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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-0535

June 18, 2009

Jean-Juste Family
c/o Mr. Kenst Jean-Juste
1303 NE 143rd Street
North Miami, FL 33161

Dear Friends,

It is with a heavy heart that I express my deepest condolences to you at the passing of Fr. Gerard Jean-Juste. As you are well aware, Fr. Jean-Juste was a profoundly gifted Haitian social activist who championed the rights of millions of Haitians. He loved his country so much that he dedicated his life to giving other Haitians the opportunity to have a better life. I consider it an honor and privilege to have had the chance to advocate on behalf of this modern day hero.

Bound by his faith in God, Fr. Jean-Juste tirelessly advocated for the rights of the poor using poignant and powerful scriptures to impart his message upon anyone who would listen. Whether in the Haitian rural areas, in the national penitentiary, or in Miami, Fr. Jean-Juste spoke to anyone who would listen. In his view, as one human race, it is incumbent upon each of us to do our part to help one another. Unfortunately, this "golden rule," however simply stated, is not as easily followed. Despite the opposition, Fr. Jean-Juste persisted and never gave up as he believed in a free and just Haiti.

I am convinced that Fr. Jean-Juste will live on in the hearts and memories of the countless lives he touched in Haiti, the United States, and around the world. I have no doubt, that years from now, the people of a free and prosperous Haiti will reflect and draw inspiration from Fr. Jean-Juste's distinguished legacy of humanitarianism and social activism.

As a member of the House of Representatives, I will continue to work with my colleagues to support justice, democracy, and a better future for the people of Haiti. At this saddest moment, please accept my profound sympathy for your loss and know that I am keeping you and your family in my thoughts and prayers.

Sincerely,



Maxine Waters
Member of Congress

MW:ts

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