



BLESSED OSCAR ROMERO: God's microphone

BLESSED OSCAR ROMERO was appointed Archbishop of San Salvador, El Salvador, in 1977, during a period of widespread political violence, disappearances and human rights violations. At the time, Archbishop Romero was not considered an outspoken advocate for people who were poor and oppressed. While many clergy and religious spoke out on their behalf, Archbishop Romero did not.

Soon after becoming archbishop, Father Rutilio Grande, his friend and fellow priest, was killed because of his outward support for oppressed communities. This deeply affected Archbishop Romero, and he began to publicly denounce violence and injustice, urging people to live out Christ's Gospel message of love for neighbor.

As Archbishop Romero began to speak up, people in villages across El Salvador tuned into his weekly radio homilies. He became an advocate for people who were poor—many called him the voice of the voiceless—and encouraged others to become advocates too.

Archbishop Romero was such a loud microphone for God that he was assassinated while celebrating Mass on March 24, 1980. He was formally declared a martyr by Pope Francis in February 2015 and will be canonized a saint in October 2018.

“We might be left without a radio station: God's best microphone is Christ, and Christ's best microphone is the Church, and the Church is all of you. Let each one of you, in your own job, in your own vocation—nun, married person, bishop, priest, high school or university student, day laborer, wage earner, market woman—one in your own place ... live the faith intensely and feel that in your surroundings you are a true microphone of God our Lord.”

Blessed Oscar Romero's witness reminds us to not remain quietly on the sidelines, but to become microphones for God. He inspires us to speak out with our brothers and sisters who need help breaking down systems and structures that perpetuate poverty and suffering. People around the world continue to face oppression in many forms—it's up to us to be God's microphone by advocating on their behalf.

Blessed Oscar Romero used the radio to become God's microphone. Today we can use social media, email, letter writing and public events to bear witness to Christ's Gospel message through legislative advocacy. It is one of the most effective ways to create real and lasting change.

faith. action. results.

Legislative advocacy can influence decision making at local, national and international levels to change unjust policies that negatively affect our brothers and sisters who are poor and vulnerable.

One way to use legislative advocacy to become God's microphone is by joining [Catholics Confront Global Poverty](#), an initiative of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops and Catholic Relief Services. CCGP provides email updates about policy issues that affect our brothers and sisters who are poor and vulnerable overseas and gives you the tools to advocate effectively on their behalf with your elected officials.



REFLECT

- How does Blessed Oscar Romero's story inspire or challenge you?
- How can you be God's microphone in your daily life—"in your own job, in your own vocation," as Archbishop Romero says?

PRAY

Lord of Light, Lord of Hope,

Your prophet cried, "Shout out, do not hold back!
Raise your voice like a trumpet."¹

Yet I have seen your people suffer
And remained silent too long.
Help me to speak out.

When human dignity is not honored: May I speak out.

When the poor are oppressed: May I speak out.

When injustice reigns: May I speak out.

When rights are not respected: May I speak out.

When the law is unjust: May I speak out.

When violence is normalized: May I speak out.

When human life is cheapened: May I speak out.

When other voices are silenced: May I speak out.

When I am most afraid to speak out:
May I speak out nonetheless.

Lord, give me the courage to be your microphone
That my words may ring as clearly as yours,
Still the oppressor's sword,
And soften the hearts of the mighty.

Even now I shudder at the thought of speaking.
But you have promised that those who trust in you
will not be put to shame.

And to remain silent when I have seen
what there is to see
Grows more unthinkable every day.

Now is a time for prayer, Lord.
Soon it will be a time for speaking.
May I speak out. Amen

TAKE ACTION

Now is the time to speak out like Blessed Oscar Romero did. Text "Share Journey" to 30644 to lift your voice in support of migrants and refugees around the world. You can also [join us online](#) to sign up for alerts so you can be God's microphone for our brothers and sisters who are poor and marginalized.



confrontglobalpoverty.org

¹Isaiah 58:1