

Points to Ponder June 14-20

This week's Points to Ponder are taken from homilies given by St. Oscar Romero. Archbishop Romero was born in 1917 in El Salvador. He was ordained a priest in 1942. Named Auxiliary Bishop of San Salvador in 1970 and Archbishop in 1977. He was assassinated on March 24, 1980. Archbishop Romero was killed because of what he preached and what he said. He never preached anything that was not consistent with the Gospel and the teaching of the Church. He felt these were given to us to be carried out in our lives.

Given where we are in the country at this particular time, I hope these reflections will help as we each discern how to help bring healing, justice, peace and hope to our country.

Sunday-THE BIBLE AND THE SIGNS OF THE TIMES

Besides reading the Bible, which is the word of God, a Christian who is faithful to the word must also read the signs of the times, the events, to illuminate them through the word. October 30, 1977

Monday

Peoples are free to choose the political system they want but not free to do whatever they feel like. They will have to be judged by God's justice in the political or social system they choose. God is the judge of all social systems. Neither the gospel nor the church can be monopolized by any political or social movement. January 14, 1979

Tuesday

I wish to affirm that my preaching is not political. It naturally touches on the political – and it touches the people's real lives – but it does so in order to illuminate those realities and to tell people what it is that God wants and what it is that he does not want. January 21, 1979

Wednesday

To try to preach without referring to the history one preaches in is not to preach the gospel. Many would like a preaching so spiritualized that it leaves sinners unbothered and does not term idolaters those that kneel before money and power. A preaching that says nothing about the sinful environment in which the gospel is reflected upon is not the gospel. February 18, 1979

Thursday

Those who, in the biblical phrase, would save their lives – that is, those who want to get along, who don't want commitments, who don't want to get into problems, who want to stay outside of a situation that demands the involvement of all of us – they will lose their lives.

What a terrible thing to have lived quite comfortably, with no suffering, not getting involved in problems, quite tranquil, quite settled, with good connections politically, economically, socially – lacking nothing, having everything.

To what good?

They will lose their lives.

“But those who for love of me uproot themselves and accompany the people and go with the poor in their suffering and become incarnated and feel as their own the pain and the abuse – they will secure their lives, because my Father will reward them.”

Brothers and sisters, God's word calls us to this today. Let me tell you with all the conviction I can muster, it is worthwhile to be a Christian. April 1, 1979

Friday

A civilization of love that did not demand justice of people would not be a true civilization: it would not delineate genuine human relations. It is a caricature of love to try to cover over with alms what is lacking in justice, to patch over with an appearance of benevolence when social justice is missing. True love begins by demanding what is just in the relations of those who love. April 12, 1979

Saturday

When we leave Mass, we ought to go out the way Moses descended Mount Sinai: with his face shining, with his heart brave and strong to face the world's difficulties. June 17, 1979