

NOVENA TO ARCHBISHOP OSCAR ARNULFO ROMERO – “THE VOICE OF THE VOICELESS”

As he grew in office, Archbishop Romero learned the price to be paid for becoming “the voice of the voiceless” and for preaching the Good News in the face of the mighty. On March 24, 1980, an assassin shot him down as he was offering evening Mass in the Carmelite cancer hospital in San Salvador, El Salvador. He died for justice for the poor and the helpless and was at once accepted by the people as a martyr and a saint. His funeral was attended by 150,000 of his people and by bishops and dignitaries from many countries in Latin America and Europe. His tomb in the Metropolitan Cathedral of San Salvador is the destination of pilgrims throughout Central America. Hundreds of cures attributed to his intercession.

*** Nothing can separate us from the love of God.**

- That comes to us in Christ Jesus Our Lord.

Hymn: King of the martyrs’ noble band, Crown of the true in every land, Strength of the pilgrims on their way. Beacon by night and cloud by day. Hear us now as we celebrate faith undeterred by ruthless hate; Hear and forgive us, for we too know very well the wrong we do.

Dying, through you they overcame; Living, were faithful to your name, turn our rebellious hearts, and thus win a like victory in us. Glory to God the Father be, Glory to Christ who set us free; And to the Spirit, living flame, Glory unceasing we proclaim. – Text from *Rex gloriose martyrum* (sixth century), @1971 John Webster Grant, alt.

Psalm 11:Antiphon. Security in God.
- The Lord hates the lover of violence.-

In the Lord I take refuge. How can you say to me, “Flee like a bird to the mountains;

See how the wicked bend the bow, They have fitted the arrow to the string, To shoot in the dark at the upright of heart. If the foundations are destroyed, What can the righteous do?”

The Lord whose throne is in heaven, Sees and examines all mortals. The Lord tests the righteous and the wicked,

The Lord is righteous
 And loves righteous deeds;
 The upright shall behold the face of the Lord.

Glory be...

Psalm Prayer. Let us pray...

God of justice and mercy, you provide your Church with fresh witnesses in every age. By the prayer of the holy martyrs, may we meet the challenges of the Gospel at all times and in all places. In Jesus’ name we ask it. Amen.

Reading “The Death of Jesus” 2 Co 4:8-11

“We are afflicted in every way, but not constrained; perplexed, but not driven to despair; persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed; always carrying about in the body the dying of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be manifested in our body. For we who live are constantly being given up to death for the sake of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may be manifested in our mortal flesh.”

If we are being afflicted, alleluia!

- It is for your consolation and salvation, alleluia.

Antiphon: “We know that the one who raised the Lord Jesus will raise us also with Jesus, alleluia.”

Canticle of Simeon. Lk 2:29-32

“Now, Master, you may let your servant go in peace, according to your word, for my eyes have seen your salvation, which you prepared in sight of all the peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and glory for your people Israel.”

Antiphon: “We know that the one who raised the Lord Jesus will raise us also with Jesus, alleluia.”

LITANY:

Lord Jesus, King of Martyrs:
- Be our life and our salvation.

By Archbishop Romero’s commitment to social justice:

- Be our life and our salvation.

By his fearless and outspoken championing of peace:

- Be our life and our salvation.

By his refusal to serve the idols of war and death:

- Be our life and our salvation.

By the fear and loneliness of his final days:

- Be our life and our salvation.

By his blood spilled on the altar table of his savior:

- Be our life and our salvation.

By his precious death for the Church of the oppressed:

- Be our life and our salvation.

By the prayers of Mary, Queen of Martyrs, of your martyr bishop Oscar Romero, and of all the white robed martyrs:

- Be our life and our salvation.

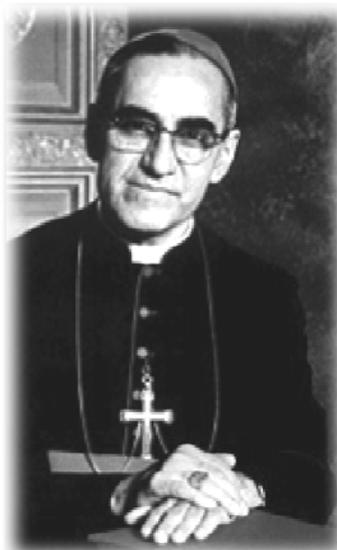
PRAYER:

By the example and prayers of your martyred archbishop, Oscar Romero of San Salvador, give us the courage, O God, to stand for justice in the face of wickedness in high places and to embrace the poor and humble who are the special images of Christ in the World. We ask

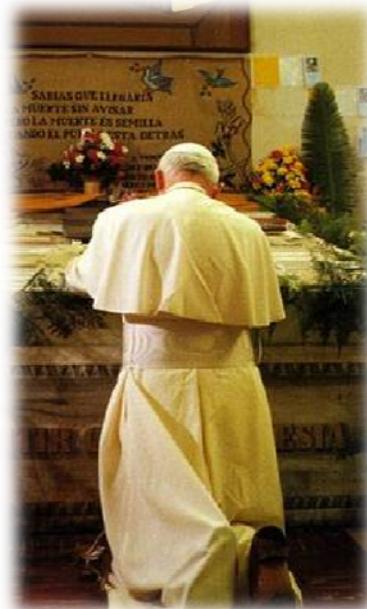
this in Jesus’ name.

Amen.

From: A prayer book of Catholic devotion: Praying the seasons and feast of the Church year. (p. 181)



John Paul II praying in Romero’s tomb.



And hates the lover of violence.

