

LIVING FAITH

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

MARCH 22



THE GOSPEL FOR TODAY

John 9:1, 6-9, 13-17, 34-38

As he walked along, he saw a man blind from birth. When he had said this, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva and spread the mud on the man's eyes, saying to him, 'Go, wash in the pool of Siloam' (which means Sent). Then he went and washed and came back able to see. The neighbours and those who had seen him before as a beggar began to ask, 'Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?' Some were saying, 'It is he.' Others were saying, 'No, but it is someone like him.' He kept saying, 'I am the man.'

They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. Now it was a sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. Then the Pharisees also began to ask him how he had received his sight. He said to them, 'He put mud on my eyes. Then I washed, and now I see.' Some of the Pharisees said, 'This man is not from God, for he does not observe the sabbath.' But others said, 'How can a man who is a sinner perform such signs?' And they were divided. So they said again to the blind man, 'What do you say about him? It was your eyes he opened.' He said, 'He is a prophet.' They answered him, 'You were born entirely in sins, and are you trying to teach us?' And they drove him out.

Jesus heard that they had driven him out, and when he found him, he said, 'Do you believe in the Son of Man?' He answered, 'And who is he, sir? Tell me, so that I may believe in him.' Jesus said to him, 'You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he.' He said, 'Lord, I believe.' And he worshipped him.

TAKING THE GOSPEL HOME

Once again today, the Gospel stresses the importance of seeing, really seeing—not with your eyes, but with the inner eyes of your heart and soul.

REFLECT AND DISCUSS

- In this Gospel, who is really blind? Is it the man whose eyes have never seen, or is it the Pharisees, whose hearts and souls are closed?
- What keeps people from seeing Jesus, or from recognizing him?
- What about you? What keeps you from seeing Jesus, or from recognizing him?

Development and Peace Share Lent 2020



Reflection on integral ecology

God is in all Creation

When you step out onto the pavement in the morning, do you ever consider what is beneath your feet? Is it possible that under the layers of concrete, we can feel the beating heart of the land? The land which gives life to the trees which provide the oxygen we breathe, that nourishes the gardens that provide our food, and which sustains the homes that give us shelter? Is it possible to see the face of God, Creator of the land, air, water, moon and sun, and of all the universal elements that connect us to each of our sisters and brothers living in our common home?

In today's modern world, we can easily forget that the car we are driving, the cell phone we are using and the sneakers we are wearing all derive from the natural resources that God created. Too often, however, these natural resources are taken from the lands of others and not shared equitably. In addition, the unsustainable use of these resources — spurred by our overconsumption — has triggered our current climate crisis. As a consequence, millions of people live in poverty, experience hunger and climate disasters, have their ancestral lands stolen and desecrated, and are denied their integral human development.

With this reflection, we invite you to begin the journey towards an integral ecology, which “calls for openness to categories which transcend the language of mathematics and biology, and take us to the heart of what it is to be human.” (*Laudato Si'*, 11) Together, let us experience the ecological conversion that incites us all to care for our common home.

As a family, list some ways we can be more ecologically friendly...



THE CHURCH TEACHES THE ANNUNCIATION

The Angelus

Angelus Domini (The Angel of the Lord)



The Angelus is a traditional prayer used to commemorate the holy annunciation of the angel Gabriel to Mary. It started with the 11th century custom of reciting the Hail Mary three times during the evening bell.

We pray the Angelus **three times daily**:

- ① dawn: 6 a.m. ② midday: 12 noon ③ dusk: 6 p.m.
Traditionally, we pray kneeling while a bell is rung.

SOURCE: CCCB'S BLESSINGS AND PRAYERS FOR HOME AND FAMILY

The Angel of the Lord declared to Mary:
And she conceived of the Holy Spirit.

Hail Mary . . .

Behold the handmaid of the Lord:
Be it done unto me according to Thy word.

Hail Mary . . .

And the Word was made Flesh:
And dwelt among us.

Hail Mary . . .

Pray for us, O Holy Mother of God,
that we may be made worthy of
the promises of Christ.

Let us pray:

Pour forth, we beseech Thee, O Lord,
Thy grace into our hearts; that we,
to whom the incarnation of Christ, Thy Son,
was made known by the message of an
angel, may by His Passion and Cross
be brought to the glory of His Resurrection,
through the same Christ Our Lord. Amen.

Every Sunday at noon,
the Pope recites the Angelus
following an address. He then
blesses crowds gathered in
St. Peter's Square.

The "Regina Caeli" replaces the
Angelus during the Easter season.



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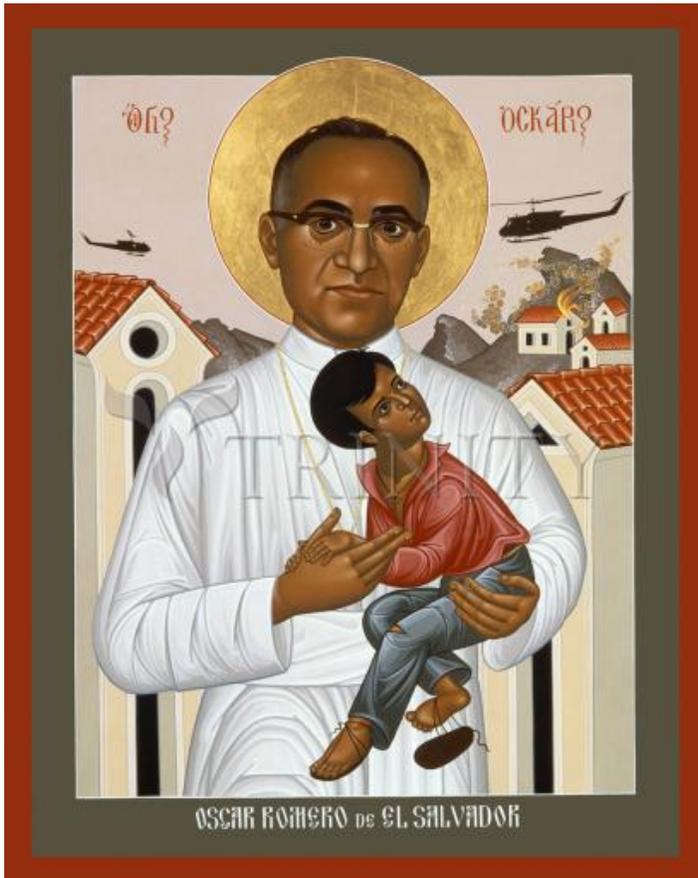
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Covid-19: Pope offers prayer to Virgin Mary for protection. [Watch here.](#)

Prayer of Pope Francis to Mary for Help and Protection During the Coronavirus Pandemic.

O Mary,
you always shine on our path as a sign of salvation and of hope.
We entrust ourselves to you, Health of the Sick,
who at the cross took part in Jesus' pain, keeping your faith firm.
You, Salvation of Your People, know what we need,
and we are sure you will provide so that, as in Cana of Galilee,
we may return to joy and to feasting after this time of trial.
Help us, Mother of Divine Love, to conform to the will of the Father
and to do as we are told by Jesus, who has taken upon himself our sufferings
and carried our sorrows to lead us, through the cross, to the joy of the resurrection. Amen.
Under your protection, we seek refuge, Holy Mother of God. Do not disdain the
entreaties of we who are in trial, but deliver us from every danger, O glorious and
Blessed Virgin. AMEN.

ST. OSCAR ROMERO FEAST DAY MARCH 24



Oscar Romero was Archbishop of San Salvador. He 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, killed out of hatred of the faith, and was beatified on May 23rd 2015. He was canonized by Pope Francis on October 14th 2018.

A quote from St. Oscar Romero:
Let us not tire of preaching love; it is the force that will overcome the world. Let us not tire of preaching love. Though we see that waves of violence succeed in drowning the fire of Christian love, love must win out; it is the only thing that can.
September 25, 1977

For more, go to:
<http://www.romerotrue.org.uk>

Many people would like the poor to always say that it is God's will that they are poor.

It is not God's will for some people to have everything and others to have nothing.

This cannot be of God.

ARCHBISHOP ÓSCAR ARNULFO ROMERO

