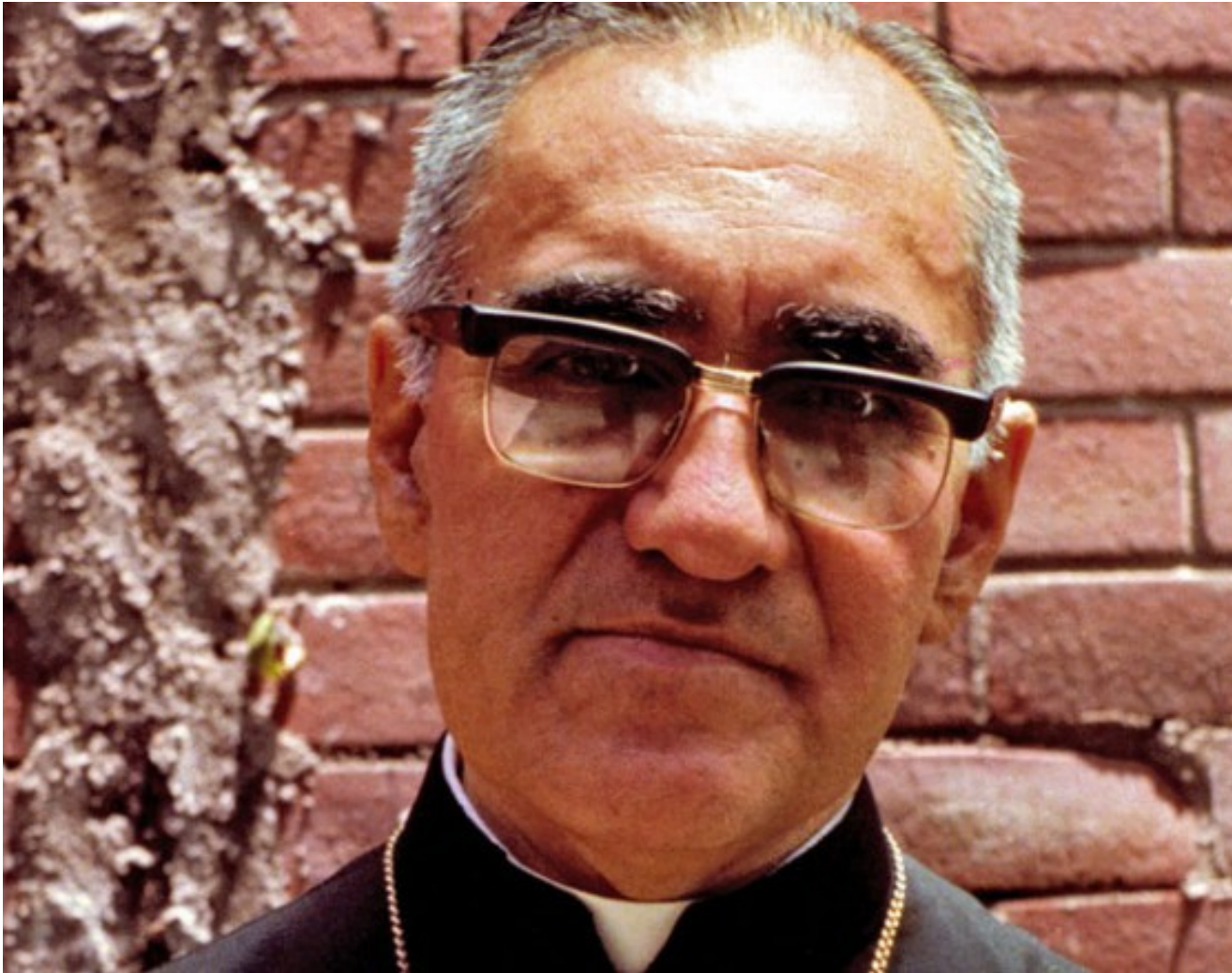


---

# St. Oscar Romero

*Feast Day: March 24*



---

**BORN: AUGUST 15,  
1917 IN EL SALVADOR  
DIED: MARCH 24,  
1980 - EL SALVADOR**

## **Catholic Social**

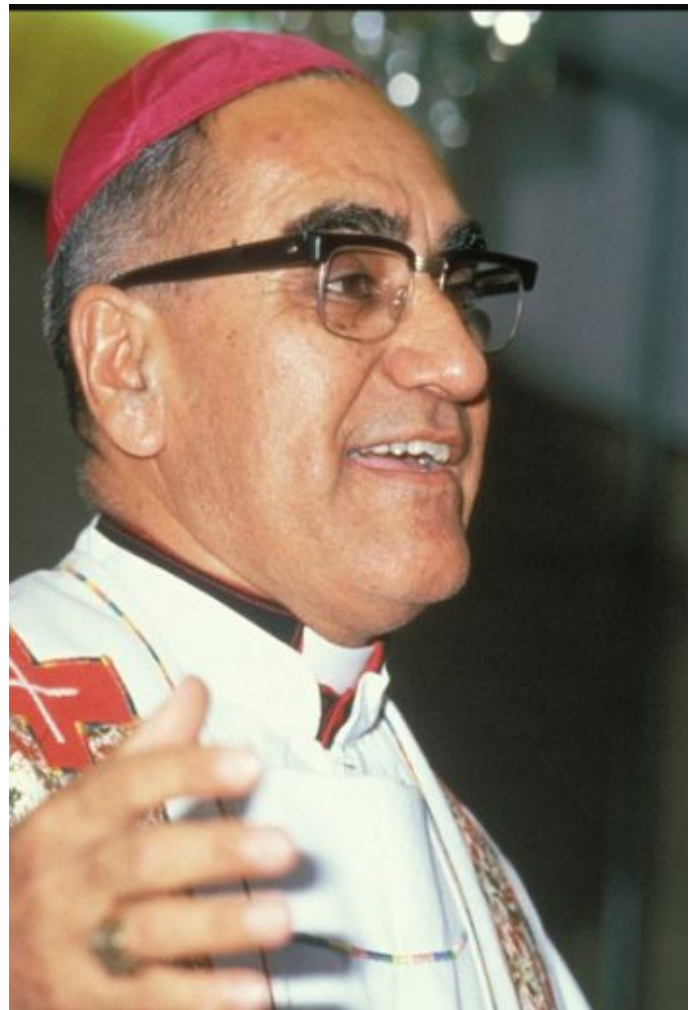
### **Teaching principles:**

- **Solidarity**
- **Preferential Option for the Poor**
- **Life and Dignity of the Human Person**

- St. Oscar Romero was born on August 15th 1917, and was ordained in April 1942.
- In February 1977 he was chosen to be the new Archbishop of San Salvador. Seen as a social conservative at the time, Romero was deeply affected by the murder of his friend and fellow priest Rutilio Grande and became an outspoken critic of the military government of El Salvador.
- Romero spoke out against violations of the human rights of the poor and vulnerable, and defended the principle of life and dignity of the human person while opposing all forms of violence
- Romero was assassinated on Monday March 24th 1980 as he was celebrating Mass in the chapel of the Divine Providence cancer hospital where he lived. Thirty five years later, he was declared a martyr of the Church, and was beatified on May 23rd 2015.
- He was canonized by Pope Francis on October 14th 2018. During the canonization Mass, Pope Francis wore the blood-stained rope belt that Romero wore when he was martyred.

## Pray

St. Oscar Romero said, " We have never preached violence, except the violence of love, which left Christ nailed to a cross, the violence that we must each do to ourselves to overcome our selfishness and such cruel inequalities among us. The violence we preach is not the violence of the sword, the violence of hatred. It is the violence of love, of brotherhood..." During this month, pray the Stations of the Cross or sit and gaze upon a crucifix and contemplate these words. Reflect on those who suffer violence in our own society today and ask for the intercession of St. Oscar Romero to give you strength and courage to speak out against violence in our culture.



## Learn

### Watch:

This less than 3 minute video gives a glimpse into the life and death of St. Oscar Romero- just scan the QR code with your smartphone's camera.



### Read:

The homily by Pope Francis for the canonization Mass of St. Oscar Romero (he was canonized at the same Mass as Pope St. Paul VI).

There is also a link to a video of the full Mass- the canonization prayer is at minute 29.



## Act

- Host a prayer service at your parish to honor the life, death, and work of St. Oscar Romero. If you wish, you can use this step by step [prayer service guide](#) from Catholic Relief Services called "Being Church; Speaking Out with the Poor- A prayer service inspired by the witness of Oscar Romero."
- Speak Up! "Saint 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. 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."-- from Catholic Relief Services

