



Title: Oscar Romero

A prayer from
Oscar Romero

A Future Not Our Own

It helps, now and then, to step back and take the long view. The kingdom is not only beyond our efforts, it is beyond our vision. We accomplish in our lifetime only a tiny fraction of the magnificent enterprise that is God's work. Nothing we do is complete, which is another way of saying that the kingdom always lies beyond us.

No statement says all that could be said. No prayer fully expresses our faith. No confession brings perfection. No pastoral visit brings wholeness. No program accomplishes the church's mission. No set of goals and objectives includes everything. This is what we are about: We plant seeds that one day will grow.

We water seeds already planted, knowing that they hold future promise. We lay foundations that will need further development.

We provide yeast that produces effects beyond our capabilities. We cannot do everything and there is a sense of liberation in realizing that. This enables us to do something, and to do it very well. It may be incomplete, but it is a beginning, a step along the way, an opportunity for God's grace to enter and do the rest.

Pray for this week:

- We pray for CAFOD partners working today with poor communities in El Salvador and around the world.
- We pray for ourselves that we may always be as brave as Romero in speaking out against injustice

Prayer to St Julie Billiard

Saint Julie, through your great devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus, you were miraculously cured and favoured by many graces.

By your powerful intercession, obtain for us above all, a great trust in God in all the difficulties of life, the strength to accomplish in all things the adorable will of God, and the special grace we now ardently ask of you.

"We must have courage in the times we live in. Great souls are needed, souls having the interest of God at heart"

St Julie Billiard

Reflect:

We are used to seeing the figure of Christ alone on the cross. But in El Salvador there is a tradition of painting the local community and landscape on the cross with Jesus. It is a sign that Jesus takes our joys and pains with him as he dies and rises again.

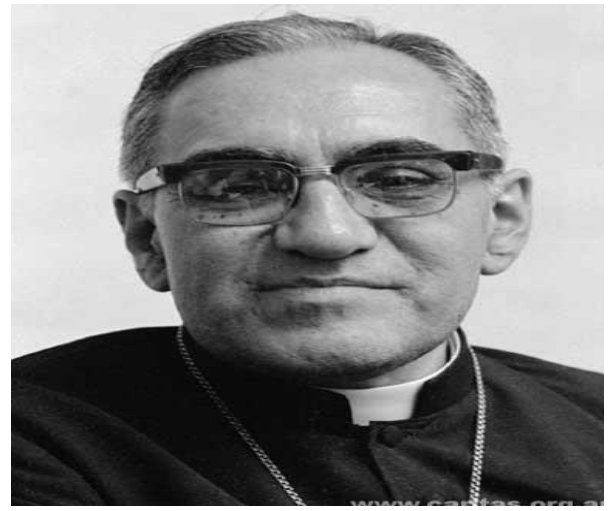
Today we are inspired by Romero's words: "It is not God's will for some to have everything and other to have nothing." We bring to Jesus those in our global family who do not have what they need.

You are invited to think carefully about the words of Romero. Write one thing you can do to help people have the basic things they need to be able to live as God wants.

God and Father of all, you gave us your servant Oscar Romero as a faithful and zealous pastor whose great love for your Church was shown in a special way by his love for the poor and those most in need. Grant that we too may reflect in our living the Gospel of Jesus your Son. Graciously honour your servant Oscar and grant me through his intercession the favour I ask of you.....

Through Christ our Lord,

Amen.



Lord Jesus,
We give thanks for the life of
Blessed Oscar Romero who spread your
message and struggled against injustice in El
Salvador.
Like you, he was a shepherd, a pastor, a brother;
Like you, he was taken from us;
Like you, he remains in our hearts.
Spirit of hope, work within us, just as you worked
in Blessed Oscar Romero, so that we too may
work for justice and spread the Good News, by
living out the Gospel, in solidarity with those
living in poverty.
Amen.



Let us ask Oscar Romero to pray for us:

We pray for all those who have lost
family members through violence in El
Salvador.

Blessed Oscar Romero: Pray for us
We pray for CAFOD partners working
today with poor communities in El
Salvador and around the world.

Blessed Oscar Romero: Pray for us
We pray for ourselves that we may
always be as brave as Romero in
speaking out against injustice and
working for a more just world where
everyone has what they need.

Blessed Oscar Romero: Pray for us
In silence, we make our own prayers.
(Pause)

Let us pray: Lord, strengthen the people of
of
El Salvador and all the people of God
that – like
Romero – we may be a ‘voice for the
voiceless’, speaking out against
injustice so that all God’s children can
be happy.

We make this prayer through Christ our
Lord. Amen