

Evangelization

That young people, especially in Latin America, follow the example of Mary and respond to the call of the Lord to share the joy of the Gospel to the world.

This month we are asked to think about how we can share the joy of the Gospel by making sure others have what they need to thrive in life.



Country Focus: El Salvador

Did you know that 20% of El Salvador's population doesn't live in El Salvador?

Known as the "Land of Volcanoes," El Salvador is home to earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, floods and tropical storms, lack of food, gangs, and a 12-year civil war that lasted from 1980-1992. In order to survive these struggles, many Salvadorans have fled to the United States and other countries. The Salvadorans who now live abroad send so much money back home that their donations make up almost 20% of the country's yearly income.

The name "El Salvador" means "the Savior," and Catholics make up half of the country's population.

The Church tries to be a positive witness to the people who remain in the country. Catholic clergy have helped rival gangs learn how to live peacefully. One very influential priest was former Archbishop Oscar Romero who was a strong supporter of the rights of the poor. Check out the Saint Spotlight below to learn more about Archbishop Romero, a Catholic hero.



Promoting Knowledge of Faith

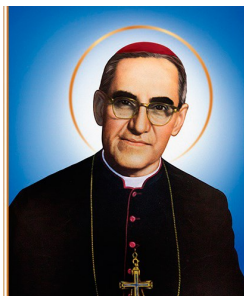
God's Word for Mission

"And Mary said, 'My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior.'" (Luke 1:46-47)

"Mary let herself be guided by the Holy Spirit on a journey of faith towards a destiny of service and fruitfulness. Today we look to her and ask her to help us proclaim the message of salvation to all..." (Pope Francis, Evangelii Gaudium, No. 287)

Education for Community Life

A Saint for Mission: Saint Oscar Romero



"Each one of you has to be God's microphone." These words from Saint Oscar Romero, the first El Salvadoran saint, are an example of how he lived his life.

Oscar Romero was born in 1917, in a small rural town in El Salvador. From a very early age, he knew that he was being called to the priesthood. As a young boy, he would pretend he was a priest and prepare sermons for the feasts of his favorite saints. Growing up, his father wanted him to become a carpenter, but Oscar was able to convince his father to grant him permission to enter the seminary.

In 1942, Oscar Romero was ordained a priest. Before being appointed as the Archbishop of San Salvador, he served as a parish priest, as a seminary rector, and as Bishop of Santiago. In each place he served, Oscar was known for his dedication to prayer and to the people of God. As Archbishop of San Salvador, he always spoke up for the poor and spoke out against the violence in his country, becoming known as the "voice for the voiceless." Crowds were known to pack into the cathedral to hear his homilies, with even more people around the country listening in on the radio.

On March 23, 1980, Saint Oscar publicly asked the military to stop oppressing its own citizens. The next day, he was martyred, while celebrating Mass. Oscar Romero was canonized in October 2018. We remember Saint Oscar each year on his feast day, March 24. **In honor of Saint Oscar Romero, ask yourself: how can you be God's microphone?**

Rights and Responsibilities



Diego and family, CAFOD UK

Saint Oscar Romero believed that all people deserve the right to be safe and healthy. He wanted El Salvador to be a place where all people could have a good life.

Saint Oscar Romero's hope for El Salvador is an example of the Catholic social teaching theme "Rights and Responsibilities." This theme reminds us that every person has a right to life, and also a right to those things required for a decent life. What things can you think of that would be necessary for a good life?

The theme Rights and Responsibilities also reminds us that it is our job to make sure others have what they need in order to live the life God intended for all of God's children. This means

we are responsible for making sure everyone has access to clean water, food, shelter, healthcare, jobs, and education.

In this month's video, we will learn how a British agency called the Catholic Agency for Overseas Development, or CAFOD, is living the theme of Rights and Responsibilities by helping make El Salvador a safer place for its people. We will also meet a boy named Diego who has found hope in being able to attend school and build skills that he can use later in life.

As you watch the video, think about how building peace is a way to live the Catholic social teaching theme of Rights and Responsibilities in preparation for the discussion questions below.

Meet Children in El Salvador: [Click Here](#)>>

1. What have been some of the challenges Diego, and others in El Salvador, have faced? How have these challenges affected their right to a safe and healthy life?
2. How will being able to go to a safe school help Diego live a decent life? What other ideas demonstrated Rights and Responsibilities in this month's video?
3. How is building peace an example of Rights and Responsibilities?
4. What are some ways you can help make sure others have what they need to live a good life in your own community?



Diego playing drums with others

Mission Petitions

Let us pray for the courage to share the joy of the gospel in our daily lives.

Let us pray for the people of El Salvador, that they might live life to the fullest.

Let us pray for CAFOD and all other organizations whose mission it is to live the theme of Rights and Responsibilities.

Let us pray for the poorest people and communities around the world, that Saint Oscar Romero's example might encourage everyone to live in unity with one another.

Dear God,

We ask that, like Saint Oscar Romero, we will not be afraid to be your microphones. Please help us trust that you will walk with us on our journey of faith wherever it may lead. May we always speak boldly of the joy found in the truth of the gospel message. Amen.