



Alternative Prayer Service

A Prayer by Oscar Romero

LEADER:

Oscar Romero is among our newly canonized Saints in the Catholic Church (October 14th, 2018). He was a Catholic priest in El Salvador who served as the fourth Archbishop of San Salvador. He preached a prophetic gospel speaking out about poverty, social justice, assassinations, and torture. Oscar Romero was the voice of the Salvadoran people when all channels of expression had been crushed by repression. He was assassinated while officiating at Mass in the chapel of the Hospital of Divine Providence on March 24th, 1980.

SONG: Come Follow Me (YouTube)

CHORUS: Come follow me and live

Do not be afraid
Believe and trust in me
Your faith will give you strength
Leave all your fears behind you
Let your heart be free
For I will be your guide
O come and follow me.

Come follow me in these footsteps
No shelter, food or money will
You need upon the road. (CHORUS)

Come walk across the water
Place all your faith in me
Cast all your doubts behind you
To the wind and raging sea. (CHORUS)

A PRAYER – BY Saint Oscar Romero

ALL:

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.

PAUSE and REFLECT on the above six statements. (Leader will initiate
continuing the prayer.)

ALL: This is what we are about:

We plant the seeds that will one day grow.

We water the 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.

PAUSE and REFLECT on the above four statements.

How can you/do you personalize these statements?

SHARE your reflections.

CONCLUSION OF PRAYER:

ALL:

We can not do everything, and there is a sense of liberation in realizing that.

This enables us to do something, and to do it 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 own.

SONG: When the Saints Come Marching In (Christian Hymnal – YouTube)

Oh, when the saints come marching in,
Oh, when the saints come marching in,
Oh Lord, I want to be in that number,
When the saints come marching in.

Oh, when the sun begins to shine,
Oh, when the sun begins to shine,
Oh Lord, I want to be in that number,
When the sun begins to shine.

Oh, when the trumpet sounds its call,
Oh, when the trumpet sounds its call,
Oh Lord, I want to be in that number,
When the trumpet sounds its call.

Some say this world of trouble
Is the only one we need,
But I'm waiting for that morning,
When the new world is revealed.

RECITE the Prayer together in its entirety.

OFFER a sign of peace to each other.