

COAR PEACE MISSION

Annual Benefit ~ Prayer Service



Celebration of the Martyrdom and Legacy of St. Oscar A. Romero

*In Thanksgiving for all those who work with and sacrifice for
the people of El Salvador*

March 24, 2021 ~ 6th Week of Lent

Celebrated at:

Church of St. Dominic * 3450 Norwood Road * Shaker Heights, OH 44122

Via livestream: coarpeacemission.org

Free-will offering baskets in the church vestibule and on-line

Order of Service

Welcome

Daphne Held
COAR Peace Mission Board,
Event Chairperson

Bienvenidos, Welcome! My name is Daphne Held and I am a COAR board member. I would like to begin by thanking St. Dominic's Church here in Shaker Heights, OH for allowing us to use this beautiful worship space.

Welcome to all who are joining us in person and those watching via livestream as we gather to celebrate St. Romero on this, his Feast Day. We also welcome the COAR children watching from El Salvador.

COAR Peace Mission is hosting tonight's prayer service. COAR stands for the Community of St. Oscar A. Romero. Founded as a war orphanage in the chaos after St. Romero's death, it sprang from the courage of the Cleveland Latin American Mission Team that had been serving in El Salvador since 1964.

COAR is just one of many parishes, groups, and individuals who continue to serve alongside the Cleveland Latin American Mission Team in El Salvador.

I ask that you please silence your cell phones and stand for our opening hymn, found in the program and available on our web page "The St Romero Hymn" sung to the tune of Ode to Joy. Levantemonos y cantemos.

Entrance Hymn: *Romero Hymn*

- Adorning the altar:
 - Salvadoran Cross
 - Flowers
 - Basket of Prayer Service Petitions

Romero Hymn

(sung to tune of *Ode to Joy*)

Verses: 1, 2, 3 & 6

- Jodie Bowers
St. Dominic (Shaker Hts, OH)
- Veronica & Mike Leahy
Children of Light Foundation
- Chris Janezic
COAR Peace Mission Board

*God, you raise up true disciples, teachers, martyrs, deep in faith.
Like Romero, holy people, giving witness to your grace.
Let us listen to their voices, speaking of new ways to live.
By their words and by their actions, we may know the love you give.*

*Yours the gospel that disturbs us, words that must demand a choice;
Speaking to a broken people, hope for those who have no voice.*

*Stir in us your call to action, rouse us from our apathy.
In the places lost to darkness, we will shine for all to see.*

*Still our brothers, sisters suffer, helpless and afraid to speak,
Victims of oppressors using power to dominate the weak.
When we see injustice near us, we will cry out "this must cease!"*

And by our example, turn this world from violence back to peace.

*Brought together by your Spirit, one in you, our risen Lord,
Now you send us as your chosen, hearts emboldened, hope restored.*

*Like Romero, we will serve you and whatever may befall,
We'll devote ourselves to justice and the common good of all.*

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<p>Opening Remarks</p>	<p>Bishop of Cleveland The Most Reverend Edward Malesic</p>
<p>As Bishop of the Diocese of Cleveland, whose mission to El Salvador has spanned 57 years, I welcome you to this celebration of St. Romero. I know that many groups who work in El Salvador are present tonight and many more are watching via livestream.</p> <p>My name is Bishop Edward Malesic and as a new Bishop for Cleveland, I am just beginning to appreciate the Cleveland connection to El Salvador and to St. Romero.</p> <p>We come together in solidarity with our brothers and sisters in El Salvador and the people all over the world who find inspiration in St. Romero's life and his words.</p> <p>We also honor all of you who have been involved in ministering in El Salvador, many who have gone in person, and formed deep bonds with the Salvadoran people.</p> <p>Finally, I want to acknowledge COAR for arranging and planning this prayer service.</p> <p>We join now in prayer under the inspiration of St. Romero, martyr for justice, for peace and non-violence, martyr of our faith.</p>	
<p>Opening Prayer</p>	<p>Rev. Robert Sanson Retired Priest, Diocese of Cleveland COAR Peace Mission Board, emeritus</p>

<p>GOD OF JUSTICE AND MERCY, YOU FORMED YOUR SERVANT OSCAR ROMERO TO BE A GOOD SHEPHERD AND A PROPHET FOR YOUR PEOPLE IN EL SALVADOR, NAMED AFTER YOUR SON.</p> <p>GUIDE US WITH HIS EXAMPLE TO ACCOMPANY AND HELP THOSE IN EL SALVADOR MOST AT RISK, AS HE DID.</p> <p>THROUGH OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, OUR SAVIOR, WHO LIVES AND REIGNS WITH YOU AND THE HOLY SPIRIT, GOD, FOR EVER AND EVER.</p>	
<p>First Reading <i>Jeremiah 26: 12-15</i></p>	<p>Kathy Rinehart Church of the Resurrection (Solon, OH)</p>
<p>12 Jeremiah said to the princes and all the people: “It was the LORD who sent me to prophesy against this house and city everything you have heard.</p> <p>13 Now, therefore, reform your ways and your deeds; listen to the voice of the LORD your God, so that the LORD will have a change of heart regarding the evil he has spoken against you.</p> <p>14 As for me, I am in your hands; do with me what is good and right in your eyes.</p> <p>15 But you should certainly know that by putting me to death, you bring innocent blood on yourselves, on this city and its inhabitants. For in truth it was the LORD who sent me to you, to speak all these words for you to hear.”</p>	
<p>Closing Hymn: <i>Envía Tu Espiritu</i></p>	<p><i>Envía Tu Espiritu</i> (Sing along with the COAR children)</p>
<p>Spanish</p> <p><i>Envía tu Espiritu, Envía tu Espiritu, Envía tu Espiritu, Sea renovada la faz de la tierra. Sea renovada la faz de la tierra.</i></p> <p><i>Ven, Espíritu de amor, Manda tu luz y haznos Un pueblo de fe y esperanza.</i></p>	<p>English</p> <p><i>Send your Spirit, Send your Spirit, Send your Spirit, Let the face of the earth be renewed. Let the face of the earth be renewed.</i></p> <p><i>Come, spirit of love Send your light and make us a people of faith and hope</i></p>

*Envía tu Espíritu,
Envía tu Espíritu,
Envía tu Espíritu,
Sea renovada la faz de la tierra.
Sea renovada la faz de la tierra.*

*Send your Spirit,
Send your Spirit,
Send your Spirit,
Let the face of the earth be renewed.
Let the face of the earth be renewed.*

<p>Second Reading <i>Romans 12: 1-2</i></p>	<p>Amy Fogerty Church of St. Dominic (Shaker Hts, OH)</p>
<p>1 I urge you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God, your spiritual worship. 2 Do not conform yourselves to this age but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and pleasing and perfect.</p>	
<p>Reflection</p>	<p>Rev. Robert Sanson</p>

Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed...Thus you will be able to test...what God’s will is... Romans 12/2

We gather as a community to celebrate a prayer service in memory of the beloved martyr and saint, Oscar Romero. We remember that on this day, March 24, 1980, he gave his life for the people of El Salvador. He was shot through the heart while celebrating Mass. His “heart” had already been transformed over many years. Like the prophet Jeremiah, his life was often threatened, and he was afraid. But transformed into a prophet by the power of God’s Holy Spirit, he famously said:

“I do not believe in death without resurrection. If they kill me I will rise again in the people of El Salvador. If God accepts the sacrifice of my life, may my death be for the freedom of my people. A bishop will die, but the Church of God, which is the people, will never perish.”

In all honesty, however, Romero was not always so bold, so prophetic in the name of justice. Like St. Paul in his letter to the Romans, he needed a major transformation. His motto as a bishop was: Think with the Church. See it on the red stole I wear that was used at his beatification. He was always a faithful servant of the Church, but the difficult will of God came to him through personal pain and the trauma of injustices, especially to the poor. In highlighting, tonight, his weaknesses and struggles, I do not dishonor him, but honor him all the more in his openness to change himself, and let God transform him. He would have loved the words of Dorothy Day of New York, who said: “Don’t call me a saint. Don’t write me off that easily!” Dorothy also died in 1980. Pope Francis, in his new book Let Us Dream, also reveals three “Covid’s,” three painful events that changed our Holy Father when he

was still Jorge Bergoglio. The three transformations of Pope Francis are very similar to those of Oscar Romero.

St. Romero was brave and prophetic for the cause of justice, as well as for peace and non-violence. Most people do not know about his feet of clay. He was not always the heroic figure we knew at the end. Romero provides for all of us a path to our own transformation. This is a transformation of oneself to be what God wants. It means dying to self to live in Christ, and for others.

Those that travel to El Salvador in service and solidarity with the Salvadoran people become pilgrims when they visit the hospital chapel in which he was assassinated. Then they visit his small home and see the kneeler beside his bed, where he would pray into the night before he would preach in the Cathedral about the injustices. This kneeler was his own Gethsemane, where he faced his own passion and death with Jesus. This brave but dangerous preaching began after the assassination of his close friend Rutilio Grande. The killing of Romero's Jesuit companion is commonly thought to be the moment of "conversion" of Romero. However, it was not his first transformation.

I became aware of this first major transformation in an article by Damian Zynda, which led me to her book: Archbishop Oscar Romero. A Disciple Who Revealed the Glory of God. With a strong psychological as well as theological perspective, she describes the wonderful pastor he became, but also lays bare the struggles of the "wounded shepherd" that was also Romero.

He strove so hard to be holy—even to be perfect in his spiritual life, that he "drove himself crazy." His compulsive behavior also affected his interpersonal relationships, and he could be difficult to work with. A religious sister, who loves Romero, gave this description: "He had a bad temper, he was an introvert, he prefers to be alone and he was a perfectionist. For all his life he struggled." He was in agony with his scrupulosity, and he wisely sought out a spiritual director who helped him. His behaviors, however, were such that he needed to be referred for professional psychological help for his obsessive-compulsive personality. He embraced this, and made a major transformation. He later said: "My position as pastor obliges me to be in solidarity with all who suffer..."

Each of us can be inspired to seek good spiritual direction, and overcome the stigma of seeking professional counseling when needed. Pope Francis did the same.

A second transformation was during his time as the Bishop of the poor rural Diocese of Santiago de Maria, to which he was appointed by St. John Paul II in 1974. He had gone to the Archdiocese of San Salvador when he was first ordained a Bishop in 1970. During his four years as Auxiliary, he proved to be unpopular with many of the priests, especially those ministering to the struggling poor. He had a reputation for being pious, but conservative, shy, and spending much of his ministry with the well-to-do. My classmate from the Diocese of Cleveland, Fr. Paul Schindler, was pastor in La Libertad at that time. Paul confessed to me that he was so discouraged by Romero, he even thought of giving up his mission in El Salvador and coming home to Cleveland.

When Romero left to be Bishop of his own Diocese, a major change took place during those three years living among very poor campesinos. Romero was very honest in his own Diary notes that he was too silent and afraid to express his real opinions to his fellow bishops. I believe Romero experienced this second

transformation through the suffering of his people. He heard the cry of the poor, and it broke his heart. Something happened in his empathic response to the injustices, inequalities and hopelessness of the situation of the poor. Earlier, as an auxiliary Bishop, he was the editor of the Catholic newspaper, and expressed opposition to so-called “liberation theology,” which he thought of as Marxist and violent. He questioned the approach of some of the Jesuits of El Salvador, even though one of his dearest friends was Jesuit Fr. Rutilio Grande, who lived with him in the seminary. His reputation with his fellow bishops, with the movers and shakers in El Salvador, and even with the Papal Nuncio was that he was “safe.” He could be trusted not to “rock the boat,” if he were made Archbishop.

But something happened to him, that began to embolden him toward the non-violent liberation theology of Latin America affirmed by the Latin American Bishops’ Conference.

Fr. Paul Schindler said that when Romero returned to San Salvador as the Archbishop, and he listened to him with fresh ears. Paul said: “I WOULD FOLLOW THAT MAN ANYWHERE!”

A third transformation began with the death of the Jesuit priest, Rutilio Grande. Pope Francis has begun his cause for canonization.

On February 23, 1977, Romero became Archbishop. Just a few weeks later, on March 12, 1977, Fr. Rutilio Grande, his dear friend, was ambushed and killed along with an old man and a young boy. Fr. Grande was pastor of a team of Jesuits in a parish of 30,000 campesinos. They strove to empower them to read the Scriptures, and apply it to their lives. This so-called “gospel of justice” was seen as a threat to landowners, as did any organizing of the peasants. They accused the Jesuits of being subversives and Communists. These were the years of death squads, repression, torture and the beginning of civil war.

When Romero heard that Fr. Grande had been murdered, he went immediately to the parish, and prayed for hours over the three bodies. The next day, he was a changed man. After celebrating Mass there, he announced publicly that he would not attend any government event until there was an investigation, and the murderers brought to justice. He announced that the following weekend, there were to be no Masses anywhere in the Archdiocese—only the one Mass in the Cathedral for Fr. Grande and his companions. From then until his death, Romero had to face the opposition of most of his fellow bishops, with the notable exceptions of Gregorio Rosa Chavez, who is now the first-ever Cardinal from El Salvador, and Bishop Rivera Damas, Romero’s mentor.

This was the beginning of his three years of prophetic ministry. His sermons at the Cathedral on the truth of what was happening were broadcast on diocesan radio throughout the nation. One of his regular listeners was Miss Jean Donovan, a lay missionary from Cleveland. She would talk about Romero with a fellow missionary, Sr. Dorothy Kazel, an Ursuline nun. The two of them worked with refugees at the end of their short lives, in accordance with the wishes of Romero. Romero and the women would bring children to the new orphanage. In 1980, after his assassination, it would be named the “Community of Oscar Arnulfo Romero,” the first institution in the world to be named after him. COAR, now a Children’s Village for abandoned, abused and vulnerable children in El Salvador, is the sponsor of this prayer service.

We thank our merciful and just God for Saint Romero, whom God changed and transformed into a Martyr of our Faith.

We thank God for Sr. Dorothy and Jean, and the two Maryknoll Sisters, who also were brutally murdered just nine months later on December 2, 1980.

We thank God for the Jesuit Martyrs at the Catholic University of Central America, and their housekeeper and her daughter. Their deaths in 1989 were the impetus that led the United States to demand the dialogue process leading to the Peace Accords signed in 1992.

We thank God for the thousands of martyrs, especially the innocent children, during those years of the Civil War.

In our Cleveland Martyrs, Jean and Dorothy, we have “blood ties” with our people in El Salvador. Our missionaries could have come home to safety, yet they stayed. After their murders, some parishioners in La Libertad told me: “Before, you were missionaries. Now you are one with us.”

Our best legacy to Romero is not only to walk with the people of El Salvador, but also by transforming our own hearts after the heart of Christ.

Now, I would like to speak directly to the children of COAR:

MIS QUERIDOS NINOS EN LA COMUNIDAD DE OSCAR ARNULFO ROMERO. YO LES SALUDO CON CARINO Y ORACIONES DE GENTE POR TODAS PARTES DE LOS ESTADOS UNIDOS QUE QUIEREN A USTEDES. HOY ES VENTICUATRO DE MARZO—ES UN DIA SAGRADO. ES EL MISMO QUE EL MONSEÑOR ROMERO LES DIO SU VIDA A USTEDES, Y A NOSOTROS. EL YA ES SAN ROMERO A TODO EL MUNDO.

YO SOY EL PADRE ROBERTO SANSON, QUIEN VINO A USTEDES POR PRIMERA VEZ EN MIL OTTOCIENTO Y DOS Y VISITO PADRE KEN MYERS, SU FUNDADOR Y MI COMPANERO DE CLASE. MI ULTIMA VISITA A COAR FUE EN AÑO DOS MIL DIECISEIS, CUANDO YO CELEBRE LA MISA CON USTEDES.

YO LES MANO TODO MI CARINO PERSONAL Y ORACIONES. QUE SIEMPRE ESTEN BENDECIDOS POR EL EJEMPLO Y LA MEMORIA DEL MARTIR DE NUESTRA FE, SAN OSCAR ROMERO. RECEN MUCHO, ESTUDIEN MUCHO, TRABAJEN MUCHO, PERO TAMBIEN JUEGUEN MUCHO Y ALEGRENSE. SE COMO JESUS. SE COMO SAN ROMERO.

VIVA ROMERO!

Presentation of
select St. Romero quotes
accompanied by photos & guitar

Deacon Mark Janezic
Church of St. Rita (Solon, OH)

One of the signs of the present time is the idea of participation, the right that all persons have to participate in the construction of their own common good.

For this reason, one of the most dangerous abuses of the present time is repression, the attitude that says, “only we can govern, no one else; get rid of them”.

Everyone can contribute much that is good, and in that way trust is achieved. The common good will not be attained by excluding people. We can't enrich the common good of our country by driving out those we don't care for. We have to try to bring out all that is good in each person and try to develop an atmosphere of trust, not with physical force, as though dealing with irrational beings, but with a moral force that draws out the good that is in everyone, especially in concerned young people.

Thus, with all contributing their own interior life, their own responsibility, their own way of being, all can build the beautiful structure of the common good, the good that we construct together and that creates conditions of kindness, of trust, of freedom, of peace.

July 10, 1977

How beautiful will be the day when all the baptized understand that their work, their job, is a priestly work, that just as I celebrate Mass at this altar, so each carpenter celebrates Mass at his workbench, and each metalworker, each professional, each doctor with the scalpel the market woman at her stand, is performing a priestly office! How many cab drivers, I know, listen to this message there in their cabs; you are a priest at the wheel, my friend, if you work with honesty, consecrating that taxi of yours to God, bearing a message of peace and love to the passengers who ride in your cab.

November 20, 1977

Let us not develop an education that creates in the mind of the student a hope of becoming rich and having the power to dominate. That does not correspond to the time we live in.

Let us form in the heart of the child and the young person the lofty ideal of loving, of preparing oneself to serve and to give oneself to others.

Anything else would be education for selfishness, and we want to escape the selfishness that is precisely the cause of the great malaise of our societies.

January 22, 1978

The guarantee of one's prayer is not in saying a lot of words. The guarantee of one's petition is very easy to know: How do I treat the poor?

The degree to which you approach them, and the love with which you approach them, or the scorn with which you approach them – that is how you approach your God. The way you look at them is the way you look at God.

February 5th, 1978

Don't be led astray either by the allure of power and money or by following false ideologies. True hope is not found there either. True hope is not found in a revolution of violence and bloodshed, and hope is not found in money and power- neither on the left nor on the right. The hope that we must account for and that makes us speak with valor is found in Christ, who reigns even after death, even after murderous death. And with him reign all who have preached his justice, his love, his hope, his peace.

April 30, 1978

We should not feel superior when we help anyone. Those who give materially receive spiritually. There is an exchange of property that is understood only in a true spirit of poverty, which makes the rich feel they are close brothers and sisters of the poor, and makes the poor feel they are equal givers and not inferior to the rich. The giving is mutual, "that there may be equality", as St. Paul says.

July 1, 1979

There aren't two categories of people. There aren't some that were born to have everything, leaving the rest with nothing, and a majority that has nothing and cannot taste the happiness that God has created for all. The Christian society that God wants is one in which we share the goodness that God has given for everyone.

December 16, 1979

We must not seek the child Jesus in the pretty figures of our Christmas cribs. We must seek him among the undernourished children who have gone to bed tonight with nothing to eat, among the poor newsboys who will sleep covered with newspapers in doorways.

December 24, 1979

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 24th, 1980

I offer my blood right now for the redemption and resurrection of El Salvador. I don't believe I am worthy of martyrdom, but if God accepts the sacrifice of my life, let my blood be the seed of freedom and a sign of hope that will soon be a reality. If they kill me, you can say that I forgive and bless those who did it. A bishop will die, but the Church of God, which is the people, will never perish!

Intercessions	Brian Boswell Church of St. Dominic (Shaker Hts, OH)
Prayer after the Intercessions	Rev. Robert Sanson

PRESIDER:

With eyes of faith and hope, we now turn to a loving God in prayer. As we celebrate Romero, we still face many challenges. May we imitate Romero as we lift up our intercessions.

LECTOR:

For peace in places of war, poverty and injustice, and that leaders of government be inspired by St. Romero's vision for humanity, we pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

For the beautiful people of El Salvador, that they may rise above violence, inequalities and injustice in their commitment to the common good, we pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

For all of us, that we may respond to situations of injustice, conflict, inequality and poverty with calls to action for justice, we pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

For the beatification of Rutilio Grande and the women martyrs of El Salvador, we pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

For all organizations, groups and individuals who walk in solidarity with the people of El Salvador, we pray to the Lord.

Lord hear our prayer

For the children of COAR, the staff and all those who support them by deed, gift and prayer, we pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

For the Lenten transformation of each one of our own hearts into the image of St. Romero's prophetic transformation, we pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

For those petitions offered from across North America, contained on the cards that were placed on the altar, we pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

For those prayers we offer now in the silence of our hearts, ... *(pause)* ...
we pray to the Lord.
Lord, hear our prayer.

Prayer after the Intercessions

Loving Creator, we are often overwhelmed by difficulties in our lives. We call on You through the intercession of St. Romero to help us become instruments of peace in our world; to confront violence, the roots of injustice and the hatred that disfigures the human person made in your image. This we ask through Christ our Lord.

Traditional Salvadoran Presentation of Gifts symbolizing gratitude, solidarity, and hope for the future

Joe Raguso
COAR Peace Mission Board Member

Tonight, in closing, we follow the example of our Salvadoran friends. We present to the altar and our community items that represent things to be thankful for, items that symbolize the sacrifice and solidarity that has been built these past 57 years, and items that symbolize our hope for the future.

1) Radio & Books of St. Romero's Homilies – carried by Terry & Marty Tusim, Event Committee

- St. Romero was, 'The voice of the voiceless.' and nowhere more forcefully than on the radio,
- especially on Sundays,
- when his homilies from the Cathedral were broadcast across the nation.
- Everywhere: from crowded neighborhoods of the capital to the smallest villages, his words rang out.
- Where there was no electricity, they used car batteries.
- Where there were no radios, they listened to church loudspeakers.
- Always he spoke with both the authority of the Cathedra and the compassion of a shepherd.
- Even now, 41 years after his martyrdom, his homilies are published in several volumes,
- They are published continuously, all over the world in a multitude of languages,
- They form the text of courses on social justice,
- They continue to comfort the afflicted,
- And they continue to guide us in solidarity with the poor.

2) Photos of Fr. Rutilio Grande & the North American Churchwomen & Fr. Ken Myers -- Pat Shields, COAR Supporter, Sr. Rose Elizabeth Terrell, OSU, CLAM Team member 2004-2014, Chris Janezic, COAR Peace Mission Board Member

- St. Romero was inspired by martyrs and in turn, inspired the compassion for the poor that sadly led to more martyrdoms.

- Just one month after St. Romero was installed as Archbishop, his friend, Father Rutlio Grande, was murdered for his work with the poor.
- Nine months after St. Romero's death we lost our own Cleveland missionaries: Ursuline Sister Dorothy Kazel and lay missionary Jean Donovan, along with Maryknoll Sisters Ita Ford and Maura Clark.
- All four were brutally tortured and murdered for their work with refugees, work they had undertaken at St. Romero's urging.
- Cleveland missionary, Fr. Ken Myers, carried on their work when he founded COAR and despite the danger, named the war orphanage: the Community Oscar Arnulfo Romero.
- As a result of those sacrifices, and the sacrifices of the past 41 years, COAR thrives and is the oldest extant organization in the world named for St. Romero.

3) Books & Backpack & Laptop -- Terry, Tim & April Rose, Church of the Holy Angels (Bainbridge, OH) and Danielle's Mission

- A cornerstone of our solidarity with our partner Salvadoran communities is support of education.
- The parishes, groups, and individuals joining in this prayer service tonight represent dozens of scholarship programs that support hundreds of students, from elementary school through university.
- These programs provide tuition, of course, but also the practical needs of books, supplies, computers, transportation, and uniforms.
- All of our partnerships are based in St. Romero's instruction that education is to form a student in mind, heart, and soul.
- For our own students who visit El Salvador, they experience that same true education, and they bring that expanded vision back to us.
- For Salvadoran youth, that education enables them to build their own vibrant and peaceful society.

4) Bricks & shovels -- John Novak & Andrea O'Brien, St. Joseph Parish (Strongsville, OH) El Salvador Committee

- Another cornerstone of our solidarity with our Salvadoran partners is St. Romero's exhortation to respect the dignity of the poor.
- Building dignified spaces for families, for community gatherings, and for worship inspire many of our groups.
- Our Salvadoran partners locate families in need, find building sites, and buy local materials.
- Those times when we are able to join together with our partner communities in construction, build strong friendships.
- But even when we cannot help with building, providing funds for construction further dignifies workers and builds strong families and communities.

5) Rice & Beans & Corn -- Mary Ann Tinus, St. Rita Parish (Solon, OH) CLAM Committee

- St. Romero told us to see the child Jesus not only in our pretty Christmas cribs, but in the reality of hungry children.
- All who have visited know these three foods presented here: rice, beans, and corn, as the most basic foods of El Salvador.

- Our partnerships provide food to needy families not only so that they can survive, but so that they can thrive.
- During every visit to El Salvador, we are immersed in the hospitality of the Salvadoran people and joyful shouts of “BUEN PROVECHO! (pro-VECH-o)”, their invitation to take good advantage of God’s gift of food.
- We share meals with our partners amidst construction sites, in school cafeterias, in simple homes, and at countryside chapels of breath-taking beauty.
- In our solidarity we live what St. Romero told us: that when we share what we have with the poor, they share with us their love of Christ, the hope of the world.

6) Art works from the COAR Children inspired by St. Romero -- COAR Peace Mission Staff: Nilda Ramos, past & Susan Barnish, present | COAR Peace Mission Board: Melanie Reda, President & Gary Sieftring, Member

- St. Romero’s image and words are found throughout El Salvador because the culture boasts a strong artistic tradition.
- The children of COAR, in their art classes, learn to create many forms of art depicting their lives and their traditions.
- In their literature and religion classes they experience the transcendent power of creativity.
- So, we asked the children to create some items for us tonight.
- They arrived via a visitor from El Salvador this past weekend and are here tonight, they include:
 - i) Drawings and paintings of St. Romero
 - ii) Illustrated poems about St. Romero
 - iii) Illustrated quotes of St. Romero
 - iv) St. Romero collages, prayer books, and embroidery
- We remember that each image, poem, quote, and prayer was selected because it carries meaning to a COAR child, a child of El Salvador, a child of St. Romero.

Blessing of groups, individuals, and organizations active in El Salvador

Rev. Robert Sanson

MAY THE GOD OF ST ROMERO, A GOD OF LOVE, BLESS ALL OF YOU WHO HAVE SUPPORTED AND ACCOMPANIED THE PEOPLE OF EL SALVADOR.
AND LET THE PEOPLE SAY: [AMEN]

MAY THE GOD OF ST ROMERO, A GOD OF COMPASSION, BLESS ALL THESE SYMBOLS OF EL SALVADOR, AND THE MANY MINISTRIES THEY REPRESENT FOR THE PEOPLE OF EL SALVADOR.
AND LET THE PEOPLE SAY: [AMEN]

MAY THE GOD OF ST ROMERO, A GOD OF JUSTICE, BLESS YOUR PRAYER AND EFFORTS TO BECOME A MORE JUST AND EQUITABLE SOCIETY WITH THE PEOPLE OF EL SALVADOR
AND LET THE PEOPLE SAY: [AMEN]

Let us go forth in the Spirit of Monsenor Romero, our St. Romero.
 [Thanks be to God]

Song: *St. Romero*

St. Romero
 (Sing along with the COAR children)

Spanish

Coro:
*Resucitaste en tu pueblo
 Siendo la voz de los pobres.
 Profeta salvadoreño
 Oscar Arnulfo Romero.*

*Unido siempre a Pedro
 Profeta fiel verdadero.
 Se hizo vida el mensaje
 De Medellín en tu pueblo.
 Pensaron callar tu voz
 Aquellos ricos del pueblo,
 Que se mancharon las manos
 Con la sangre del profeta.*

*Nosotros somos latinos
 De tierra salvadoreña.
 Y grandes en dignidad
 En San Arnulfo Romero.
 Fue Cristo quien te consagra
 Profeta y mártir del pueblo
 Sea en Latinoamérica
 Santo de todos los pueblos.*

Coro

English

Chorus:
*You rose again in your people,
 As the voice of the poor.
 Salvadoran prophet,
 Oscar Arnulfo Romero.*

*United always to Peter
 True and faithful prophet
 You brought the message
 Of Medellín to life in your
 people.
 They thought to stifle your
 voice,
 The richest among your people,
 Those that stained their hands
 With the blood of the prophet.*

*We are Latinos
 From El Salvador.
 We are great in dignity
 In St. Arnulfo Romero
 Christ has consecrated you
 Prophet and martyr of the
 people
 Be for Latin America
 A saint for all people.*

Chorus

*Vos sos una esperanza
Llamando a la conversión.
Pues, miraste en el pobre
Tristeza, hambre y dolor.
Aquellos que han olvidado
Hacer vida el Evangelio,
Deben de seguir tus pasos
Y ser la voz de este pueblo.*

*You are our hope
Calling us to conversion
You saw in the poor
Sadness, hunger, and pain.
Those that have forgotten
To live the Gospel
Should follow your footsteps
And be the voice of the people.*

*La fe exige justicia
Un evangelio hecho vida
Cuando marginan al pobre
Es Dios quien clama justicia.
El día en que te mataron
La bestia estaba sedienta
Matando a muchos hermanos
Hijos queridos del pueblo.*

*Faith cries out for justice
The Gospel brought to life.
When the poor are
marginalized,
God clamors for justice.
The day you were killed,
The beast was thirsty
Killing many brothers and
sisters
Beloved children of the people.*

*El profeta nunca muere
Eso lo dijo Romero,
Si llegaran a matarme,
Resucitaré en el pueblo
Si llegaran a matarme,
Resucitaré en el pueblo*

*The prophet never dies,
That's what Romero said:
If they kill me,
I will rise again in my people.
If they kill me,
I will rise again in my people.*

Coro

Chorus

Thanks

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- Holy Rosary Church, Cleveland, OH
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You are the living legacy of St. Oscar A. Romero.

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*¡Viva St. Romero!
¡Que viva!*



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