

My Brother “Chelo”

Victor Depeña

My brother, Jose Nicolas Depeña, worked at the World Trade Center. Unfortunately, on the morning of September 11, 2001, he was working on the 106th floor in a restaurant called Windows on the World. He was a salad maker. He was one of the victims of that black morning.

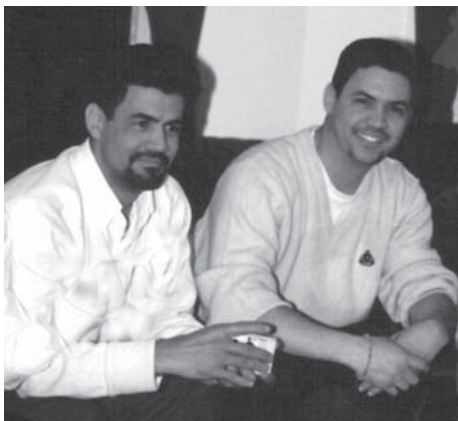
That day changed my life and the lives of everyone in my family. I miss my brother so much. “Chelo” was his nickname. When I was a

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kid, Chelo took me out to the theater. On one special occasion, we went to see the movie “Saturday Night Fe-

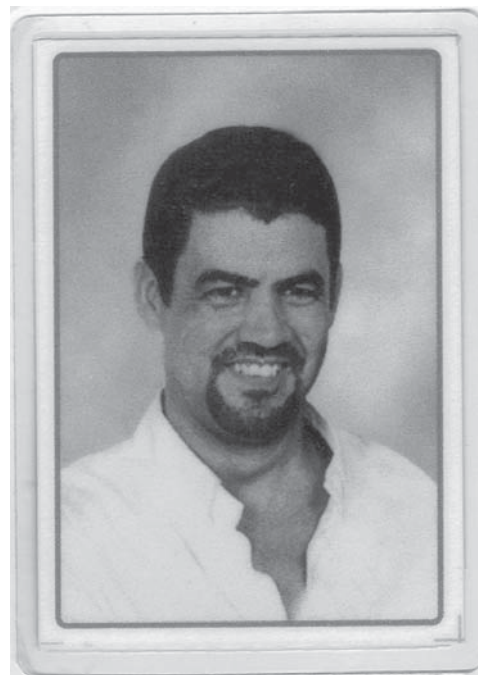
ver.” Sometimes, he took me to his workplace to teach me how to work. As adults, we were very close. He gave me advice about everything. Chelo was like a father to me. He was my best friend and a most charming brother!

I am not the only one who misses Chelo. He also left a wife and two children. In the Dominican Republic, he was like Saint Nicolas because he was dedicated to helping those in need.



I honor my brother’s memory by writing this. And I go back to the Dominican Republic every summer, and I try to do some of the things that my brother would have done. I think about my brother every day. I try to honor his memory by behaving in a most respectable and friendly way!

Victor Depeña (in photo with his brother on the left) is from the Dominican Republic. He currently lives in Methuen, MA, with his wife Yulisa and their daughter, Brisa. His goal is to get his GED and go to college, which his wife is currently doing! He attends classes at the Dr. Shirley F. Callan Learning Center.



“Cuando tenga que dejarte por un corto tiempo, por favor no entristezcas...sino extiende tu mano para confortar y dar ánimo y en cambio yo te confortaré y te tendré cerca de mí.”

This excerpt from Chelo’s funeral card translates as: “When I have to leave you for a short time, please don’t be sad...but extend your hand to comfort others and lift them up, and in exchange, I will comfort you and hold you close to me.”