

Minister's Musing

Tuesday, 24 March, marked the anniversary of the death of Archbishop Oscar Romero in 1980. Archbishop Romero was outspoken about issues of poverty, torture, social injustice and assassinations during a time of great civil unrest in El Salvador. He was shot dead by political opponents as he celebrated Mass (Communion) in the chapel of the Hospital of Divine Providence. He was made a Saint in the Catholic Church in May 2015.

If you have been in the Church Office recently, you may have noticed a small laminated poster hung on the wall. It was given to me as a gift at my ordination and I have kept it close wherever I have found myself in ministry. It is a prayer written by Archbishop Romero. And in reflecting on it these past few days, it seems to speak to us now as we try to figure out the "what next" for our communities and for the church.

This is his prayer/reflection:

A Future Not Our Own

*It helps, now and then, to step back and take a long view.
The kingdom is not only beyond our efforts,
it is even beyond our vision.*

*We accomplish in our lifetime only a tiny fraction of the magnificent enterprise
that is God's work.
Nothing we do is complete, which is a way of saying that the kingdom always lies
beyond us.*

*No statement says all that could be said.
No prayer fully expresses our faith.
No confession brings perfection.
No pastoral visit brings wholeness.
No program accomplishes the church's mission.
No set of goals and objectives includes everything.*

*This is what we are about.
We plant the seeds that one day will grow.
We water seeds already planted, knowing that they hold future promise.
We lay foundations that will need further development.
We provide yeast that produces far beyond our capabilities.
We cannot do everything, and there is a sense of liberation in realizing that.
This enables us to do something, and to do it very well.
It may be incomplete, but it is a beginning, a step along the way,
an opportunity for the Lord's grace to enter and do the rest.*

*We may never see the end results, but that is the difference between the master
builder and the worker.*

*We are workers, not master builders; ministers, not messiahs.
We are prophets of a future not our own.*

Amen.

Archbishop Oscar Romero