

MEMBER COUNTRIES:



Archbishop Oscar Arnulfo Romero, Pastor, Prophet and Martyr.

Born in El Salvador on August 15, 1917. Ordained a priest in Rome. Named archbishop of San Salvador in February, 1977. Oscar Romero, a man of deep sincerity, had an unbreakable faith in the God of life in

the midst of a history of pain and death.

In the face of the cruel repression perpetrated by the armed forces and the oligarchy, he made an option for the defense of human rights in accompaniment of the poor. He was tireless in proclaiming the dignity of the human person and courageous in denouncing exploitation and repression.

He became "the voice of the voiceless." Threatened with death, he stated: "I don't believe in death without resurrection. If they kill me, I will arise in the Salvadoran people.... As pastor I am obliged by divine mandate to give my life for those I love.... If the threats are carried out, as of now I offer to God my blood for the redemption and resurrection of El Salvador..... If God accepts the sacrifice of my life, may my blood be the seed of freedom and the sign that our hope will soon be a reality."

On March 24, 1980, while celebrating the Eucharist, Oscar Romero was killed by a sharpshooter's bullet to the heart.

His death as a martyr was the eternal crown of his life and made him Good News for today's world. Romero, symbol of the multitude of martyrs of Latin America, represents hope for a new world of solidarity, justice, and brotherhood/sisterhood.



Is a world-wide Christian ecumenical network of Solidarity with impoverished peoples.

It brings together committees, organizations, groups and persons committed to the promotion of a faith-based solidarity.

It works for justice and truth as a way of serving and accompanying the cause of liberation.

SICSAL was founded in 1980 in response to the challenge of Christians involved in the people's movements of Central America under the inspiration of Archbishop Romero, who is a sign of all those men and women who gave their lives in faithfulness to the gospel and to the option for the poor and needy.

GENERAL GOAL

To live and promote solidarity in, with, and from the position of the impoverished peoples who struggle for their liberation and for peace, thus helping to bring about the alternative and liberating project of the Kingdom of God.

SPECIFIC GOALS

1. To call together and join with the different solidarity groups in order to create areas of fraternal and ecumenical communion.
2. To make known the spirituality of Archbishop Romero in order to enrich and orientate our commitment to solidarity.
3. To promote an incarnational kind of theological reflection which will give impetus to a movement in support of and in interaction with the process of liberation in society and in the churches.
4. To support the demands for justice of the newly emerging protagonists -- indigenous people, black people, women, and migrants and to denounce prophetically the projects of death and anything which threatens the life of human beings and nature.
5. To share analyses of the social, political, economic, and ecclesial reality in order to produce proposals for our commitment to solidarity.
6. To publish trustworthy information rapidly in support of the processes of liberation.

MOTIVATION

1. The project of the Kingdom of God, which leads us to commitment.
2. The refusal to acquiesce in the misery and the suffering of the people.
3. Thirst for justice and equality.
4. The death of innocent persons (through hunger, violence, illness, illiteracy....).
5. The militancy and resistance of the people.
6. Environmental destruction.

SPIRITUALITY OF SICSAL

finds its inspiration in the spirituality of the martyrs of Latin America, especially of Archbishop Romero, God's prophet, who let himself be led by the Spirit, alongside the poor, pointing toward the utopia of a new world.

The spirituality of SICSAL is centered on solidarity, which arises from the experience of a God who puts himself in solidarity with men and women, especially with the poor and excluded, in the person of Jesus, the Lord, who stood in the tradition of the biblical prophets, announcing the Good News of justice, denouncing oppression, and consoling the afflicted.

In Jesus, God enters into solidarity with the poor. In a world globalized by neo-liberalism, which is merciless to human beings and to nature, the spirituality of solidarity challenges us to globalize justice, hope, love, and brotherhood/sisterhood, breaking down walls and boundaries, in order to open ourselves to the peoples of the world in an attitude of respect and fraternal dialogue.

RECURRENT THEMES IN ALL OUR WORK

1. Solidarity with, based in, and from the position of the impoverished peoples.
2. The example of the life and work of Archbishop Romero.
3. Recalling the martyrs.
4. Macro-ecumenism.
5. Focus on gender.

HOW DO WE NOURISH AND TRANSMIT OUR SPIRITUALITY?

We give nourishment to our spirituality by sharing reflections in our meetings and by our community celebrations, vigils, and days of prayer. Our spirituality is transmitted above all by the testimony of life of each member of our groups and by the actions of solidarity we carry out.

PRIORITIES

1. The newly emerging protagonists.
2. The movement of populations: migrants, displaced persons, refugees.
3. Situations of impoverishment.
4. The development of a culture of life and defense of the human person.

WHO BELONG TO SICSAL?

All those groups, committees, organizations, Christian Base Communities, and persons who live and practice a faith-based and organized solidarity and who have explicitly joined SICSAL in their respective region.

Secretariate of SICSAL

Address: Colonia Centro America Casa L-824
Managua, Nicaragua
Email: sicsal04@ibw.com.ni
Peg. www.sicsal.net.
Tel: (505) 252-6294



SICSAL

