

Sister Parish invites you to reflect on how the life and work of Archbishop Romero applies to our faith today during the

Oscar Romero 30th Anniversary Delegation

March 18-27, 2010

During this unique experience, delegation participants will:

- **Learn about liberation theology** and the life and work of Archbishop Romero, Father Rutilio Grande, and the UCA Jesuits.
- **Visit Sister Parish communities** and learn about the history of sistering and solidarity in El Salvador while experiencing the day-to-day lives of our hosts.
- **Participate in commemoration events** for the 30th anniversary of Romero's assassination.

About Archbishop Romero:

Oscar Arnulfo Romero was appointed Archbishop of San Salvador in 1977, at a time of increasing oppression and repression in El Salvador. After the death squad killing of Romero's close friend, Father Rutilio Grande, he underwent a conversion which later led him to state "If they have killed him for doing what he did, then I too have to walk the same path". Romero became the voice of the people and spoke out against the poverty, social injustice, assassinations, and torture that many Salvadorans were affected by daily. His homilies, which were broadcast every week on the radio, were listened to by both his supporters and his enemies. He used his homilies to identify injustices and name the disappeared and murdered. In the week before his murder, he directly addressed Salvadoran soldiers saying "Brothers, you are from the same people; you kill your fellow peasant...No soldier is obliged to obey an order that is contrary to the will of God...In the name of God then, in the name of this suffering people I ask you, I beg you, I command you in the name of God: stop the repression." On March 24, 1980, Archbishop Romero was assassinated by a single bullet to the heart as he finished his homily while performing mass.

For many, Oscar Romero was the voice of the Salvadoran people in a time when civilian voices were being silenced. As a martyr and saint, he continues to serve an example of faith and a model for the fight for social justice.

About the Communities we will visit:

The delegation will visit Sister Parish communities located in the northern department of Chalatenango. Sister Parish communities are traditionally marginalized and in an area which was a conflict zone during the war. They know the poverty, social injustice, assassinations, and torture that Romero spoke out against.

These communities also have a strong history of organizing, which has empowered them in their struggle for respect of human rights, the fight against poverty and social injustice, and their efforts to improve education, healthcare, and services in their communities.

Contact Mary DeCoursey (maria@sisterparish.org or (314)223.8778) soon if you are interested.

- The delegation fee includes all food, lodging, in-country travel, and translation during the delegation. Delegates are responsible for their own airfare.
- All who are interested in learning more about liberation theology, Archbishop Romero, El Salvador, or Sister Parish are invited to join. This delegation is open to everyone regardless of Spanish level.
- A \$100 non-refundable deposit is due by January 15 for anyone wishing to be a part of the delegation.

For additional information on Archbishop Romero, see:

- “Archbishop Oscar Romero, The Church: called to repentance, called to prophecy.” by U.S. Catholic (http://www.uscatholic.org/oscar_romero)
- “Romero” (film, 1989, Raul Julia as Oscar Romero)
- Brockman, James R., S.J. (1989). *Romero: A Life*. Maryknoll, NY: Orbis Books.
The definitive English biography of Archbishop Romero.
- Dennis, Marie, Renny Golden, Scott Wright, ed. (2000). *Oscar Romero: Reflections on His Life and Writings*. Maryknoll, NY: Orbis. **A good collection of quotations and anecdotes about Romero.**
- Erdozain, Placido. (1981). *Archbishop Romero: Martyr of El Salvador*. Maryknoll, NY: Orbis Books.
- Lopez Vigil, Maria. (2000). *Oscar Romero: Memories in Mosaic*. Washington, DC: EPICA. **Stories and recollections of Archbishop Oscar Romero by people who knew him provide a very human portrait.**