

Doctor Immacula Cantave was born in the capital of Haiti on October 13, 1929. She was the youngest of a family of nine children, six brothers and two sisters who loved her and fed her intellectual curiosity very early in life. As a child, she was very clever and well-organized and soon abandoned her identity of "last born" to become first in everything she did in life.

Dr. Cantave was an avid reader in primary school and an outstanding student of mathematics. She was among the first admitted to Lycee des Jeunes filles, an academy created in 1954, to commemorate 150 years of independence in Haiti. Dr. Cantave was among the first to pass the entrance exams and prepare herself for the national baccalaureate, to which very few women were previously admitted. At a time when medicine was a male profession, she faced the medical school entrance exam with no fear, and was happy that 3 young women from her study group were also admitted with her to medical school. There were fewer than 10 women doctors in Haiti, when she began her career. Dr. Cantave enjoyed her residency at the Sanatorium, where she treated children and adults suffering from advanced tuberculosis. There she learned to treat patients, and learned medical procedures and treatments; that saved many lives.

Eventually, her sisters requested she migrate to the US due to the political situation in Haiti, in the early 1960's. She studied English at the International House in New York for one year, an experience she liked to talk about because of the diversity of culture and languages amongst the friends she made there.

One year later, Dr. Cantave was admitted to her second residency program. This time she chose Pathology. During her training, she frequently received recognition as an outstanding resident. She was an Associate Professor of Medicine at the University of Illinois Medical School. In 1978, she was appointed Chief of Pathology at the West Side Veteran Administration Hospital in Chicago. In that position, she contributed to the professional education and formation of over 100 excellent pathologists in the United States.

As a member of AMHE (Association of Haitian Physicians Living Abroad), she used her position of departmental chief to open doors for many Haitian young physicians, admitting them in the pathology residency program of the hospital so they could practice medicine in the USA. For many years, she was a regular contributor to the St Boniface Hospital in Fond des Blancs and to the Albert Schweitzer hospital in the Artibonite valley in an effort to improve medical care in Haiti. She was also generous to her nieces and nephews.

In Boston, Dr. Cantave participated in leadership conferences on health, organized by youth at Boston University's School of Medicine. She encouraged participants to study hard and work together to develop initiatives that benefit children in her homeland. She was a generous donor to OAMEC (Opening Access to Music Education for Children) of yofes.org and to the Resilient Sisterhood Project, <https://www.rsphealth.org> in Boston. Those left to mourn her include her sister Aline, her many nieces, her nephews and their children.

Funeral arrangements will be private, out of concern for the health of her friends, colleagues, and acquaintances.

Remembrances may be sent to Youth and Family Enrichment Services Inc., 1234 Hyde Park Ave, STE 104, Hyde Park, MA 02136, for the support of OAMEC or to the Resilient Sisterhood Project at 236 Huntington Ave, Suite 308, Boston, MA 02115

Funeral service will be held on July 6 at 10:00 AM at First Parish in Brookline, MA and can be accessed virtually at <https://www.facebook.com/FirstParishBrookline/live>

A Celebration of Life First Parish in Brookline July 6, 2020

Immacula Cantave



October 13, 1929 ~ June 26, 2020

Doctor Immacula Cantave
Celebration of Life
July 6, 2020

Opening Words	Never Fully Extinguished (Patricia Sheldon)	Rev. Lisa Perry-Wood
*Hymn	How Great Thou Art	Sung by Anthem Lights
First Reading	Matthew 5:1-12	Mario Adrien
*Hymn	Precious Lord, Take My Hand (Thomas Dorsey)	Sung by Mahalia Jackson
The Lord's Prayer	Michèle David	
	<i>Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come; thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. Amen.</i>	
Notre Père	Maud David Lerebours	
	<i>Notre Père, qui es aux cieux, Que ton nom soit sanctifié, Que ton règne vienne, Que ta volonté soit faite sur la terre comme au ciel. Donne-nous aujourd'hui notre pain de ce jour. Pardonne-nous nos offenses Comme nous pardonnons aussi à ceux qui nous ont offensés. Et ne nous soumetts pas à la tentation, mais délivre-nous du mal. Amen.</i>	
*Hymn	Amazing Grace	Sung by Jennifer Hudson
Reading	Psalms 23 (King James Version)	Michèle David
Cantique de David	Maud David Lerebours	
Reading	1 John 3:1-2	Rev. Perry-Wood

Eulogy		Rev. Perry-Wood
*Hymn	<i>J'irai la voir un jour</i>	
Closing Words	<i>Our Grief is a Holy Thing</i> (Tracie Barrett-Welser)	Rev. Perry-Wood
*Hymn	<i>Plus prêt de toi mon dieu</i>	
<i>* You are invited to stand, as you are able, at times in the service marked with an asterisk.</i>		

In Today's Service

The Reverend Lisa Perry-Wood, Officiating
Mario Adrien, nephew
Michèle David, niece
Maud David Lerebours, niece

FIRST PARISH MISSION STATEMENT

Called by Love, Sustained by Community, Committed to Justice
We strive to be a welcoming, diverse and loving congregation that nurtures spiritual growth for individuals and families, celebrates multicultural community, and works together to demand social justice, dismantle racism, and care for our living Earth.

First Parish in Brookline
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www.firstparishinbrookline.org