

PRESIDENT SHALALA, DEAR FRIENDS...

IT'S ALWAYS A PLEASURE TO RECOGNIZE AND HONOR A TRUE PILLAR OF OUR COMMUNITY --- SISTER JEANNE O'LAUGHLIN.

AND BECAUSE BIRTHDAYS ARE SPECIAL CELEBRATIONS, IT'S EVEN A BETTER OCCASION TO GATHER AND CELEBRATE LIFE.

THERE IS AN OLD SAYING THAT I THINK CAPTURES THE LIFE AND MISSION OF SISTER JEANNE.

PREACH THE GOSPEL, AND IF NECESSARY, USE WORDS.

SISTER JEANNE KNOWS THAT WORDS MUST CARRY ACTION IF THEY ARE TO CHANGE THE COMMUNITY AND CHANGE THE WORLD.

HERS IS A LIFE OF ACTION, A LIFE OF SERVICE, AND OF LOVE.

SHE GIVES FOOD TO THE HUNGRY, WATER TO THE THIRSTY, COMPASSION TO THE POOR, AND A WARM EMBRACING WELCOME TO ALL THOSE WHO LAND ON SHORES.

SISTER JEANNE DOES ALL THIS WITH HER IRISH CHARM, A MIX OF COMPASSION AND GRIT.

NEVER ONE TO BACK DOWN FROM A TOUGH FIGHT, SHE HAS ALWAYS BEEN ON THE SIDE OF THOSE MOST VULNERABLE IN OUR SOCIETY.

AND SHE HAS BEEN A TRAILBLAZER IN THE STRUGGLE FOR THE RIGHTS OF THOSE MOST IN NEED, ESPECIALLY IMMIGRANTS, CHILDREN, AND WOMEN.

I AM HARD PRESSED TO REMEMBER A SITUATION OR AN ISSUE IN OUR COMMUNITY WHERE LEADERSHIP WAS NEEDED AND THE VOICE AND PRESENCE OF SISTER JEANNE WAS NOT FELT.

WHENEVER THE VOICELESS NEED A CHAMPION, SISTER JEANNE IS THERE.

AND, AS A GRADUATE OF BARRY UNIVERSITY, I AM PROUD OF THE WORK SISTER JEANNE DID FOR MY ALMA MATER, AND FOR THE WORK SHE HAS DONE IN THE COMMUNITY WHERE I AM NOW MAYOR.

SISTER JEANNE, MIAMI-DADE COUNTY IS BETTER OFF BECAUSE OF ALL YOU HAVE DONE.

TODAY IT IS MY PLEASURE TO JOIN PRESIDENT SHALALA AND ALL THOSE PRESENT HERE WITH US...

AND ON BEHALF OF THE RESIDENTS OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY...

LET ME PRESENT YOU WITH THIS BIRTHDAY
CERTIFICATE, AND LET ME WISH YOU A BLESSED
AND HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

