

## **COAR Peace Mission of Cleveland Celebrates the Canonization of Oscar Romero on October 14**

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The Cleveland-based COAR Peace Mission will celebrate the canonization of their namesake, Salvadoran Archbishop Oscar Romero, at a mass celebrated by Cleveland Bishop Nelson Perez on Sunday, Oct. 14 at 5:30 p.m. at the Cathedral of St. John the Evangelist. The public is invited. The church is located at East 9th and Superior in Cleveland.

Romero was the Archbishop of San Salvador who was murdered in 1980 for denouncing the violence of El Salvador's civil war. COAR, which stands for the Community of Oscar Romero, was founded as a war orphanage by Cleveland Catholics working with Romero. The organization provides quality education, health care, spiritual richness and a safe and loving home for vulnerable children in that country, which is racked by violence and beset by poverty. COAR Peace Mission honors Romero's example of peace and justice for the world.

Romero will be elevated to sainthood at the Vatican ceremony alongside Pope Paul VI, the pontiff who first appointed him a bishop and made the decision in 1977 to make him archbishop of San Salvador. Romero was formally declared a martyr by Pope Francis in February of 2015.

The COAR Children's Village was founded in 1980 by Reverend Ken Myers, a Catholic priest from Cleveland. The Salvadoran Civil War (1979-1992) created a large number of refugees and orphans, and Myers responded to that need. After Romero's assassination, he named the growing community Comunidad Oscar Arnulfo Romero (COAR). COAR continues caring for vulnerable children in El Salvador and is the oldest extant organization named after Romero, with the approval of the Archdiocese of San Salvador.

COAR Peace Mission is a 501(c)(3) charity of the Catholic Church established in the U.S. to facilitate outreach, fundraising, funds transfer and other business for the COAR Children's Village.

More information is available at <https://coarpeacemission.org/>.

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