

# Mission Intention

## APRIL

2020 - 2021

Country Focus: Turkey

Education for  
Community Life

### Pope Francis' April Prayer Intention

We pray for those who risk their lives fighting for human rights in countries ruled by dictators, authoritarian governments or struggling democracies.



CENTER for MISSION

Society for the Propagation of the Faith / St. Paul and Minneapolis

What is now the country of Turkey was once the location of one of the earliest recorded human civilizations. A geographic peninsula that overlaps both the European and Asian continents, Turkey has been home to many people for thousands of years. Today, it is home to about 80 million people, and its geographic borders make it larger than the state of Texas. Turkey is a founding member of the United Nations and a member of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), but its requested membership to the European Union has not yet been approved, due to concerns about its human rights record.

Christianity has been present in modern-day Turkey for 2,000 years, and can be traced directly to New Testament figures, including St. John and St. Andrew. Despite this history, today Christianity is a minority religion numbering about 160,000,

while Muslims make up the majority, or at least 90 percent, of Turkey's population. As a minority church, the Roman Catholic Church in Turkey has made efforts to strengthen its relationships with other Christian churches in the country, to better witness to the unity found in Christ.

Let us pray for Catholics in Turkey, that they may safely maintain their presence there and continue to share the Good News of the Gospel.



Promoting Knowledge  
of Faith

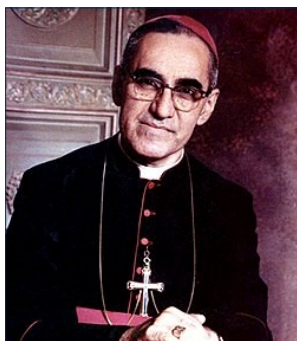
### God's Word for Mission

*"Society as a whole, and the state in particular, are obliged to defend and promote the common good"* (Pope Francis, On Care for Our Common Home [Laudato Si'], no.157).

*"If a brother or sister has nothing to wear and has no food for the day, and one of you says to them, 'Go in peace, keep warm, and eat well,' but you do not give them the necessities of the body, what good is it?"* (James 2:15-16)

*"Be hospitable to one another without complaining. As each one has received a gift, use it to serve one another..."* (1 Peter 4:9-10).

### Saint Spotlight: Saint Oscar Romero



Considered the "voice for the voiceless," Saint Oscar Romero dedicated his life to advocating for the poor and oppressed in El Salvador.

Born in 1917, Oscar Romero grew up helping at the telegraph office where his father worked. Early in his youth, he showed talent for carpentry, an occupation his family encouraged until Romero discerned his call to the priesthood and enrolled in seminary at the age of 14. He was ordained a priest in 1942, appointed a Bishop in 1970, and eventually became the Archbishop of San Salvador, the capital of El Salvador, in 1977.

By the time Romero became Archbishop of San Salvador, El Salvador was on the brink of civil war. Many of its citizens lived in poverty, and the political and economic power was held by a small group of people, who maintained their power with military violence. Those who spoke out against the government risked being hurt or even killed.

This did not stop Archbishop Oscar Romero from demanding the government take better care of the country's poor. Every Sunday, he would give a sermon that was broadcast over the radio to the entire nation. In his sermon on March 23, 1980, Archbishop Oscar Romero asked the military to stop repressing its own citizens. The next day, he was killed by a gunman while celebrating Mass.

Saint Oscar Romero, canonized in 2018, is remembered for fighting for human rights. His feast day is March 24.

# Call to Family, Community, and Participation

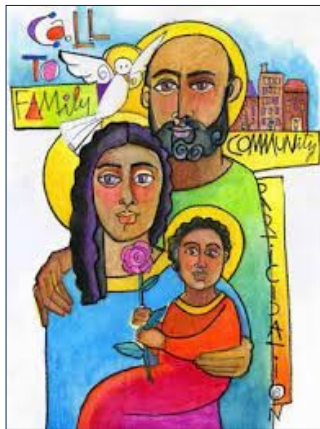


Photo: Brother Mickey McGrath,, OSFS

The seven themes of Catholic Social Teaching each teach us to protect human life and dignity by addressing different areas of the human experience that contribute to our overall well-being. The Catholic Social Teaching theme of Call to Family, Community, and Participation focuses on human dignity as it relates to how we interact with one another in our societies.

Call to Family, Community and Participation teaches us that part of being human is being social. Therefore, it is important to build societies that allow people to participate and grow in community with one another.

The Church believes that the family is foundational to all societies. It is where we first learn how to be in community and how to love and care for others. We are called to create laws and economic policies that support and allow families to grow.

The Church also believes that all humans have the right to actively engage in society. Governments should be structured so that all citizens can participate in political life, work together for the common good, promote justice, and protect the poor and vulnerable.

In this month's video, we'll meet Jahkil, a youth who began his own organization, Project I Am, to distribute "Blessing Bags," care packages that provide essential items for the homeless. Jahkil was inspired to begin his organization after helping his aunt distribute food to the homeless in Chicago. As you watch the video, think about how Jahkil's organization involves family, community, and participation. How are all three elements present in Jahkil's Blessing Bag project? How is Jahkil living out the Call to Family, Community and Participation?

## Marvel's Hero Project: Make Way for Jahkil [Click Here >>](#)

1. How is Jahkil's Blessing Bag project an example of the Call to Family, Community and Participation?
2. What is the relationship between Pope Francis' April prayer intention and the Call to Family, Community and Participation?
3. Name a time you have seen someone living the Call to Family, Community and Participation.
4. How can you be an example of the Call to Family, Community and Participation in your daily life?



## Mission Petitions

- ✚ Let us pray for all citizens, that we will answer our call to build a world of justice and peace through our participation in public life.
- ✚ Let us pray for those in authority, that God will guide them so that people everywhere may enjoy freedom, security and peace.
- ✚ Let us pray for those who are denied basic rights and freedom, that God will provide us with the voice to speak on their behalf.
- ✚ Let us pray for the family of the Church, that by our unity and love we will bear witness to the Gospel.

Dear God,

Thank you for your many blessings. Please give us the courage to speak for those who cannot speak for themselves, and guide government officials to make policies and laws that are fair and benefit all. We pray this through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.