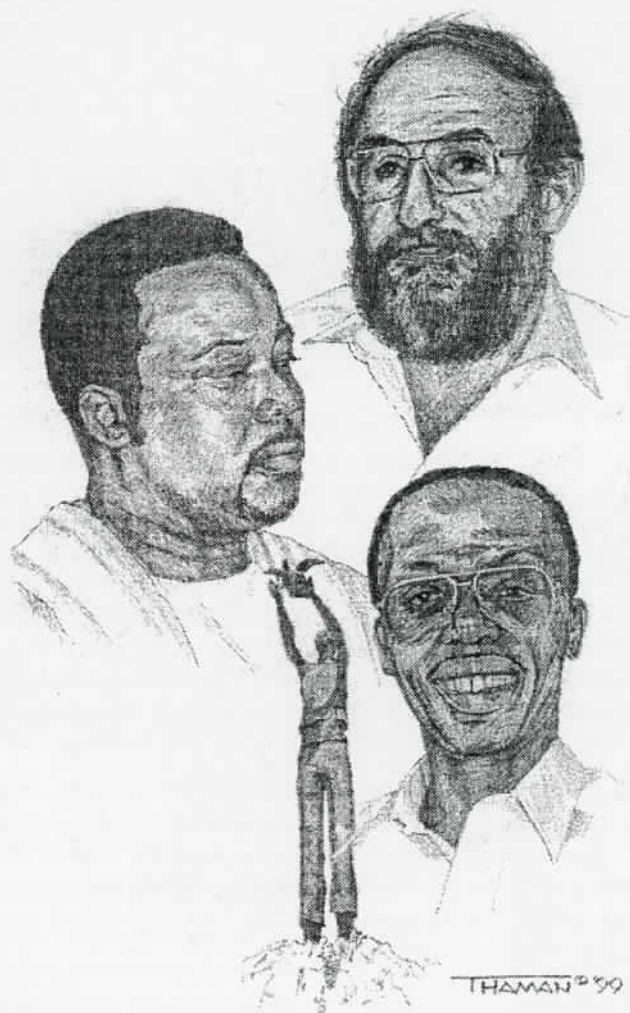


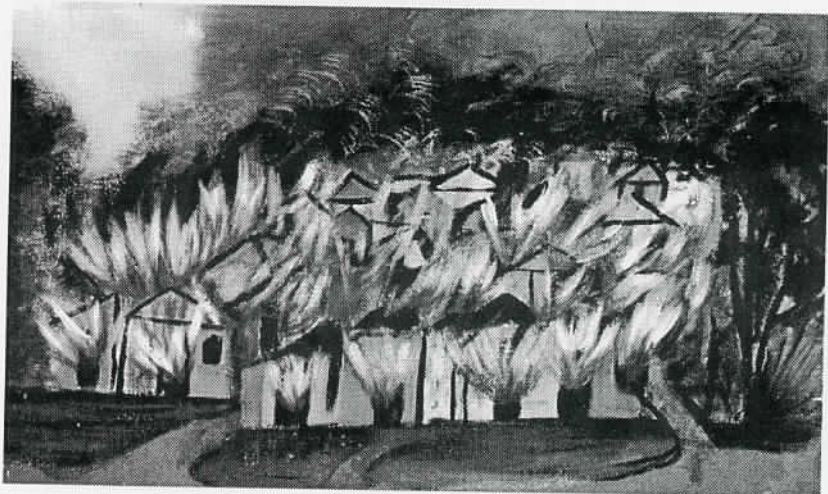
Chemen Kwa Pèp Ayisyen



People of Haiti Stations of the Cross

A pilgrimage honoring some of the champions
of Haiti's struggle for democracy

*April Dec, 2003
Visitation House
Port-au-Prince Haiti*



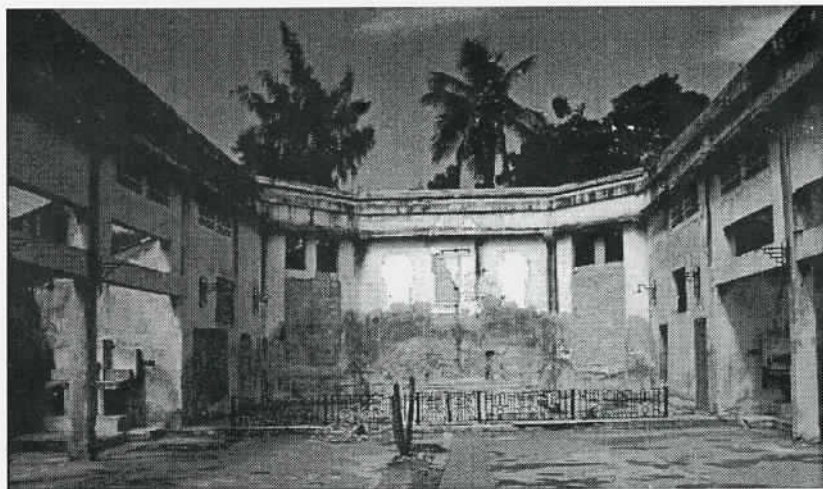
Visiting the Stations

The People of Haiti Stations of the Cross is a pilgrimage of the actual sites where hundreds of Haitians lost their lives in their fight for economic justice and political freedom. At each site visitors hear the story, including some first hand accounts, of now historic events which make those places sacred in Haiti's struggle for democracy. The pilgrimage is a history of courage in the face of injustice beginning when Haiti became a French slave colony in the 17th century and continuing through the political manipulation of the 20th century. The tour is also a way for visitors to plant the seeds of change through their resolution, witness, and visible show of solidarity with the Haitian people.

The group is invited to join in prayer and a well known Ti Legiz song which asks God's Holy Spirit to descend upon us and enable us to more clearly understand our personal and collective mission for Haiti. For visitors who cannot arrange the several hours it takes to see the actual sites, a "virtual" pilgrimage at the Visitation House mural depicting the sites offers a concentrated version of those same historic events.

**O Lespri Sen descen sou nou
Nou genyen misyon pou Ayiti
O Lespri Sen descen sou nou
Nou genyen misyon pou la te-a.**

PHOTOS BY RENEE DIETRICH



1. Church of Saint Jean Bosco

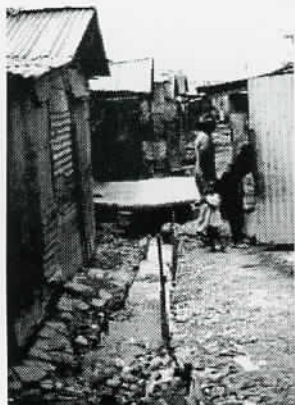
massacre of congregation

This is the burned out shell of then Father Aristide's parish church. It is a site of great historical importance where the democratic movement in Haiti found its loudest voice and its source of strength. On September 11, 1988, a massacre by the Tonton Macoute and Haitian military was carried out against this congregation during Mass. It is this event that Father Aristide will eventually call a victory for the side of the martyrs, for out of this brutal tragedy, hope was born for a whole generation of Haitian people; the Cavalas movement and democracy were "baptized" that day.

2. Cite Soleil

destruction & murder of residents

A quarter of a million people try to survive in Cite Soleil, the Western hemisphere's most desperate slum. We remember the origins of this place and speak particularly of the massacre two days after Christmas, 1993, which left dozens dead and destroyed 1200 homes.

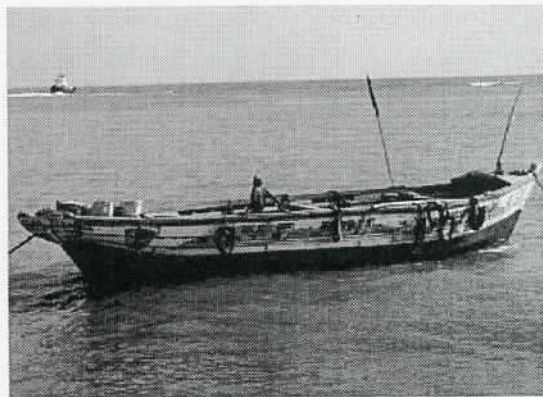


3. Fort Dimanche

torture and murder of
inmates

This site is the remnants where the infamous torture prison of the Duvalier dictatorship stood.

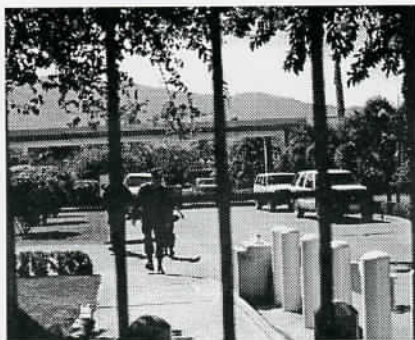
Perhaps 60,000 people died during those years, many of them within this prison. It would take volumes to recount the stories of those terrifying and oppressive years. The prison became the symbol of those years and actually became a museum during Aristide's Presidency. Following the coup d'etat, it once again became a death camp. When President Aristide returned from exile on October 15, 1994, the people dismantled most of Fort Dimanche block by block to build "homes."



4. The Waterfront refugees lost by sea

Here we ponder the water that separates Haiti and the United States. We remember the tens of thousands of refugees lost at sea fleeing political and economic nightmare in Haiti. A third of these people now live in other

countries. We recall some of the history that has transpired in this water and rededicate ourselves to the important bridge building that is taking place offering hope for the future.



5. American Embassy

u.s. involvement

To arrive here we pass the City Hall, the Parliament and the United Nations Park. The history of Haiti and the United States has been interwoven, for better for worse, from the very beginning. We remember some of that history and dedicate our efforts, as foreign guests in Haiti, to

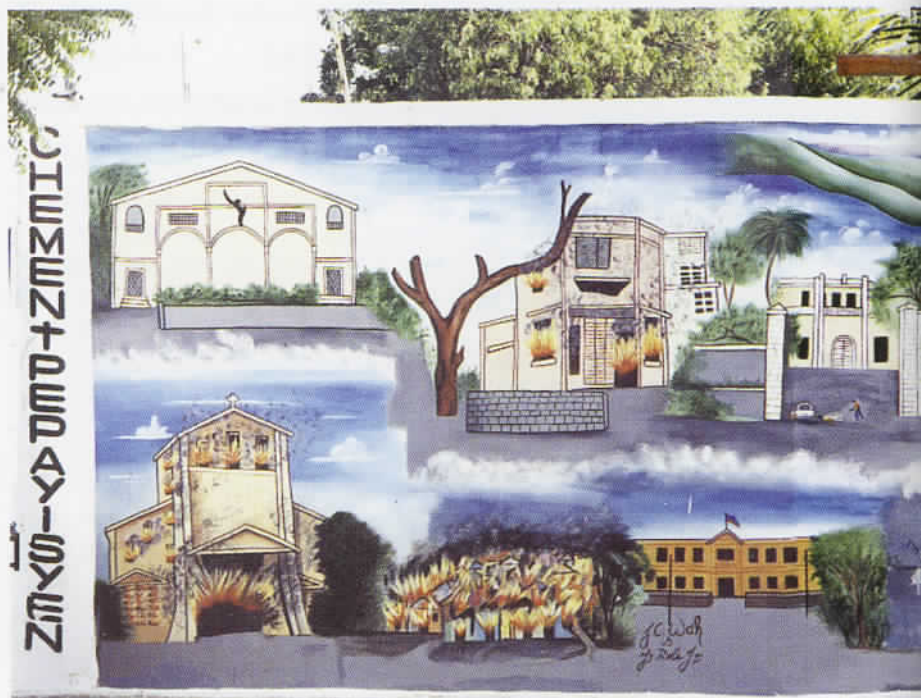
empowering the Haitian people and enabling their quest for economic and political freedom.

6. Route to Cemetery

last massacre of the coup years

This station is in two parts and commemorates the third anniversary of the coup d'etat, September 30, 1994, when hundreds of thousands of Haitian people were able to assemble for the first time since the coup began. The Mass at the Cathedral and march that was to proceed to the National Cemetery to "bury" the coup once and for all was met by members of the FRAPH and the last massacre of the coup years ensued. We drive the route of this march and remember the events of that day.





VISITATION HOUSE STATIONS OF THE CROSS MURAL, BOTTOM, LEFT TO RIGHT: 1. ST. JOHN BOSCO, 2. CITE SOU
 TOP, RIGHT TO LEFT: 9. MAN OF PEACE, 10. PRESENT & ORIGINAL CATHEDRAL, 12. IZMERY BUSTS, 11. FONK

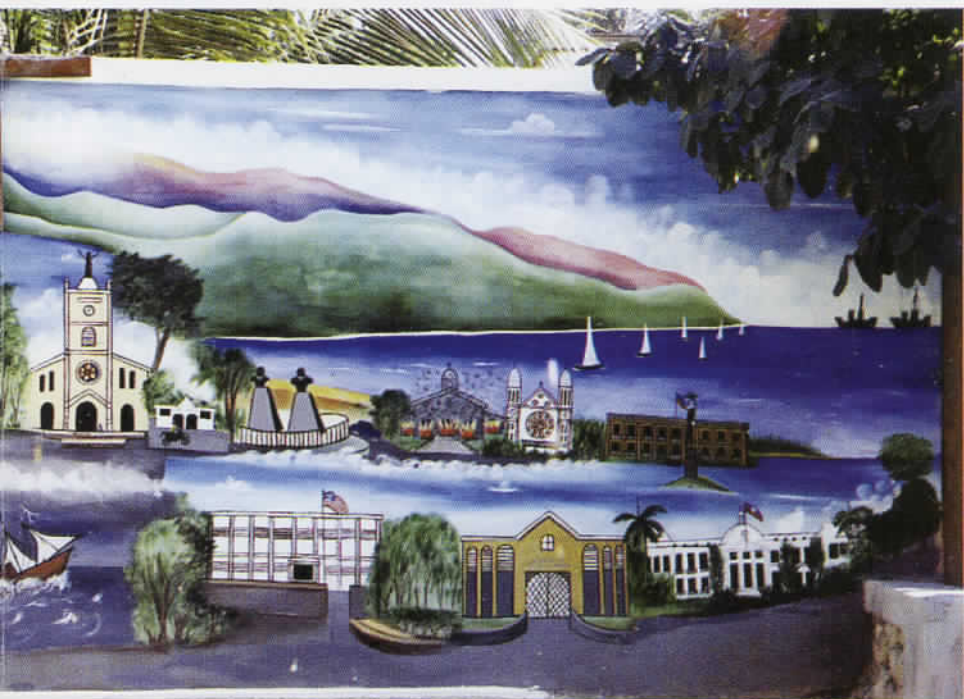
7. National Palace

the power of
 repression and
 freedom

The history that
 could be told at
 this site could
 take days. We
 focus on the

recent years, including President Aristide's enormous victory in the first free election in Haiti's long history. We talk about the two coups of 1991, Aristide's return in 1994, and the first non-violent transfer of power in 1996.





3. FORT DIMANCHE, 4. REFUGEES LOST BY SEA, 5. AMERICAN EMBASSY, 6. CEMETERY, 7. PRESIDENTIAL PALACE;
12. SACRE COVER, 13. MONTFORT FATHERS' HOUSE, 14. LA FANMI SELAVI, 15. ARISTIDE FOUNDATION



8. Former Military Headquarters

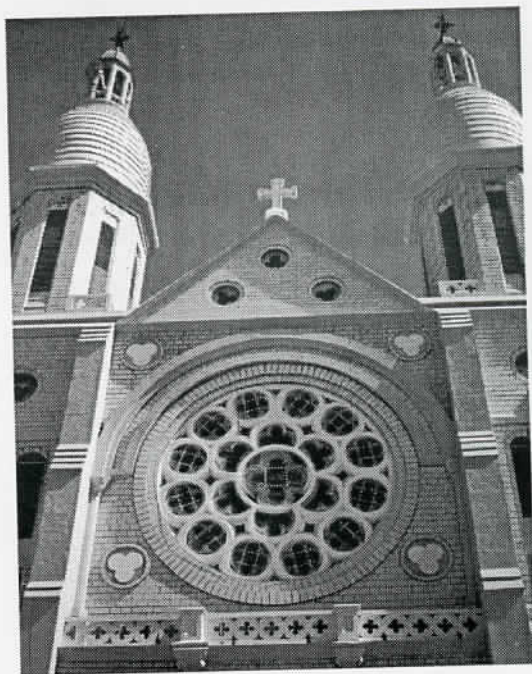
the strength of haitian women

When the Haitian military was disbanded, President Aristide presented this building to the newly founded Ministry of Women's Conditions. We remember the brave women who continue to be the hope for Haiti's future.

9. Man of Peace & Neg Mawon Statues

victims of the coup
and haitian independence

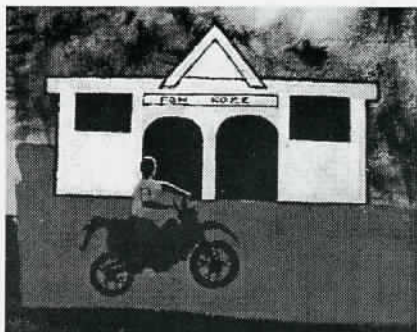
This statue commemorates the six thousand known victims of the three years of the coup d'etat. The statue was dedicated February 5, 1996, and the plaque below it reads, "Our blood has fallen on the ground so that Haiti would not have to remain downtrodden — on the ground." We also acknowledge the Neg Mawon statue, a tribute to the slave revolt that succeeded in 1804 against the French colonialists, creating the Independent Haiti.



10. Catholic Cathedral of Notre Dame

role of the church in haiti

The history here is plentiful. Many events that transpired here are recalled and the role of the church in Haiti is explored.



11. Fonkoze Office torture and murder of Amos Jeannot

Amos Jeannot, an employee of Fonkoze Haiti, who was kidnapped during a robbery of the Port-Au-Prince office in September, 2000. Through their threats his kidnapers attempted to close all of the offices of Fonkoze, an organization which supports the organized poor of Haiti

by providing grants and loans and a variety of community support programs. His brutal torture and murder is a jarring reminder that the cycle of repression in Haiti still lies close to the surface. A fund has been established for this dear friend of Visitation House to assist his family and create a living memorial in his name.

12. Church of Sacre Couer murder of Antwan Izmerly and Guy Mallory

This is where two men dedicated to a democratic and constitutional Haiti were gunned down during the coup years. On September 11, the fifth anniversary of the Saint



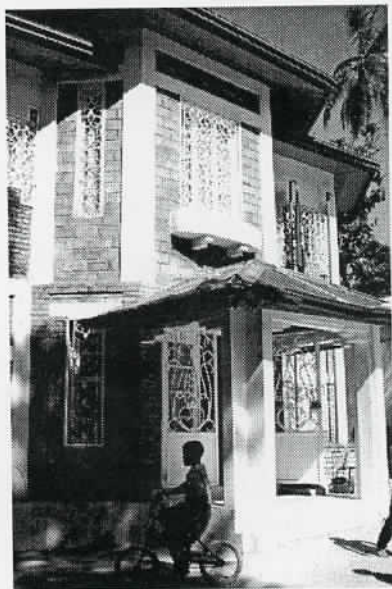
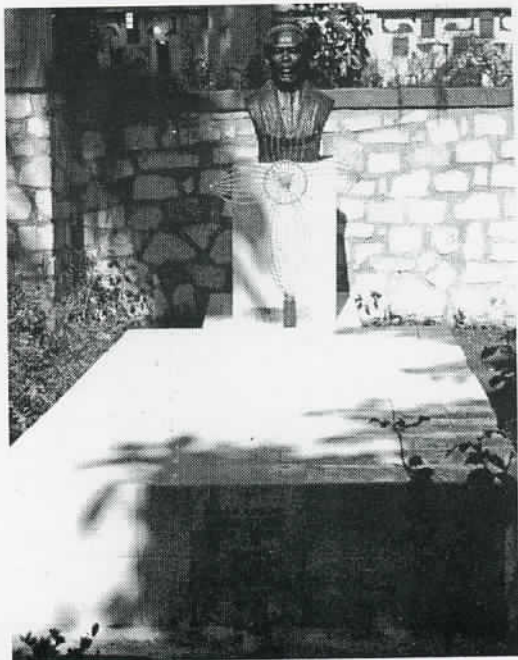
Jean Bosco massacre, Antwan Izmerly, a friend and supporter of the exiled president, Aristide, was taken during Mass and executed on the street. Visitation House is the former home of Antwan given by him prior to his death. Parc Izmerly, is dedicated to him as are many neighborhood projects in the Antwan Izmerly Center for Peace. He was an outstanding and courageous man and his story gives life and strength to the fledgling democracy in Haiti. We retrace Antwan's last steps to arrive at memorial busts which are a monument to him and his brother, George, who was also assassinated for the democratic cause. The Minister of Justice, Guy Mallory, was killed at approximately the same place one month later. It was perhaps the most hopeless time of all in Haiti's recent history.

13. Montfort Fathers' House

murder of

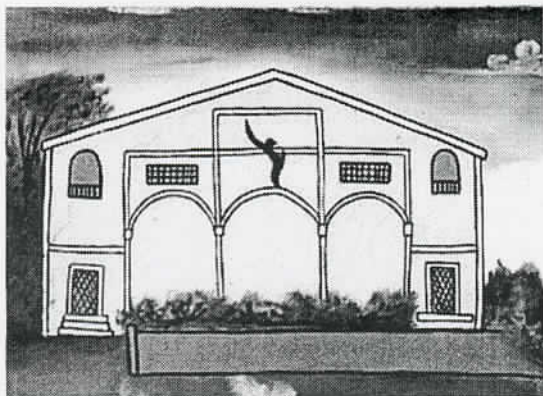
fr. jean marie vincent

We then visit the site where Father Jean Marie Vincent, another popular priest and leader of one of the earliest peasant organizations. On August 28, 1994, three weeks before a U.S. led intervention, Father Vincent was brutally murdered at the front gate of the Montfort priests' home in Port-Au-Prince. He is buried at the same place where he died. We sing at his grave to give witness to his good work.



14. La Famni Selavi burning of orphanage

The fourteenth station is around the corner at La Famni Selavi, Father Aristide's orphanage, begun in 1986. It was fire bombed a few days before his inauguration as President and completely burned down during the coup. Now rebuilt, it is also the home to *Radyo Timoun*, a radio station which, under the direction of former students, broadcasts presentations by Haitian children throughout Haiti.



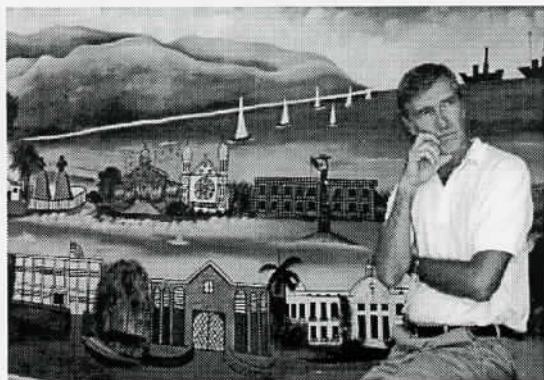
Jean-Bertrand Foundation the fifteenth station

The last hours, death and burial of Jesus are commemorated in the popular devotion of the Stations of the Cross. Christians know that the story does not end with Good Friday, but continues with the Resurrection. The victory

over even death is a life giving belief for the Christian community. For the same reason, we make our way to the Resurrection station of the Jean-Bertrand Foundation and we are given a share in the hope that the Haitian people are discovering there. The final stop of this journey, if possible, is a visit to the rebuilt home of President Aristide. Here we will have an opportunity to meet with him and his family to experience something of the remarkable personal story of this prophetic and priestly voice of the poor, who became their president. In these busy days of his 2nd term as president, it is more difficult to schedule these meetings.

Thanks

A special thanks to President Aristide for his extraordinary hospitality over the years of our making the stations. Thanks also to Carolyn Crowe for creating and publishing this booklet. My deepest gratitude goes to the thousands who, through their presence on this pil-

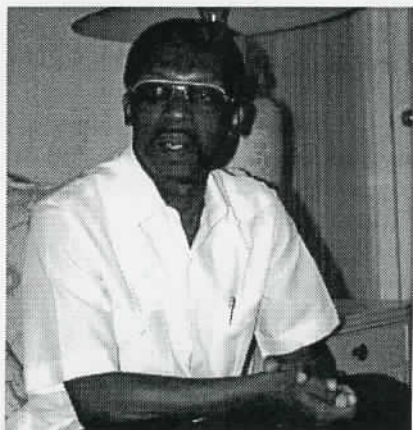


grimage, have given witness to the solidarity we feel with the Haitian people in their struggle for economic justice and a truly participatory democracy.

—RON

Resurrection

Since we began celebrating the resurrection at the Foundation and at my home as part of the Stations of the Cross, I have had the opportunity to meet with hundreds of American friends led by our dear Brother in Christ, Ron. Spending time together, we celebrate the 15th station of the cross, the station of resurrection. Discussing Haiti and the world, is always a rich and educational experience for me. It gives me the opportunity to meet with Americans who are responding to Haiti with their hearts, who see not only the misery, but also the richness of my country and people.



The resurrection is a living process. It is taking place today throughout Haiti. It is taking place socially, culturally, economically and spiritually. As each of you returns home and continues to work for resurrection in some form, know that Haiti's doors are open to you. We look forward to seeing you on future visits to Haiti, and to finding ways to deepen the bonds of solidarity and spirituality that link us as human beings.

May the Lord bless you and our dear Brother in Christ, Ron.

—JEAN-BERTRAND ARISTIDE, PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF HAITI



**ANTWAN
IZMERY
MEMORIAL
PROJECTS**