

The ADVOCATE

Queen of Peace Quarterly Newsletter

Fall 2025



In this issue...

- 1 Just a Thought...or Two...
- 2 Feast on the Streets
- 2 Bridge-Builders or Bystanders?
- 4 Jubilee 2025
- 5 Remembering CC Jenkins
- 7 Tribute to Jack Sullivan
- 9 Higher Education in Medor
- 11 She Looked the Part

Our Lady Queen of Peace Catholic Church

2700 19th Street South
Arlington VA 22204
Phone: 703-979-5580
Fax: 703-979-5590
www.olqpva.org

Editor's Note:

"Even with so much discord in the world, ...we are never abandoned by God," Fr. Tim assures us in the Fall issue of the Advocate. And how do we hold it all together? One of the OLQP Jubilee 2025 pilgrims offers us hope (Page 5.) Being in the midst of one million other young people who were present at the Papal Mass in Rome, the OLQP pilgrim was assured that "faith and strength will help (us) accomplish anything."

Paula Cruickshank
Editor, The Advocate

Just a Thought ... or Two ...

By REV. TIM HICKEY, CSSp

Today we find ourselves in scary, strange, and difficult times. So much of the world seems angry and to have lost its way, seemingly bent on regressing to former less just and more selfish and cruel times. We find ourselves in a cycle of unbelievable violence and hatred. Ongoing law enforcement using uncalled for uses of deadly force on our black and brown sisters and brothers and shocking violence towards our immigrants and refugees as well as other minorities and women.

And we are witnessing a shocking rise in White Christian Nationalism, which threatens our national values to the very core, and certainly does not reflect Gospel values nor the words and actions of Jesus Christ!

There is so much discord in our world, in our country and in our personal and familial lives. For many of us, we ask ourselves, how do we hold it together?

I believe that the way we hold it together is through maintaining a conscious connection and awareness of the presence of the risen Christ within us and with us at all times, even when we can't seem to feel that divine presence and we feel like we are running out of hope. Even in the midst of the chaos swirling around us, Christ is still there, still loving us through our darkest moments. This is at the heart of the Gospel message — we are never abandoned by God.

Our discipleship calls us to stand up and speak out against the discord and injustices of the world, to speak out on behalf of the abused, those denied justice and those whose voices are ignored or silenced. We are able to do this through the power of the Holy Spirit and the Risen Christ, who has promised to remain with us for all time.

How or when have I let the power of the Holy Spirit's presence within me shine through, guiding my thoughts and actions? Jesus spoke of pruning ... what pruning might I need to allow Jesus to do, to make my life more Christ centered that I might abide in his love more fully and share that love with others through my daily decisions and actions?

*Excerpt from "Just a Thought ...or Two."
(OLQP Bulletin — November 9, 2025)*

The Holy Spirit Provides the Feast on the Street

By Katie Remedios

In the classic Christmas movie, *It's a Wonderful Life*, there's a scene in which Jimmy Stewart forgoes his honeymoon to deal with a crisis. There's a run on the bank, and Stewart depletes all of his personal travel funds to satisfy his community members who want their money back from his family-operated savings and loan. Stewart asks over and over of his nervous, working-class friends and neighbors, "How much do you need to get by?" He gives out all but his last dollar just as the clock strikes, signaling the end of the workday. He made it. He had just enough and celebrates, knowing he was able to satisfy all.

This movie scene has been playing out lately each Thursday as the volunteers of Feast on the Street arrive to a line of 200 hungry individuals in need, seeking a meal, clothing, a roll of toilet paper, and a warm smile. Our stress level is high as we unpack our offerings, hoping we have enough to serve all. Though our ministry objective is to bring dignity, validation, acknowledgment, and friendship to the least of our brothers and sisters, the food, clothing, and toiletries we provide each week are essential to the livelihood of those living unhoused on the streets of DC. Tensions remain high as current political leaders order their understudies to remove encampments, strip possessions from those who have so little, and intimidate the poor, elderly, sick, and mentally challenged. Our unhoused friends arrive frightened, agitated, naked, and hungry, but each week as the clock signals 5:30, the Feast on the Street team exhales with a smile, realizing we were able to give a little something to all.

Continued on page 3



Feast on the Street

Continued from page 2

As our founder, Jack McHale, states, “You want to experience the Holy Spirit at work? Come to McPherson Square at 4 PM on Thursday. It is a wonderful life.” After sharing the increased need on the street with the OLQP parishioners, 18 new families signed up to help, providing 230 more meals each month. Generous donations to Matt 25 help provide warm clothing, sanitary products, blankets, and backpacks. Financial donations allowed us to purchase much-needed tables and serving supplies, and our incredible volunteers, who fall in love with each person they encounter, work around the clock to make sure we can continue to meet the physical and emotional needs of all the unhoused we encounter. The van leaves OLQP with a lot and comes back empty. Our hearts leave with a little and come back full. Thank you to everyone who makes this possible. God bless us all.



Will We be Bridge-Builders, or Bystanders?

By Rebecca Carpenter

We're living in a moment in history that is testing our collective conscience as we witness cruelty toward immigrants escalating all around us. For people of faith, this test feels particularly profound, because the Gospel calls us to see every person as our neighbor and to respond when our neighbor is in need (*Luke 10:25–37*).

That call is especially urgent now, as families are separated, children traumatized, and human beings are dehumanized under policies that defy legality and conscience. It's tempting to turn away, to protect our peace, and trust that others will step in. But the Gospel leaves no room for that kind of bystander mentality; instead, faith calls us to action, to be bridge-builders in a divided world.

I am reminded of the words of Elie Wiesel, Holocaust survivor, writer, and Nobel Peace Prize laureate:

“I swore never to be silent whenever and wherever human beings endure suffering and humiliation. We must always take sides. Neutrality helps the oppressor, never the victim. Silence encourages the tormentor, never the tormented.”

Wiesel's words remind us that the danger is not only in the actions of the oppressor, but in the inaction of the

Continued on page 4

Build Bridges

Continued from page 3

bystander. Silence can take many forms: indifference, distraction, or the desire to stay comfortable in our own bubble. But as Wiesel continued, *“Action is the only remedy to indifference: the most insidious danger of all.”*

Our faith leaves no room for indifference. Scripture tells us plainly: *“Faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead.” (James 2:17)*. To be followers of Christ means to make our faith visible through compassion that acts, not just compassion that feels.

At OLQP, we make action a priority, by living out the Gospel of Saint Matthew, Chapter 25:

“I was hungry and you gave me food, thirsty and you gave me drink, a stranger and you welcomed me.” (Matthew 25:35)

In our parish, action is evident through the Matt 25 Store, the Food Pantry, the Gabriel Project, the Haiti Ministry, the OLQP Knitters, Brown Bag Lunches, the Building Forever Families ministry, and so much more. Through this work, we become bridge-builders, linking faith to action, and neighbor to neighbor.

And as individuals, we must remember that discipleship doesn't end at our parish doors. The call to love our neighbor extends to our daily lives, which in this moment is evidenced by how we respond to what's happening to our immigrant neighbors.

- We can speak up when we see injustice

- Talk with our friends and families about what's happening
- Share evidence and eyewitness accounts
- Attend peaceful protests
- Join mutual-aid networks that provide direct support to our vulnerable neighbors
- Volunteer, donate, vote, and advocate for policies that uphold human dignity

These may seem like small actions, but together they form the fabric of a moral community that rejects neutrality. Elie Wiesel's warning is clear: neutrality helps the oppressor. Silence helps the tormentor. As people of faith, we know that Jesus was neither neutral nor silent. And we must strive to follow his example.

The cruelty we are witnessing toward immigrants is not an abstract political issue. It is a test of our faith and our humanity. Our response says who we are, and whose we are.

Faith was never meant to make us comfortable. It was meant to spur us to action, to be bridge-builders, not bystanders.

Editor's note: Rebecca Carpenter is the founder of Documented, a story-forward media platform that shares the real lives of immigrants behind the headlines. Rooted in a belief that every person's story matters, Documented seeks to humanize, build empathy, and inspire more humane policies. Learn more or sign up for updates at DocumentedProject.org.



Jubilee 2025 – Pilgrims of Hope

By Paula Cruickshank

One million young people from around the world flocked to Rome to celebrate The Jubilee for Youth, a week-long celebration from July 28 to August 3, 2025. The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) described the gathering as “a pilgrimage of a lifetime.” Among those pilgrims were several young members of OLQP, although Rome was not their only destination. Accompanied by Fr. Martin Vu CSSp and Director of Youth and Young Adult Ministries Rebecca Grant Jenkins, the group also journeyed to other sacred grounds.

Rebecca asked two OLQP pilgrims, Theresa Oetgen and Eli Jackson, to share their experiences.



Looking slick with their Jubilee 2025 T-Shirts.

1. Was this your first pilgrimage?

Theresa: This was not my first pilgrimage; I did the El Camino de Santiago when I was twelve. Throughout the trip, it was wonderful to meet people, hear their life stories, and share this unique spiritual journey together with them. I also enjoyed reconnecting with youth ministry friends that I hadn’t seen in a while. It was nice being on pilgrimage with them.

Eli: Yes, this was my first pilgrimage. It was also my first time traveling outside the US. Initially, I felt unsettled. Then we had our first Mass of the trip at The Shrine of the Virgin of the Rosary in Pompeii. After that Mass, I felt myself become calm and knew that I was going to be fine.

2. Name one or two experiences at the Jubilee that made the biggest impression on you.

Theresa: We traveled to the Sanctuary of St. Pio of Pietrelcina, a holy place dedicated to a holy man, St. Padre Pio. Seeing St. Padre Pio’s incorrupt body—looking as if he had just passed away—was awe-inspiring. The church was beautiful, and spending two days in his town gave me time to reflect on faith and holiness in a way I had never experienced before.

I realized that this pilgrimage was not just about visiting historic or touristic places. It was about walking in the footsteps of faith. Each site carried its own history and spiritual meaning, from ancient Roman streets frozen in time to holy sites that have drawn pilgrims for centuries. Along the way, I learned about the lives of saints, the power of devotion, and the richness of Catholic tradition. More importantly, I experienced the beauty of community, the value of shared stories, and the grace that comes from journeying toward God together.

Eli: I learned that others have incredible amounts of faith and strength and that when they set their minds to something, their faith and strength will help them accomplish anything. The pilgrimage opened my eyes to how big and diverse the world truly is, especially the number of young Catholics who were from everywhere. Also, Italy has amazing food and coffee!



Theresa Oetgen - at Castel Gandolfo, the pope’s summer residence

Continued on page 6

Jubilee 2025

Continued from page 5

3. How do you hope to grow from attending Jubilee of Youth?

Theresa: During his life, Carlo Acutis was a model for young Catholics, showing how holiness can be lived in everyday life, even in the modern digital world.

The five steps to sainthood discussed at the talk about his life were: 1) Frequent Reception of the Eucharist, 2) Eucharistic Adoration, 3) A Spiritual Guide and Regular Confession, 4) Devotion to Our Blessed Mother and the Saints, and 5) Charity. This talk really made me reflect on my own life and is inspiration for how I can continue on my spiritual journey.



Eli Jackson

Eli: Experiencing God through attending Mass in the incredibly beautiful churches and visiting other holy sites throughout our pilgrimage, especially in St. Peter's Square surrounded by so many other young Catholics made me feel connected to my faith in a deeper way.



Holy Door at Basilica of St. Paul Outside the Walls.

**The next pilgrimage for
OLQP youth and young adults will be the
World Youth Day 2027 in Seoul, South Korea.**

A Remembrance of Carleton “CC” Jenkins

By Veronica Dabney

When I told my son-in-law, Bernard Barbour, that Carleton “CC” Jenkins died, he thought for a minute trying to remember him, and then said, “you mean the guy with the smile”? Exactly! CC was known for his contagious smile because that’s just who he was.

CC was among the first to join the UJAMAA Ministry in late 1989. At that time there were about seven male members on the Committee and almost twice as many women. Some of the men moved on or away, and before CC, two had passed away. So, in recent years CC and Dr. Robert “Bob” Efimba were the only male members of the Ministry. Over the years they became integral parts of the Committee. CC became the steady anchor. We could rely on him to accept any challenge, fulfill any requests, and offer any assistance we needed.

CC was the “go to” for our many projects. He acquired speakers for the Martin Luther King programs or Masses; for the Black History Month programs; recruited excellent students for the scholarship awards; as well as nominees for Community Service awards.

Continued on page 7

CC

Continued from page 6

No task was too large or small. CC would set up chairs for programs or kiosks for the Multicultural festivals of the late 1990s and early 2,000s. He was also the unofficial photographer. CC did all this while serving on the Credit Union Boards at church and at work before he retired, combined with the work he did for affordable housing in Arlington County. That's why we were proud to nominate him for the Father Augustus Tolton and Mother Lange Black Catholic Service Award in 2023, and were elated when he won.

Earlier this year, despite his health challenges, and the loss of his youngest son Jason on February 7, CC volunteered to participate as one of four panelists in the Black History Month program. The theme was "African Americans and Labor". The panelists, all members of OLQP, were School Administrator, Dr. Cynthia Brown; a Dentist, Dr. Vincent Vaughn; a College Professor as moderator, Dr. Shiela Martin; and, CC Jenkins who represented law enforcement, the military, and church and community activism. He stepped up again in June, and for the first time volunteered to be the MC for the June scholarship program. As usual, he did a great job.

When I read CC's obituary in the *Catholic Herald*, I recalled the information on the nomination form for his Tolton award in 2023. Upon reading the *Herald*, I was reminded of his affability, his kindness, and his dedication to OLQP, but most of all, I recall the great love he had for his wife, Dianne, and their two boys.

CC will always be remembered and missed by all members of the UJAMAA Ministry for his willingness to serve, while always being "the guy with the smile."

The Arlington
Catholic Herald

Carleton "CC" Jenkins dies at 82

Reprinted from the 10/7/25 Issue of the Arlington Catholic Herald

"Carleton "CC" Jenkins, 2023 recipient of the [Father Augustus Tolton and Mother Lange Black Catholic Service Award](#), and beloved parishioner of Our Lady Queen of Peace Church in Arlington, died at 82, September 1. He was born July 30, 1943, in New Haven, Conn., where he graduated from Notre Dame High School in 1962 and attended Southern Connecticut College before serving his country in the U.S. Army and receiving an honorable discharge.

Jenkins had a 32-year career with the U.S. Capitol Hill Police, and furthered his education by earning an associate's degree in accounting from George Washington University in 1971. The highlight of his college experience was meeting the love of his life, Dianne Chambers. They married Sept. 22, 1973, in Arlington.

Devoting his life to service, Jenkins was past president of the U.S. Capitol Police Retired Officers' Association and Queen of Peace Arlington Federal Credit Union. He also served as a member of the board of directors for the Congressional Federal Credit Union, Bonder & Amanda Johnson Community Development Corporation, and Arlington Housing Corporation, now known as Affordable Homes & Communities. He was also a member of the Arlington Kiwanis.



"Carleton "CC" Jenkins displays the Father Augustus Tolton and Mother Lange Black Catholic Service Award in Arlington Nov. 4, 2023.

Jenkins was an avid tennis player and an enthusiastic and devoted Washington Commanders fan. At family events, he was always present with a camera to capture the memories.

He was preceded in death by brothers James, David Jr. and John Paul Sr. and his youngest son, Jason. He is survived by his wife, Dianne; son Carleton Jr. (Paola); godson Jordan Newton; and numerous nephews, nieces, relatives, and a host of friends. Jenkins touched countless lives throughout his journey with his charismatic presence and contagious smile.

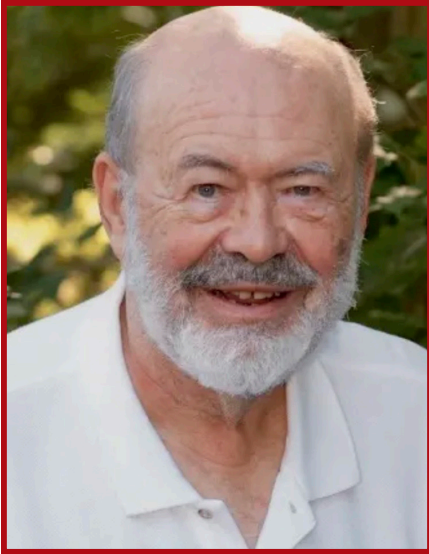
A Mass of Christian Burial was offered at Our Lady Queen of Peace Church on Sept. 18.

Jim Hale (Arlington Catholic Herald)

Rest in Perfect Peace, CC.

Editor's note: Veronica Dabney is President of the UJAMAA Committee of OLQP.

By Paula Cruickshank and Kathy Desmond



Jack Sullivan
(May 25, 1935 - August 16, 2025)

Jack Sullivan, a core member of *the Advocate* staff, was a prolific writer and could turn a story around overnight. At our staff meeting-brainstorming sessions, he was always quick to offer story ideas and enthusiastically wrote them. And those pieces ran the gamut.

Among them, Jack recounted a special community for residents with Alzheimer’s at the Goodwin House; spotlighted new priests assigned to OLQP or paid tribute to those who passed away (e.g., “The Life and Legacy of Fr. David Ray”) and highlighted OLQP’s role in the Poor People’s Campaign. But as varied as the stories were, they shared a common bond and underlying purpose. Namely, we are all here to make the world a better place.

Jack wrote for the newsletter from the very beginning more than 15 years ago. Last year when he told me he would be stepping down, the Advocate staff was understandably sad to see him go, but also grateful that he stayed on board so long. In fact, it’s a wonder that he found the time to contribute stories, given the wide range of commitments he had already made over the years.

Jack was deeply engaged in civic life in Alexandria, where he moved from Arlington. He remained an active member of OLQP. Throughout his life he was involved in government and politics, which he regarded as his commitment to justice and peace. He was effective working in and with branches of the U.S. government at international, national, and city levels, as well as with non-profit and political groups. He was a journalist at heart, from his first jobs through his retirement blogs. He taught political science courses at two universities.

His background on the House Foreign Affairs Committee, followed by a Carter presidential appointment as Assistant Administrator of USAID for Asia, and then years of consulting reflected his life-long commitment to development issues. His many accomplishments in his work for Congress, USAID, and the City of Alexandria are described in a tribute in the [Alexandria Gazette](#).

- Leading House staff on the SALT arms control legislation.
- Member of US delegation to the United Nations and of first Congressional staff visit to China.
- Recipient of USAID honor for leadership in equal opportunity and affirmative action.
- Focus on agriculture and environmental issues.
- In Alexandria, he served on the Cable TV Commission and HIV/AIDS Task Force.
- Co-chair of the Federation of Civic Associations.
- Advocate for the River Renew Tunnel Project nearing completion
- Named a Living Legend of Alexandria for his years of public service.

Looking back on his life, Jack observed humbly in the article, “I think I have done some positive things. I hope I made a difference over the years.”

(The Sullivan family is grateful for donations made in his memory to OLQP’s Haiti Ministry in Medor.)



The Advocate Staff (L-R Sue Carlson; Paula Cruickshank; Veronica Dabney; Jack Sullivan.
Not pictured: Kathy Desmond)

By Sue Carlson, M.D.

The data is astonishing! Medor currently claims 48 homegrown university graduates and 23 students enrolled in university, all since 2015. Medor has also produced three priests, two seminarians, three nuns, and one novice.

These numbers are particularly impressive since prior to the opening of Medor's secondary school in 2003, few of Medor's students could attend school past the 6th grade. The parish named its secondary school the College of Our Lady in solidarity with the people of Our Lady, Queen of Peace. It began with one 7th grade class. An additional class was added each subsequent year until the school had all 13 grades, allowing for the first high school graduation in 2011. The first graduates who attended university earned their degrees in 2015, only 12 years after the secondary school opened.

Medor Students with University Degree

Name / Field of Study

1-Guy Roland Balthazar: agronomy	17-Schneider Soifils: Computer Science	33-Guytember Balthazar: Administration
2-Esteme Rismene: Gestion Science, Teacher	18-Virginie Randa: Nurse	34-Précieuse Merthus: Tourism
3-Vania Laurent: agronomy	19-Moleste Moise: History	35-Yxamat Wilner: Education
4-Elcana Gervil: Nurse	20-Clemseus Pierre: Administration	36-Yxamat Saint Luc: Administration and Law
5-Jean Odel Pierre: management	21-Lormides ESTEME: Theology, Mechanic Tech	37-Raphaël Louis: Education
6-Nathan Bien-aimé: veterinary	22-Bibiane Normal: Physician	38-Rachel Mercy: Administration
7-Jose Marthe Mauge: Nurse	23-Gervil Ossiane: Teacher	39-Snaida Pierre: Medical Laboratory
8-Julot Joseph: Nurse	24-Wilner Louis Jean:	40-Phanes Genetus: Education
9-Marie Linda Joseph: Nurse	25-Breghel François: Nurse	41-Peneac Pierre
10-Clairma Dolian: Management	26-Beaugeste DAVID: Physician	42-Achnide Baltazard: Education Science
11-Charlicus Filius: Management	27-Alexander Normal: agronomy	43-James Baltazard: Administration Science
12-Wadson Villiard: Education Science	28-Garby Balthazar: Administration	44-Valancia Baltazard: Nursing
13-Therline David: Education Science	29-Diane David: Nurse	45-Noelme Vilner: Management
14-Roselene Ixama: Education Science	30-Junie Mercy: Nurse	46-Joseph Jean Luz: Agronomy
15-Euclide Josèphe: Accounting	31-Marie Mirlande: Nurse	47-Vilcé Hyguerre: education
16-Jean Tony Joseph: law and agronomy	32-Deus Elcius: Teacher	48-Louis James Ralseph: Education Science

Medor Students in University

Name/Field of Study

1-Schneider ESTEME: Accounting	9-Soralie Tchalica Dieula: nursing	17-Joseph Chideline: physician
2-Dieula Soralie: Nurse	10-Esther Joseph: nursing	18-Louis Guerda: pharmacology
3-Robenson Soifils: Accounting	11-Virginie Randa Villiard: nursing	19-Sejour Cherlanda: Agronomy Science
4-Sandro- Marc Baltazard: Administration	12-Nadege Noel: economics	20-Jean Bernard Soifils: dentistry
5-Jeffilorvens Saintilus: Computer Science	13-Cimene Bien Aime: economics	21-Paul Zickson: computer science
6-claircieux Peterson: Medical School	14-Jeffilorvens SAINTILUS: computer science	22-Wadkenson Pierre Louis: agronomy
7-His Peterson Dry: Agronomy	15-Taina Normil: nursing	23-Marc Dala: agronomy
8-Nicharlson Saül (Field of study not specified)	16-Christelle Galtazard: nursing	

Priests

Name/Title

1-Révérend Père Djéff Hyppolite-priest
2-Phaniel Merthus Diacre-priest
3-Jhon Wadner Merci AB-priest
4-Richelieu Saint-Louis-seminarian
5-Registre Fanor : AB-seminarian

Nuns

Name

1-Mona David-nun
2-Lorce Mercirane-nun
3-Gerline David-nun
4-Nadege David-novice

first high school graduation: 2011
first university graduation: 2015

Continued on page 10

Medor

Continued from page 9

Equally remarkable are the ten Medor university graduates currently employed in Medor, serving as community leaders and role models. They include four secondary school teachers, two agronomists, a nurse, a veterinarian, a microcredit agent, and a management intern. They are advancing the development of their community through their jobs and their many church and community volunteer responsibilities.

Rismene Esteme is one of the secondary school teachers. She wrote, “With your help, today I am a leader in the Medor community. After completing my university studies in 2016, I returned to Medor to share my knowledge with the secondary school students. I especially stress the importance of education in society. Previously in Medor many girls didn’t prioritize education. They got married too early and had children without being able to educate them. I have influenced many girls to stay in school and to pursue higher education. Thank you to Our Lady Queen of Peace for helping me and for helping Medor in so many ways.”

Vannia Laurent, one of the agronomists wrote, “As for me, I will never stop expressing my gratitude to Our Lady Queen of Peace because you greatly contributed to my success by giving me the opportunity to study agronomy at the University of Fondwa. Today, I am a true professional. I participate in the development of my



Rismene Esteme teaching at Medor’s secondary school



Vannia, in lavender, at work in Medor

community, and I am proud of it. Thank you wouldn’t be enough for everything you have done for me, my family, and Medor, so I continue to pray to the great God of the universe, who put you on my path to fill you and your families with grace and blessing so that you can continue to sow goodness, the key to abundant blessings! I promise to continue working for the advancement of the Medor community.”

In the words of Nelson Mandela, “Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world”. The people in St. Joseph of Medor parish adhere to this message. At the beginning of their twinning with OLQP,

Continued on page 11

Medor

Continued from page 10

their first request in 1997, besides prayers, was for assistance in their primary school. Since that time, our parishes have worked together to increase enrollment at that school, to establish four chapel schools in the outreaches of the 74 square mile parish so that children who live far from Medor have the opportunity to receive an education and to inaugurate the secondary school. Their prioritization of education has enabled many of the community's scholars to attend university. The resultant blossoming of benefits is "changing the world" in Medor and throughout Haiti and the world.

She Looked the Part

By Paula Cruickshank

I've known her for almost 40 years. She was the owner of a housecleaning service and always had a smile on her face. About five years ago, she retired and her son and daughter took over the business.

It had been a long time since I last saw her. I was struck right away that there was something very different about her. Something was missing. Then it dawned on me what was gone. It was her trademark smile.

In its place, I saw worry and sadness in her eyes. When I asked if everything was okay, she looked at me and softly said.

"When I was getting out of my car this morning, someone stopped me and asked to see my papers." She said, visibly shaken by even the thought of it.

"What did you do?" I asked.

"I told him I did not have any papers with me. I am an American. Why would I need them?"

At this point, I could see the fear in her eyes.

"But I did have my driver's license. I showed it to him. He looked at it and then at me. Then he handed it back and went back the way he came."

At this point she was on the verge of crying.

What is happening in this country? A woman nearly 80 years old and who worked hard for a living to help support her family was stopped for absolutely no reason other than she looked the part.

I wished I could have said something to comfort her, but the best I could do was hold her tightly.

"I am so sorry this happened to you and that it is happening to so many others." I said.

And, sadly enough, she was one of the fortunate ones. She was able to continue her day.

But what happened to her will not go away. She knows that at any moment she could be stopped again and only because she looked the part.

Advocate Staff

Feature Writers: **Sue Carlson, M.D., Rebecca Carpenter, Paula Cruickshank,
Veronica Dabney, Kathy Desmond, Rev. Tim Hickey, CSSp,
Katie Remedios**

Layout: **Dan Larkins**

Distribution: **Jeannette Gantz Daly**

*Please send an email message to jgantz Daly@olqpva.org to receive The Advocate by email
or to have it sent to your home address.*