

## **Bulletin Inserts**

### **First Sunday of Lent**

#### **Archbishop Oscar Arnulfo Romero**

Oscar Arnulfo Romero was installed as Archbishop of San Salvador on February 22, 1977. In his three years as Archbishop, he became a fearless defender of the poor and marginalized people of El Salvador, which caused disdain among those in power.

He began as a conservative choice for Archbishop and was expected to avoid questioning the repressive government in power. However, this all changed in March of 1977, when a dear friend and fellow priest, Rutilio Grande was assassinated for his work with, and support of the poor. After this event, and opening himself to the reality of the repression surrounding him, he became, not only in word but in deed, a “voice for the voiceless”. For three years, his homilies were broadcast through the Archdiocesan radio station. Each week, he renounced the repression against his fellow Salvadorans, exhorting the government to stop the murder and torture, and to work to build a more just society. He spent time in the poorest areas and refugee camps. His words and actions became hope for a suffering people; a people who, in his own words, “touch the very heart of God.”

On March 24, 1980, Archbishop Romero was assassinated while saying mass in the chapel of the Divina Providencia, a hospital for the terminally ill. In the words of Pope John Paul II, Archbishop Romero gave his life “for the church and the people of his beloved country.” However, an assassin’s bullet did not silence the voice that held such meaning for so many.

Archbishop Oscar Romero is, not only to Salvadorans, but to all Latin Americans, and to people everywhere, a great symbol of hope and courage. He knew well the sufferings of his people, and also the risks of speaking out against those in power. He worked for nonviolence and justice for all people of El Salvador. It is with great affection and respect that he is referred to as “San Romero de Las Americas” (Saint Romero of the Americas).

### **Second Sunday of Lent**

“Nothing is so important to the church as human life,  
as the human person,  
above all, the person of the poor and the oppressed,  
who, besides being human beings,  
are also divine beings,  
since Jesus said that whatever is done to them  
he takes as done to him.  
That bloodshed, those deaths,  
are beyond all politics.  
They touch the very heart of God.”

Archbishop Oscar Romero - March 16, 1980

### **Third Sunday of Lent**

“It is wrong to be sad.  
Christians cannot be pessimists.  
Christians must always nourish in their hearts  
the fullness of joy.  
Try it, brothers and sisters;  
I have tried it many times and in the darkest moments,  
when slander and persecution were at their worst:  
to unite myself intimately with Christ, my friend,  
and to feel a comfort  
that all the joys of the earth do not give -  
the joy of feeling oneself close to God,  
even when humans do not understand one.  
It is the deepest joy the heart can have.”  
Archbishop Oscar Romero - May 20, 1979

### **Fourth Sunday of Lent**

“If I have the joy of possessing heaven,  
I would not mind being in that heaven  
near to those who today  
declare themselves my enemies.  
Because there we will not be enemies.  
I am never anyone’s enemy.  
But let those who without cause want to be my enemies  
be converted to love,  
and in love we shall meet in the blessedness of God.”  
Archbishop Oscar Romero - September 2, 1979

### **Fifth Sunday of Lent**

“The great need today  
is for Christians who are active and critical,  
who don’t accept situations without analyzing them  
inwardly and deeply.  
We no longer want masses of people  
like those who have been trifled with for so long.  
We want persons like fruitful fig trees  
who can say yes to justice and no to injustice  
and can make use of the precious gift of life,  
regardless of the circumstances.”  
Archbishop Oscar Romero - March 9, 1980

## **Sixth Sunday of Lent**

“God’s reign is already present on our earth in mystery.  
When the Lord comes, it will be brought to perfection”

*(Gaudium et Spes, 39)*

That is the hope that inspires Christians.  
We know that every effort to better society,  
especially when injustice and sin are so ingrained,  
is an effort that God blesses,  
that God wants,  
that God demands of us.”

March 24, 1980

*This is from the last homily delivered by Archbishop Oscar Romero. He was assassinated during the Eucharist following this homily.*

## **SUGGESTED RESOURCES**

**Available for free use through World Mission Ministries** (Contact Berenice Lechuga [lechugab@archmil.org](mailto:lechugab@archmil.org) or 414 769 3337.)

- “Romero” a 1989 film produced by Paulist Productions. (Also available through video retailers and rentals)
- Oscar Romero: Memories in Mosaic  
Maria Lopez Vigil  
EPICA Publications
- Oscar Romero: Reflections on His Life and Writings  
Marie Dennis, Renny Golden, Scott Wright  
EPCIA Publications

### **Other suggested resources (not available through World Mission Ministries :)**

- The Church is All of You: Thoughts of Archbishop Oscar Romero  
James R. Brockman, SJ  
Winston Press, Inc., 1984
- Archbishop Romero: Martyr of El Salvador  
Placido Erdozain  
Orbis Books, 1980
- Archbishop Oscar Romero: A Shepherd’s Diary  
Translated by Irene B. Hodgson  
St. Anthony Messenger Press, 1986
- The Violence of Love: The Pastoral Wisdom of Archbishop Oscar Romero  
James R. Brockman, SJ  
Harper & Row, Publishers, 1988

