

# Archbishop Oscar Romero's

## Impact on the Evangelising Commitment of Youth

### -Latin American Coordination

Archbishop Romero has inspired the Latin American Church and young people in particular to become evangelisation agents. We are committed to the poor and in search of justice in our great mother country that is so full of pain but also of hope. It is Archbishop Romero's testimony, in words and in action, as a shepherd at the service of God and His people, that have had the greatest influence.

### His conversion...

Before becoming Bishop, Romero was known as a simple, cautious and rather conservative man. Little by little, as a Bishop, he came to know the reality that surrounded him. A political environment of violence and injustice were the drop piercing that reality. Surrendering to the force of the Holy Spirit, Archbishop Romero started to change his vision and attitudes. He began to feel the presence of God alive in the midst of the death and daily violence, and to see his service as Bishop in a new way. From observer he became protagonist, from contemplative, a transforming agent.

### A father identified with his people...

To Archbishop Romero we can apply these words of the Exodus: "I have seen the sufferings of my people .....". We can also put in his mouth Jesus' words: "I did not come to be served but to serve"....and "to give my life for my friends".

### A martyr...

Archbishop Romero gave his life for the cause of Christ and His kingdom. "The blood of the martyrs is the seed of Christians " said San Justino upon seeing the martyrdom of the first Christians. The martyrdom of this great shepherd has fulfilled San Justino's words. Even sceptics began to believe when they witnessed Archbishop Romero's commitment. The force and the generosity his gift showed that he pursued a greater goal: transcendence and the importance of the God of Life.

Archbishop Romero's words reflect his life of giving and his love of God and His people. His death has demonstrated that when we die all is not finished- we share something new and definitive, we continue to live and revive. **"If I die I will revive amongst my people"**, he said. Romero's death confirms the new life that God offers to us.

25 years since the death of Archbishop Romero we celebrate his life and martyrdom, and we renew our commitment to continue with faith and confidence our evangelising task as Church movements in our poor and believing subcontinent. Archbishop Oscar Romero, your blood was not spilled in vain...

### Remembering Archbishop Oscar Romero (1917-1980)\*

*When you hear the voice of the man commanding you to kill, remember instead the voice of God. Thou Shalt Not Kill"*

*He was shot whilst saying the Mass on 24 March 1980.*

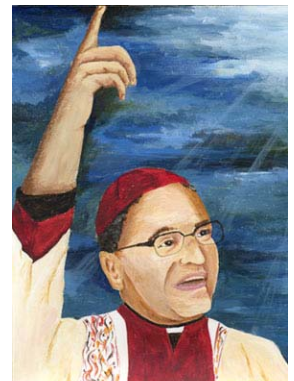


Photo: Belinda King