, Camaqua invited us to work together with him on improving the lives of the people there.

Our Sisters encountered conditions very different from those in the United States that they found challenging at first but were proven surmountable.

Over the next few years, the number of sisters, convents, schools and hospitals increased, everything became better. Our missions began to thrive and young Brazilian girls accepted God's call to join the congregation.

Many letters were sent to Reading describing the hardships and these successes of these early years and every letter expressed the hope that all was being done for the glory of God through the love of Jesus!