

Focus on Immigration: Faces of Immigration

by Jack Sullivan

Immigration, both legal and illegal, is not an abstract issue at OLQP but one with a face and often a compelling story. Usually it is Fr. Joseph "Joe" Nangle, OFM, our parish "Ministerio Latino" who sees the faces and knows the stories.

The Franciscan priest tells of a young boy we will call "Jose." His mother left him with a grandmother in El Salvador when he was just a baby to find a better life in the United States, settling in Northern Virginia. Seeking to reunite with her, Jose at the age of 9 set out through Mexico to the United States. At the U.S. border, the group of illegals with whom he was traveling was arrested. Because he was so small, Jose was overlooked and gained access to the country.

Alone and hungry, Jose eventually turned himself in to authorities who put him into a camp for undocumented individuals. He was allowed to call his mother from the facility. She flew to Arizona and brought him to Arlington. "Since you left when he was a baby, how did you recognize him?" Father Joe asked her. "He had the same big ears," she replied.

Jose has been coming to Mass at OLQP and recently made his First Communion. Although his mother has been able to get a work permit and is on her way to a green card and perhaps citizenship, Jose remains without legal status.

But not unnoticed. Because of his stay in the refugee camp, Jose is on the register of the Immigration & Naturalization Services (INS) and recently was required to appear in court. At the request of the family, Father Joe accompanied the boy, who was granted a seven-month stay to obtain a lawyer. The case is expected to drag on for months.

Meanwhile Jose is excelling in school. If the court ultimately rules against him, Jose's mother said she will not be separated from Jose again and will depart with him to El Salvador. She adds that they have nothing to go back to there.

The Stories of "Luis" and "Juan"

Luis is a 25-year-old man from Colombia who has lived in the U.S. for ten years. He regularly helps Fr. Joe at the Sunday Spanish Mass. Although without legal status, Luis has been able to find regular work in construction in Northern Virginia. Recently he was stopped by the police for driving under the influence. Discovering that he is in the country illegally, the police turned him over to the INS. He has languished in a jail cell for the past month while the judicial process moves on.

Meanwhile Luis — a man Father Joe calls "a gift to society," — is holding prayer sessions with his fellow inmates. He will likely be deported to Colombia. He cannot return legally to the United States for at least five years.

A considerably bleaker tomorrow may be in store for Juan, another regular parishioner at OLQP. Undocumented, he had worked for years driving a trash truck in the DC area. Last year he was involved in an accident in which a young woman on a bicycle was crushed to death. Although fully exonerated in her death, Juan's record came to light.

Faces, Continues on page 2

Editor's Note:

Editorial Note: This issue of "The Advocate" focuses on the challenges faced by many immigrants in the United States and some of the support services available to them. We spotlight a member of OLQP who has an inspiring story to tell about her personal journey as a refugee from Viet Nam. If you missed the *Dateline* program about OLQP volunteers in Medor in December, we feature an article by Dr. Sue Carlson and Dr. Heidi Sampang offering their unique perspective of the two-week medical mission and Lori Clemente's personal reflections on the experience. Be sure to check out the updates on the RCIA and "Spirited Speakers," too.

-- Paula Cruickshank, Editor, The Advocate

Our Lady Queen of Peace Catholic Church

2700 19th Street South, Arlington VA 22204

Phone: 703-979-5580; Fax: 703-979-5590

olqpva.org

Spotlight on: Minhthu Lynagh

By Paula Cruickshank

In April 1975, a 19-year-old university student named Minhthu Lynagh fled Saigon only days before the city fell into Communist hands. “That week was chaotic and nobody knew what was going on, there was all the shelling and all the Americans trying to evacuate people,” she recalled.

Lynagh escaped on a fishing boat with an older sister, her uncle and his family. After three days lost at sea, they were picked up by a Taiwanese Navy ship.

Through a series of fortuitous events and perhaps the watchful eye of a Guardian Angel, Lynagh made her way from a one-day stay in Subic Bay to a processing center in Guam that placed her in a resettlement camp at Eglin Air Force Base in Florida. It was there she had a chance encounter that changed her life.

At the resettlement camp, Lynagh met a priest from Catholic University who told her the school had a scholarship program for Vietnamese refugees and he encouraged her to apply. Lynagh applied but when she checked later, the university informed her that all the scholarships had been awarded. It was then that the unexplainable happened.

“It was amazing how God worked. They had given out all the scholarships but there was one (student) who did not show up!” Lynagh said, with a trace of wonder still present in her voice 35 years later.

Catholic University consequently approved her application for a full scholarship. Lynagh was able to enroll in its nursing school in September 1975 — less than five months after fleeing Viet Nam.

Lynagh, Continues on page 3

In this issue...

- 1... Faces of Immigration by Jack Sullivan
- 2... Spotlight on: Minhthu Lynagh by Paula Cruickshank
- 3... Just Neighbors by Sally Harrs
- 4... SEEC Turns to the Faith Community by Jack Sullivan
- 5... Can't Legal Immigrants Drive Legally? by Bill Barbieri
- 6... OLQP, Remote Area Medical Team Form Crucial Bond with Medor by Dr. Heidi Sampang and Dr. Sue Carlson
The Light Is On — Reconciliation During Lent
- 7... The Concern and Business of All by Betty Mills
Tenebrae Service & Easter Vigil Liturgy
- 8... Stone Soup 2011 by Veronica Dabney
- 9... Walking in Medor by Lori Clemente
Spirited Speakers by Veronica Dabney
- 12... OLQP Calendar Highlights

Faces, Continued from page 1

As a 15-year-old, Juan had attempted to run drugs into the U.S. from El Salvador. Captured at the border, he spent months in a U.S. jail and was deported back to his homeland. Undaunted, he managed to cross the border into the U.S. again. For years, Juan worked and raised a family. And then the accident happened.

Today, Luis sits in jail and he faces up to five years in prison. Reentry into the U.S. after deportation is a felony.

In such cases, Father Joe does what he can to assist. He helps find lawyers for the accused. For court appearances he dons his Roman collar and accompanies the defendants, often addressing the judge as a character witness.

What To Do About “Maria”?

Maria showed up at Fr. Joe’s office not long ago. She was eight months pregnant, hungry and unable to afford maternity clothing. When she talked to Father Joe, it became clear that she had many additional personal problems.

Not only was Maria’s immigration status in question, but she told Fr. Joe she had been arrested shortly before for shoplifting. She currently is free pending an appearance in court. She now faces possible jail time and deportation. All this and with a baby on the way.

Fr. Joe and the parish staff provided counseling for Maria, gave her food, maternity clothing, and a small amount of money. A letter will be provided to the judge for Maria and, if asked, someone from the office will appear in court with her.

An Immigration “Prison”

When “Reina” and her husband arrived from Latin America without any documentation at the U.S. border some 20 years ago, their paths took entirely different turns. Inexplicably, her husband was allowed to enter the United States. Reina was turned away but reentered the country and eventually rejoined her spouse. For many years she feared the knock on the door from the authorities and being sent home.

In time Reina straightened out her immigration situation. She has a work permit and enjoys steady employment. As she told Fr. Joe, however, she lives in fear of having a traffic accident or other event, of coming to the attention of authorities and somehow losing her status.

Profiling is an ever present fear among people like Reina, says Fr. Joe. As a result, Reina seldom leaves her home except to go to work and return — or to attend Mass at OLQP. “She is in a kind of immigration prison,” he noted.

Jose, Luis, Juan, Maria, and Reina — each has a story that revolves around a single desperate and life-changing act: All five entered the United States illegally for the dream of a better life. They thought they had found a place of refuge and hope in Northern Virginia. With one possible exception, the dream has become a nightmare. †

Focus on strangers without homes: Just Neighbors

By Sally Harrs

Where would you turn if you are abused by your U.S.-citizen husband who threatened you with deportation to the Philippines or if you and your family are refugees from Afghanistan and do not know how to apply for green cards? Just Neighbors, a nonprofit association in Falls Church, has assisted immigrants with these and other immigration problems since 1996.

The non-profit organization is dedicated to providing immigration legal services to low-income immigrants and refugees of all faiths and nationalities. Its mission is inspired by the Biblical tradition of welcoming and protecting sojourners — strangers without homes — such as the low-income immigrants who make their new homes in Northern Virginia.

Just Neighbors educates immigrants on how immigration law works and what their basic rights are. Its staff of immigration lawyers

Neighbors, Continues on page 4

Lynagh, Continued from page 2

Through the intervention of another schoolmate, she also was able to live on-campus with other foreign students. “That really helped me with the whole adjustment in English and learning about the culture and life in the U.S,” she observed. Lynagh earned a BA in nursing four years later in 1979.

Lynagh, now an OLQP parishioner, readily acknowledges her refugee experience was very different from many people who came to the U.S. under very difficult circumstances. “I was very blessed to have those opportunities and take them or just ask for help,” she said. Given much in this life, Lynagh believes she should give back — particularly to the refugee community.

Advocate for Refugees and the Poor

“I wanted to work with the refugee population. That is why I applied to work with the public health system in Montgomery County,” Lynagh explained. In 1980, the county hired her to be the first public health nurse to work with the Vietnamese — many of them boat people — and Cambodian refugees who escaped the genocidal Pol Pot regime, she noted. Many of the Cambodian refugees were traumatized by witnessing or being the victims of atrocities committed by the Khmer Rouge.

Lynagh worked in the county public health system for five years. After she married and her husband completed medical school in 1985, they moved to Jacksonville, Florida. While raising her family, Lynagh continued to work with

refugees as a volunteer and she became an advocate for them and other marginalized members of society.

As part of her advocacy work, Lynagh took several public health classes to teach refugees how to use the health care system and how to seek pre-natal care and other social services. She helped to develop a non-profit organization, “Children of Viet Nam,” which provides direct educational, nutritional, medical and housing assistance to disadvantaged children and their families in Viet Nam.

Lynagh has been a role model for many of those she serves. She said her parents raised all their children to be independent. Lynagh thinks her personality and faith helped her to deal with the issue of coming to the United States without her parents and other siblings. “There is always opportunity out there. You just have to be open to accept that and ask for help,” she said.

At the same time, Lynagh recognizes that times have changed dramatically since the arrival of Southeast Asian refugees in the United States in the mid-70’s. “It is difficult now. It is a different environment and there are different feelings about refugees and immigrants,” Lynagh said.

“I think for a lot of people the fear of not speaking the language, of not knowing the culture and (being) afraid to ask really limits” assimilation, Lynagh said. “I did not have that fear. I became educated



Minhthu with the secondary school principal

and was able to adjust.” she said.

Lynagh’s personal and professional success inspired others to the degree that many groups invited her to speak about acclimating to a new country and culture. “Because of my experience and background, I feel it’s my calling to work with the very poor. My sense of justice is very strong — how the poor people don’t really get what they need,” Lynagh said.

To that end, Lynagh has returned to Viet Nam several times working with the humanitarian group that she helped to establish. She has traveled to Haiti three times. Her last trip was in December 2010 when she helped to provide daily logistical support for her fellow parishioners on the OLQP medical team in Medor.

Lynagh noted: “This country is great, but the rich are able to get so much more and they might not give it (back), so I have that very strong sense. It is very important for me to be able to stand up for the poor.” ✚

SEEC Turns to the Faith Community

by Jack Sullivan

When the Shirlington Employment and Education Center (SEEC) was founded, its mission was to oversee the hiring of day laborers in Arlington. With job opportunities for these workers having virtually disappeared, SEEC has reached out to the faith community with encouraging results.

The economic downturn of the past several years has been “a disaster” for day laborers who have seen work in construction, landscaping, moving, and other “on demand” occupations virtually disappear, said Andres Tobar, the Executive Director of the Shirlington Employment and Education Center (SEEC) and an OLQP parishioner. Another hurdle is the language barrier. Many of the day workers are Hispanics who speak little or no English, Tobar noted.

SEEC, Continues on page 4

Neighbors, Continued from page 3

and volunteer attorneys deal exclusively with immigration law and solving immigration problems for individuals and families: getting a green card, obtaining work permits, uniting families, stopping domestic violence, deferring action for immigrant victims of crimes, claiming basic rights with the police, and adjusting immigration status.

The lawyers and volunteers at Just Neighbors are emphatically straightforward with their clients. Rob Rutland-Brown, the Executive Director of Just Neighbors, said: “We advise our clients not to break laws, to pay their taxes, and to keep good records. We warn against paying for bogus help in solving an immigration problem.”

which the immigrant and non-immigrant communities can engage in meaningful interaction.

Just Neighbors partners with law firms whose attorneys handle cases pro bono. Volunteer translators and interpreters, retired attorneys, and law school and undergraduate students work alongside staff attorneys to carry out the mission of Just Neighbors.

Rob stressed the importance of volunteers from churches in Northern Virginia. He said Just Neighbors needs volunteers who can work one Tuesday a month.”

Just Neighbors educates volunteers about the rights of immigrants and how immigration law works so that they can refer low-income clients who have immigration-related problems and don’t know where to turn. A brochure describes the Biblical tradition of welcoming the sojourner – a stranger without a home. It stressed that Jesus chose to be a wanderer himself, traveling from Bethlehem to Egypt to Nazareth in his childhood, then roaming the shores of Galilee and the streets of Jerusalem with his disciples.

The brochure compares the organization’s mission to *Jesus’ parable of the Good Samaritan*, pointing out how it is all about travelers, “people who are not in the comfortable familiarity of their hometown....As Jesus concluded his story of the Good Samaritan, He asked, ‘Who do you think was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of the robbers?’ The lawyer who was questioning Jesus replied, ‘the one who showed him mercy.’ Jesus said to him, ‘Go and do likewise.’”

Facts on making a new home in Northern Virginia	
▶ Current minimum wage:	\$7.25
▶ Working hours per week required for a family of four to reach the poverty level of \$20,050.00:	58.5
▶ Annual earnings full-time minimum-wage worker (52 weeks @ 40 hours/wk = 2,080 hours per year):	\$15,080.00
▶ Fair market rent for a two bedroom apartment:	\$959.00

**Data from www.justneighbors.net*

Fifteen years ago, Rob’s cousin joined several pastors and attorneys of the United Methodist Church to develop a practical response to the legal challenges low-income immigrants face in the United States. Rob noted: “It is the goal of Just

Neighbors to provide accurate, reliable information and services to immigrants who are often exploited by unscrupulous legal practitioners.”

Rob has been a guest speaker at a Stone Soup supper. He acknowledged the generosity of OLQP parishioners and stressed how important volunteers are to Just Neighbors. Through a volunteer network, the organization creates an atmosphere in

Just Neighbor staff and volunteers aim to do what the Good Samaritan did. Their volunteer efforts allow the organization to serve several hundred low-income immigrant clients – sojourners in Northern Virginia — each year. †

**For volunteer information, contact Just Neighbors:
5827 Columbia Pike, Suite #320, Falls Church, VA 22041
(703) 979-1244, www.justneighbors.org**

Why In Virginia...

Can't Legal Immigrants Drive Legally?

by Bill Barbieri

René Repollo has Temporary Protective Status [TPS]. With that, he has lived legally in the United States for 15 years. For the past 13 years, he has had a driver's license and owned a car. The car has made it possible for him to get to work, take his kids to school, and live in an area that has reasonable rent.

On December 6, 2010, René went to the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) to renew his driver's license but was told that he could not do it. The Employment Authorization Document (EAD) that he obtained with his TPS status and that was required for him to get his driver's license was no longer acceptable as proof of his legal presence in Virginia.

What happened? On September 8, 2010, Governor Bob McDonnell ordered the Virginia DMV to stop accepting the federally-issued EAD as proof of legal presence in the United States for the purpose of obtaining a VA driver's license.

Because of this directive, thousands of immigrants who are LEGALLY residing in VA will either be unable to renew or obtain driver's licenses or will encounter an as-of-now-undetermined process to do so. In addition to immigrants with TPS, political asylees, refugees, and adjustment-of-status applicants [e.g. spouses of U.S. citizens] will also face this problem.

There are several categories under which employment authorization is granted. Everyone who has this authorization has a code on his or her card that specifies which category they fall under [e.g. TPS "[a] [12]"; Adjustment of Status Applicants "[c] [9]"].

The category section on the card is easily visible and DMV officials can easily distinguish between the various categories. McDonnell arguably could have directed that only specific categories of applicants be denied a license [e.g. those in Final Order of Deportation '[c] [18]', but he did not.

The Virginia governor issued the directive following a tragic car accident in Prince William County in August 2010. The fatal crash took the life of a nun and critically injured two others. The driver, under "Final Order of Deportation," was not in possession of a driver's license, was under the influence, and was a multiple DDUI offender.

Ironically, the Governor's directive guarantees that thousands more immigrants in VA will be driving around without licenses. Through the efforts of individual parishioners and the VOICE Action Team, OLQP is documenting specific cases for making the legal argument to rescind or, at minimum, modify McDonnell's directive.

How do our brother and sister immigrants feel about this? Remember home is never understood until one leaves it and feels the discomfort of being in an unfamiliar place and not being accepted. Migration is never a casual life choice. That is why the Church places great emphasis on welcoming the stranger, facilitating social integration, and helping immigrants establish new roots. ✚

SEEC, Continued from page 4

Before the recession, Tobar said, many of laborers were able to make enough to pay rent, feed themselves and families, and send money back to relatives in their homeland. Today most are struggling to pay rent, some have been evicted, and many cannot buy sufficient food. "Some immigrant laborers — including those with work permits — have returned home to Central and South America," Tobar said. He added that often they have nothing to go back to and face an uncertain future.

Because the employment mission of SEEC is virtually at a standstill, Tobar has reached out to the Arlington faith community to assist with a feeding program. One of the first churches to respond was OLQP. Fr. Tim, early in his pastor role, agreed to provide 50 sandwiches twice a week to SEEC for the day laborers. Several OLQP ministries and the staff are involved in this effort.

Our parish is not alone in helping SEEC. Faith Episcopal Church makes sandwiches on Monday and St. Anthony Parish serves breakfast for 70 to 80 on Saturday mornings. Tobar also has received money that allowed him to buy day laborers rotisserie chickens for Christmas. He noted that the community response to this need has been a bright spot in an otherwise dismal environment for these immigrant workers. ✚

"U.S. Citizenship" Loans Available at OLQP Federal Credit Union

The OLQP Arlington Federal Credit Union now offers a special "U.S. Citizenship" Loan. Credit Union members are eligible to apply for this loan, which carries a special low interest rate (7.00% Annual Percentage Rate) and a term of 30 months. The maximum amount of the loan is \$680, which is currently the fee for a citizenship application.

Normal lending standards are applicable and there are certification requirements for the borrower to be eligible for the final citizenship application.

For all the details, contact credit union Treasurer Dan Morrisey at the credit union, 703.521.8615. The credit union web site is www.qpafcu.com.

OLQP, Remote Area Medical Team Form Crucial Bond with Medor

By Dr. Heidi Sampang and Dr. Sue Carlson

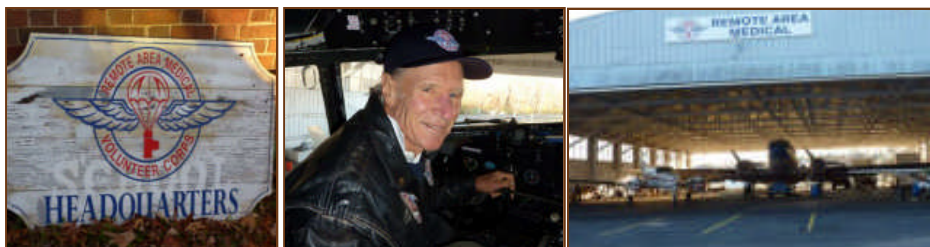
During a two-week visit in December to our twin parish in Haiti, an OLQP medical team focused on providing emergency care to cholera victims as well as primary health and dental check-ups at the medical clinic in St. Joseph's parish in Medor. But the OLQP volunteers faced an even greater challenge: how to repair St. Joseph's church and rebuild its primary school and kindergarten buildings that were so severely damaged from the earthquake one year ago they would have to be demolished.

One thing that stands out about OLQP's twin parish is its isolation. Medor is only 29 miles as the crow flies from Port-au-Prince, but it takes more than eight hours to get there. The final leg is a hillside trail, impassable to vehicles, that winds up the slopes of the Artibonite Mountains to the village.

As a result, Medor has no local government. There are no police or mail services; no roads; and not even basic necessities such as clean water, electricity or a sewage system.

OLQP and its Haiti committee have been working with St. Joseph parish to lessen the hardships of the community. Projects include providing access to clean water and latrines, building the primary and secondary schools that serve Medor and the outlying villages, providing a daily meal to the 1,250 school children, initiating a reforestation program and helping to build the church.

The generosity of OLQP parishioners in



**Stan Brock, Founder of Remote Area Medical (RAM).
RAM Headquarters and Hangar in Knoxville, TN**

supporting Medor for the past thirteen years, support which is truly extraordinary given the size and makeup of the parish, is truly amazing. Fr. Pere Luckson and the people of Medor are extremely grateful for the continued support which is helping to sustain them through the many hardships experienced regularly in Haiti.

But OLQP is a small parish with less than 1,700 families, and the committee pursues all these projects with limited resources. And these resources simply cannot match the vital and immediate needs of Medor now.



**The Ladies of the Mountains:
Sue Carlson, Chair of the OLQP Haiti
Committee, Lori Clements, Nurse Practitioner
and Heidi Sampang, Pediatrician,
with Ann Curry of Dateline NBC**

Not only are the costs staggering — running into the hundreds of thousands of dollars — but the logistics are daunting. How will the necessary materials and equipment be brought up to Medor? Once the committee identified the initial funding, it discussed various options, concluding that the most feasible one is to airlift materials to Medor via helicopter — a very costly endeavor. OLQP tried contacting the UN, the US military, the US embassy and various NGOs that had post-earthquake operations in Haiti. The committee had little success. OLQP could not afford to pay for an airlift. They needed an angel, it seemed.

And an angel arrived. It appeared in the form of Remote Access Medical Volunteer Corps (RAM). RAM is a non-profit, all-volunteer airborne medical relief corps, founded in 1985 by Stan Brock. RAM's mission is to provide free health care to remote and inaccessible areas around the world and more recently in the United States. Over the past quarter-century, RAM organized over 60 medical expeditions and served more than 300,000 patients. †

The Light is ON  for You.
Celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation

WEDNESDAYS DURING LENT

6:30 PM - 8:30 PM

MARCH 16, 23 & 30

APRIL 6, 13 & 20

OLQP will participate in the diocesan-wide reconciliation program "The Light is on for You", which invites each parish to open their doors from 6:30-8 PM on Wednesdays during Lent. The program promotes welcoming people who have been away, encouraging them to come back. We invite you to come out on Wednesdays and be present for those who might come to inquire. **Services begin at 6:30; Reconciliation 7-8 pm**

Reconciliation Service - March 16, 30 (individual Reconciliation from 7-8 pm)
Children's Reconciliation Service - April 13 (individual Reconciliation from 7-8 pm)
Stations of the Cross - March 23, April 6, 20 (individual Reconciliation from 6:30-8 pm)

By Betty Mills

Did you know that in the early days of the Church, the period we call Lent was totally related to Baptism? It was the time when those preparing to be received into the Church went through their final period of discernment, and it was the time when those already part of the community pondered their own Baptismal commitment. In the Church's early days, infant Baptism as we know it today, was unheard of. The only time an infant would be baptized was if its parents were received into the Christian community.

One of the least known but most revolutionary documents to come out of Vatican II is the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults which stresses the need for a living experience of the Church rather than just knowledge about the Church. For the previous 15 centuries or so, an adult wishing to become Catholic went through a few weeks of "convert instruction" with one of the priests who then Baptized him or her. Often the only member of the parish the new convert

had ever seen was the priest who had given the instruction. RCIA attempts to make the process reflect the fact that it is the Christian community initiating new members into it. Therefore it must take place in community. An RCIA Team is selected from the community. Various Rites are cele-

RCIA ... is the Christian community initiating new members into it.

brated in community at Sunday Masses so that the prospective new members become known to the parish.

A poster will be put up in the entry of the church so that you can familiarize yourself with the faces of the young men and women who will soon be joining our parish. Make a point of welcoming them when you see them. The document that came out of Vatican II says "the initiation

of adults is the concern and business of all the baptized." (RCIA #41). If you've been baptized, it's your business.

During the coming weeks you'll see the RCIA candidates and catechumens at:

~ **The Rite of Sending** when the parish as a community sends the group to the Cathedral where they will be "elected" by Bishop Loverde. This will take place on March 12 at the 5:30 Mass.

~ **The Scrutinies** – powerful rituals that remind us all of our need for the conversion and reconciliation that is the purpose of Lent. These will take place at different Masses on the 3rd, 4th and 5th Sundays of Lent.

~ **The Easter Vigil** at which the sacraments of initiation are celebrated and the catechumens are made one with the Body of Christ called the Church. This is the community's final ritual gesture – the climax (but not the end) of the journey. ✠

Tenebrae Service Good Friday, April 22nd, 8 PM

The word 'tenebrae' is Latin for shadows. Tenebrae service recalls the emotional aspects of the passion story and is a somber service. The service begins with the church in candlelight. Readers go up one at a time, read their selection, and extinguish one of the candles, until only the Christ candle remains. The first part of Psalm 22, which Jesus quoted on the cross, is then read and the Christ candle is extinguished, leaving the congregation in near total darkness—and near total devastation. The service ends. The people leave in silence.

The purpose of the service is to recall and reflect on the betrayal, abandonment, and agony of the events. It is left unfinished because the story isn't over until Easter Sunday.

Note: New time this year -- 8 pm

The Easter Vigil Liturgy -- April 23rd, 8:30 PM

The Easter Vigil service takes place on the night of Holy Saturday. This is a time for faithful Christians to wait and watch, hopeful and confident that Christ will return at midnight. The Easter, or Paschal, candle is lit during this service. The service traditionally begins outside, where worshippers gather around a fire. The service begins with words like these:

Brothers and sisters in Christ, on this most holy night, in which our Lord Jesus Christ passed over from death to life, the Church invites her members, dispersed throughout the world, to gather in vigil and prayer. For this is the Passover of the Lord, in which through word and sacrament we share in his victory over death.

Once lit, the Paschal candle is now a symbol of Christ, risen as the light of the world, and come into the midst of the people. The candle is carried into the church, where the worshippers are waiting in darkness symbolizing the darkness of Christ's tomb. The candle light is then shared with the congregation. The symbolism of the candle is made very clear by the words we pray:

Grant that this Easter candle make our darkness light; for Christ the morning star has risen, never again to set, and is alive and reigns for ever and ever.

The readings tell of the creation of humanity, how humanity fell from grace, and was repeatedly rescued by God.

Focus on Ministry: Stone Soup 2011

By Veronica Dabney

Stone Soup Suppers have been an OLQP Lenten tradition for nearly two decades. A description of the origin of our Stone Soup series on the church website states: "The name "Stone Soup" is taken from a Napoleonic era legend/story made famous by the Grimm Brothers. Some years back children in [OLQP] religious education classes were asked to bring in a vegetable for Thanksgiving liturgy. When the class brought their contributions forward, the offerings made a tasty meal."

So, the Stone Soup symbolizes a coming together and sharing. As the website continues: "Shortly thereafter, it was suggested that light Lenten Friday night meals be organized to help parishioners prepare for Easter. Then speakers were added for after-supper discussion of social justice issues. At first, most speakers were parishioners, [and then, we] expanded to include local and national speakers to address [a more diversified array of] social justice problems."

Fred Cain, OLQP's Social Justice and Outreach Minister reports that this year we will be experiencing a shift in the traditional structure and focus of the Stone Soup series. The basic program, Mass followed by a dinner and then speaker, will remain intact. However, rather than focusing almost exclusively on broad social justice issues, parishioners have made it clear that they also want to discuss the spiritual aspects of Lent.

This year, in response to those requests, all the guest speakers will be members of the clergy who will talk about the pillars of Lent; fasting, prayer and alms giving. Since there are more Fridays than there are pillars, each guest speaker will discuss various elements of one or more of the pillars.

Clergy and Topics for the 2011 Stone Soup season:

First Friday in Lent -- March 11

The Significance of Fasting in Today's Society

Fr. Tom Tunney, C.S.Sp.
Associate Pastor, OLQP

Fourth Friday in Lent April 1

Finding God Through Prayer

Fr. James Noonan, MM
Maryknoll Office of Global Concerns
Missioner (Served in Asia)

Second Friday of Lent March 18

Reconciliation in Today's Shattered World

Fr. Rocco Puopolo, SX
Executive Director, Africa Faith & Justice Network
Missioner (Served in Africa)

Fifth Friday in Lent April 8

A Modern View of Almsgiving

Fr. Tim Hickey, C.S.Sp.
Pastor, OLQP

Third Friday in Lent March 25

Conversion — A Daily Exercise

Fr. Raymond Kemp
Research Fellow, Woodstock Theological Center,
Georgetown University

Sixth Friday of Lent April 15

Sacrifice and Suffering

Fr. Joe Nangle, O.F.M.
Ministerio Latino, OLQP

The Advocate extends **best wishes to Fred Cain** and his family as they leave OLQP to move to Minnesota. Fred has provided outstanding leadership in his role as Social Justice and Outreach Minister (SJOM) and will be sorely missed.

We welcome Greg Staff who began his transition into the role of OLQP's SJOM on January 24th. He joins us after several years in the immigrant rights movement. Greg is a native of Arlington, active in local community organizing, including VOICE. Please take time to offer Greg a warm OLQP welcome. Contact: gstaff@olqpva.org, 703-979-5580

Walking in Medor

By Lori Clemente

There was a lot to think about while lying on the cot in the dark in the little room in Medor. Will the three pairs of pants and the three layers of blouses I'm wearing keep me warm enough when the temperature dips in the middle of the night? Will I wake up before the IV bag needs to be changed for the feverish woman lying in the school classroom? Will I hear it if her husband pounds on the rectory door as I told him to do if his wife is in distress during the night? Will her fever finally break so she can get back to her other children who are trying to sleep without her there with them? Are those little children as cold as I am in the middle of the night? Do they have three layers of clothes to put on?

These are the things that battered my brain before I could fall asleep. But I was not alone. I knew the presence of God was with me and would give me the strength to do what was put in front of me while I was there. I prayed for God to be with the people of Medor through all their suffering and all their joy. With human eyes unable to see the divine plan I had to leap to faith that God was in charge and I could humbly ask to be a vessel of God's love and be given what I needed to carry out God's will in Medor and everywhere I walked. Then I could fall asleep.



So here is where I walked on the last week of our trip. On Saturday, December 11th we watched as Sue Carlson, Heidi Sampang, Rey Sampang, and Martin Backer boarded a helicopter on the newly-made airstrip to take them to Port au Prince. Due to political unrest following the presidential elections, they were unable to travel on the roads and their flights

Medor, Continues on page 10

Speaking of Ministries... Spirited Speakers

By Veronica Dabney

Since its founding in 1924, Toastmasters International reports on its website that it, "has grown to become a world leader in helping people become more competent and comfortable in front of an audience. The nonprofit organization now has nearly 260,000 members in over 12,500 clubs in 113 countries..." ^{1/}

The original idea for a chapter of Toastmasters International at OLQP is credited to parishioner Victor Veizaga, who was inspired by the soaring oratory of Fr. James Healy, OLQP pastor from 1983 to 1995. Fr. Healy passed away January 10, 1997. Shortly thereafter, Veizaga proposed the chapter in memory of Fr. Healy. The OLQP Chapter, titled the "Spirited Speakers" ministry has been meeting regularly ever since.

The current chair is Wilfred Braveboy who has been a member since March 1998. Braveboy explained that "Spirited Speakers" aims to develop each participant's ability to become a more effective communicator. The group meets twice a month, on the first and third Sundays, 11:30 AM to 12:30 PM.

Most meetings are held in the Peace Room in the basement of the Ministry Center. There are currently 13 members, but they would like to at least double that number. Each member pays dues of \$32 every 6 months.

Braveboy said an overall goal of the program is to train members in every aspect of public speaking. He provided the following list of membership requirements that help to develop speaking and leadership skills:

Each member is required to write and deliver ten short speeches (5 – 7 minutes) in order to get a "Competent Speaker" award, the

first of many achievement and progress awards offered by the program.

Although members pick the topics and write their own speeches, there are also opportunities to read and deliver from other sources including essays and poems.

Each speech is critiqued by another member to help speakers learn to improve their communication skills. The critiques are also learning tools for the critics.

Besides prepared speeches, members are given opportunities to "speak on their feet" in round table sessions called "table topics," where they are required to give impromptu comments of 1 to 3-1/2 minutes on a range of topics. All speeches—prepared or table topics—can be on any subject from religion or politics to family life issues.

Each member can plan and run a meeting. The member/facilitator is then responsible for everything from putting together the agenda and calling the meeting, to controlling it as it proceeds.

Braveboy himself is a testament to the success of the program because he is considered to be one of OLQP's most sought after and effective speakers. Besides providing information about the group for this article, he also extended an enthusiastic invitation to those interested in joining.

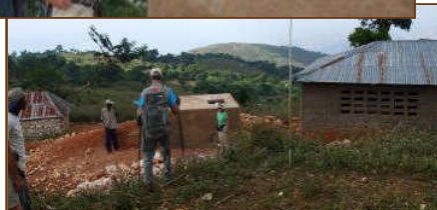
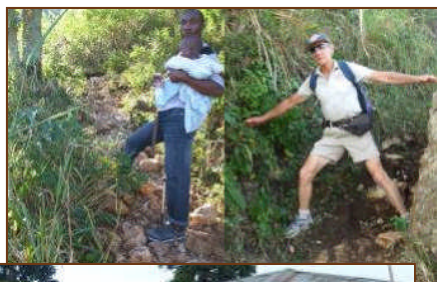
If you would like to improve your communication skills, learn to facilitate meetings, or just become more comfortable when speaking publically, contact Wilfred Braveboy, 703-979-1699, or e-mail him at jisaac6@verizon.net. †

^{1/} <http://www.toastmasters.org/Main/MenuCategories/WhatIsToastmasters.aspx>

Medor, Continued from page 9

were cancelled at the airport. So with Stan Brock's help, they were able to take the helicopter to Port au Prince and take a plane ride to Santa Domingo, Dominican Republic. From there they were able to get back to the United States. We may have been stressed by the frenzy required to get them out of the country, but it didn't seem to faze the people of Medor. This is Haiti, after all. I spent the rest of the day tending to the sick woman in the school room as Minhthu Lynagh worked with Daniel from the water committee filling bottles of bleach to hand out after the church service on Sunday.

Sunday the 12th was a busy day for Minhthu giving talks about clean water after the church service and giving out the bleach. A few helpers from Remote Area Medical (RAM) who attended the service stayed to help her out. I left at 7:30 am to go up to Zorange, an outlying village within St Joseph parish. Dorothy and Dale from RAM came along as well as Stan Brock and Dick Stoops. Stan wanted to scope out how to get some transportation to this mountain area so we took a long, stony path to the top. It took about 2 hours of strenuous hiking to get there. We were able to see the cistern that OLQP had built to give this area some access to water. The gutters were not installed yet on the school building to supply the water, but the cistern was fully built.



Pictures of the road to Zorange and the new cistern.

While in Zorange we spoke with people of the village about their health care needs. There is no health care available to the people in this remote area. They need to hike for 2 hours to get prenatal care at the Interaide clinic in Medor. There are no qualified midwives to help a woman deliver a baby. The women either get the care of mothers or sisters to deliver a baby or they rely on a male villager who helps deliver the babies. This villager has no gloves or concept of sterile technique. There is no documentation of child or mother survival rates. The people knew of the benefits of immunizations and said that there are immunization clinics nearby that meet one day about every 3 months but the supply runs out before all the children can receive them.

Since the cholera epidemic they have suspended the immunization clinics so none have been available for several months. Many children run barefoot and unclothed despite the cold wind that is prevalent at this 4,000 foot elevation. Most children have the swollen bellies of malnutrition and worms. And despite the cholera that was affecting people in the community, no one was able to afford bleach to treat the water. Even if they could, they worried that the bleach would make them sick to their stomachs or affect their fertility. Water was scarce and had to be carried from at least an hour away. Hopefully the cistern will help alleviate some of the water problems and continued efforts to educate the people about clean water will dispel the fallacies they have come to believe.

Monday, December 13th brought rain and misery to Medor. The animal waste mixed with the mud on the paths and there was no way to stay clear of it. Minhthu and Daniel continued to focus on clean water while I helped our sick patient. Tuesday the 14th was more of the same but we got to have a little celebration with the sisters of Medor. It was the 62nd anniversary of their order, Saint Theresa, Little Flower of Jesus, founded by a priest whose focus was to bring education and health care to remote areas. We laughed at the revelation—the sisters were RAM (Remote Area Medical) before Stan started his organization! The sisters

provided a lovely array of foods for the occasion and Minhthu cooked all afternoon to bring them some of her Vietnamese specialties. We were especially amazed at how they could bake a beautiful pineapple cake in a charcoal oven!



The sisters had invited the teachers and several members of the community to share the feast with us. We had a lively discussion about the role of religious orders in Haiti and the US. Some of the young students shared with us their hopes and dreams for the future. They had many questions for us about our lives and expressed great gratitude for what OLQP has been able to do for the community with the school and the church.

On Wednesday, December 15th, it was time for me to do some more walking. Despite our medical care providing antibiotics to treat pneumonia, malaria and pelvic inflammatory disease, our young woman was still very ill and had spiked a fever of 104 degrees. Dr. Dale decided that she needed to be sent to the hospital. Unfortunately the hospital in St. Marc was only accepting cholera patients so she had to be taken farther away to the Albert Schweitzer Hospital in LaChapelle. Pere Luckson took her down the mountain in a jeep. With time now available I focused on what seemed to be most needed in Zorange that I could actually do. I loaded up the worm medication that was left from our clinic sessions and took a helper and an interpreter back up to Zorange. We were able to treat 450 children with the medicine. The villagers said that if they would have had advanced word that we were coming there would have been 2,000 children

Medor, Continues on page 11

Medor, Continued from page 10

there. This will have to be a focus for us in the future as the need is so great.

Thursday, the 16th was the last full day of work in Medor. I continued my walking, this time up to the mountain on which we teamed up with "Trees for the Future" to plant 60,000 trees. A gentleman named St. Louis Alphonse from the town of Desamaes (3 hours away) came to visit Minhthu and me about the project. He was an agricultural technologist



Mr. St. Louis Alphonse with Lori Clements atop the reforested mountain

who oversaw the planting in this area. He said the planting has resulted in an 80% success rate which is considered very good for Haiti. He has been pleased with the progress of the trees.

According to St. Louis, there were 70,000 trees planted in the nursery last January 2010. There is always some attrition as some plantings don't survive. They were able to get 60,000 trees to plantable stage and these trees were transplanted during the months from June through October of 2010. Some of the trees were offered to local villagers to plant on their properties for free. Most of these were the orange and lemon trees. Then the rest of them were planted on the mountain that you can see when looking straight out from the porch of the rectory. This mountain is owned by a landowner in Medor.

The nursery starts with a variety of seedlings. He said about 20% are orange trees, 20% lemon trees and then the rest are a variety of trees that are known to be good for wood and mountain coverage to prevent erosion. Some of them he named were lesenan, maranga, acaju, acacia, and saman. He and I spent the whole morning up on the mountain look-

ing at the progress of the plantings. Since they are still quite small, less than a foot tall, we had to pull away some of the scruffy grass to find them. Mr. Alphonse was very pleased with the progress. He said that a formal assessment of the success will be done after the plantings have been in for more than a year. At that time they take a counting of the surviving plants within a certain square footage at several spots around the mountain and determine how many have continued to progress.

St. Louise said that the nursery that was used for our plantings is now being used to grow coffee trees. That will not prevent us from starting another planting project because they are able to find landowners willing to let them use their land as a nursery. He said that he has a meeting with Timote on December 23rd to talk about the next step they will be taking with OLQP. He is very much looking forward to continuing with another project.

The next part of our day was to visit the schools and distribute school supplies we had collected for them. The secondary school was an easy skip over from the rectory, but we were surprised how far away the primary school was. Wow, I got in another long hike! Sr. Anise was there to give us a tour of the buildings and the extended day programs that were going on at the time. We were impressed by the cooking class—the women were taking a test which meant they were following a recipe from start to finish. Sweet aromas wafted through the air. There was also a sewing class of 20 or so women making colorful dresses. The sisters and the secondary school principal were so grateful for all the supplies and asked us to send their heartfelt prayers and well-wishes to the people at OLQP.

Daniel from the water committee came with us to the primary school so we were able to talk about water issues there. The principal would like to have more buckets so there can be one for drinking and one for washing inside each classroom. We also thought they should have more buckets right by the latrines to



This is a picture of the Medor market, the church, school and rectory from above.

wash their hands immediately after using them. We got to see the latrines that had been built with our contributions. There were 9-10 stalls and they were kept very clean which was good to see. We were impressed that they could be maintained so well with over 700 students there at the primary school.

The last walk of the day was back to the convent to meet with Sr. Alita and tie up the loose ends of our visit. She was very grateful for the medications we had left over from the medical clinic. She asked us to send her good wishes to the people of OLQP. As I walked back I saw the husband of the young woman we had treated for several days.. The hospital was not able to do much for her and just gave her one more antibiotic and sent her home. She was still getting fevers but had managed to walk with him back up to her home in Zorange and was there with her children. I had hoped for more, but this was all we were able to do for her this time.

There's still a lot to think about when I lie down on my big bed in Arlington. It won't be whether I'll be warm enough when the temperature dips in the middle of the night. But I will still wonder about those who suffer in Medor and what I can do to make even a small difference. This is what happens when you see it up close. It has a way of staying with you. The answer is still the same: Let the presence of God in my life give me the strength to do what I can even in small ways. Humbly ask to be a vessel of God's love to carry out God's will which is beyond our human understanding. †

OLQP Upcoming Calendar Highlights... calendar.olqpva.org

FEBRUARY 2011

Thu, 17th... Arlington FOOD BANK Distribution - Hall, 9 am
Carpenter's Shelter Supper - Hall, 4:30 pm
Sat, 19th... Black History Month Youth Bus Tour
Mon, 21st... Office Closed (Presidents' Day)
Thu, 24th... Substance Abuse Wkshp: Arlington County - FR, 7 pm
Fri, 25th... Christian Meditation - Church, 10:45 am (begin weekly)

MARCH 2011

Sat, 5th... RE Review Sessions, Ministry Center, 4 pm
Family Mass, Hall, 5 pm
Sun, 6th... Bishop's Lenten Appeal Commitment Weekend
Pancake Dinner - Haiti Teen Delegation - Hall, 5 pm
Wed, 9th... Ash Wednesday Masses:
8 am, 5 pm (Family Mass), 7 pm (bilingual)
Sat, 12th... Visitation Ministry Training - Peace Room, 10 am
Ignation Volunteer Corps, Hall, 1 pm
L'Arche Luncheon - Founders Rm, 1 pm
RCIA: Rite of Sending and Election - 5:30 PM Mass
Sun, 13th... Medor Haiti Lenten Project begins
2nd: Black and Indian Missions Collection
Mon, 14th... Victim's Assistance Healing Mass - Church, 7:30 pm
Reception: Healing Mass - Founders Rm, 8:30 pm
Thu, 17th... Arlington FOOD BANK Distribution - Hall, 9 am
Carpenter's Shelter Supper - Hall, 4:30 pm
Sat, 19th... Death Unto Life Workshop - Founders Rm, 10 am
First Communion Service Day - Hall, 10 am
Mon, 21st... Interfaith Meditation - Founders Rm, 7:30 pm
Sat, 26th... Confirmation 2011 Retreat (offsite)
Death Unto Life Workshop - Founders Rm, 10 am
Sun, 27th... RCIA: 1st Scrutiny - 9:30 Mass

APRIL 2011

Sat, 2nd... RE Review Sessions, Ministry Center, 4 pm
Family Mass, Hall, 5 pm
Sun, 3rd... RCIA: 2nd Scrutiny - 11:15 Mass
Sat, 9th... RCIA: 3rd Scrutiny - 5:30 pm
Stations of the Cross for Children - Church, Hall, 4 pm
Sun, 10th... 2nd: OLQP Capital Improvement Fund Collection
Sun, 17th... Palm Sunday
RCIA Retreat - offsite
Thu, 21st... Arlington FOOD BANK Distribution - Hall, 9 am
Carpenter's Shelter Supper - Hall, 4:30 pm
Holy Thursday Mass - 7 pm (bilingual)
Fri, 22nd... Good Friday Service, 3 pm
Stations of the Cross - in Spanish - Church, 6 pm
Tenebrae - Church, 8 pm
Sat, 23rd... Holy Saturday - Easter Vigil Mass at 8:30 pm
Sun, 24th... Easter Sunday Mass Schedule:
8 am, 9:30 am, 11:15 am, 1 pm (Spanish), 6 pm
Fri, 29th... Water Into Wine - Ministry Center, 6:30 pm
Sat, 30th... Water Into Wine - Ministry Center, 9 am
Communion Ministers Diocesan Training - St. Agnes

MASS SCHEDULE

Daily Mass: Monday-Thursday at 12 Noon
Fridays During Lent at 6 pm
(March 11, 18, 25, April 1, 8, 15)
Weekend Masses: Saturdays 5:30 PM Vigil
Sundays 8 AM, 9:30 AM, 11:15 AM
1 PM in Spanish
6 PM Young Adult Mass

Regularly Scheduled:

2nd Sunday of Each Month: OLQP FOOD DRIVE (remember to pick up a reuseable grocery bag on the 1st Sunday)
Wednesdays during Lent: Reconciliation & Stations of the Cross (see page 6 for specific details)
Fridays during Lent: 6 pm Daily Mass & 6:30 pm Stone Soup Suppers (see page 8 for topic and speaker details)

Pastoral Staff:

Rev. Timothy J. Hickey, C.S.Sp., Pastor
Rev. Thomas Tunney, C.S.Sp., Associate Pastor
Rev. Joseph Nangle, OFM, Ministerio Latino
Christina Kozyn, Parish Office Administrator
Katie Remedios, Religious Education Director
Greg Staff, Social Justice & Outreach Minister
Mike Sheehan, Youth & Young Adult Minister

Email Addresses:

Pastor/Fr. Tim: thickey@olqpva.org
Assoc. Pastor/Fr. Tom: ttuney@olqpva.org
Fr. Joe Nangle: jnangleofm@yahoo.com
Parish Office/Christina: ckozyn@olqpva.org
Religious Education/Katie: kremedios@olqpva.org
Social Justice & Outreach/Greg: gstaff@olqpva.org
Youth & Young Adult Minister/Mike: mseehan@olqpva.org

Marriage Preparation:

Please contact Fr. Tim at least six months prior to your wedding date.

Reconciliation:

Saturdays - 5 PM and by appointment

Baptism:

Please contact the office at office@olqpva.org or call 703-979-5580 for preparation arrangements and the upcoming schedule.

Mass Schedule:

Weekdays Monday through Friday - 12 Noon
Saturdays - 5:30 PM Vigil
Sundays - 8:00 AM, 9:30 AM, 11:15 AM & 1:00 PM (Spanish)
6 PM Young Adult Mass

Advocate Staff:

Paula Cruickshank, Editor: 703-533-7355, cruicksp@yahoo.com
Feature Writers:
Paula Cruickshank, Sally Harris, Jack Sullivan,
Betty Mills, Veronica Dabney and Kathy Desmond
Christina Kozyn, Layout Design
Jeannette Gantz, Distribution
Please send an email message to jgantz@olqpva.org to receive
The Advocate by email or to have it sent to your home address.

Parish Website:

www.olqpva.org

