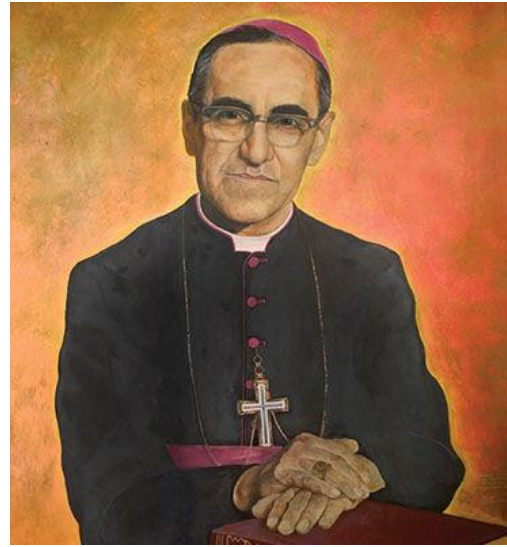


Saint Oscar Romero

Saint Oscar Romero, whose full name was Óscar Arnulfo Romero y Galdámez, was born on August 15, 1917, in Ciudad Barrios, El Salvador. He came from a large family; his father was a postman, and his mother managed their home. From a young age, Romero felt a strong calling to the priesthood, leading him to begin his religious studies early on. He was ordained as a priest in 1942.



Romero served in various parishes and was known for his simple and humble lifestyle. In 1977, he was appointed Archbishop of San Salvador, a position he assumed during a time of significant social and political unrest in El Salvador. The country was plagued by violence, poverty, and human rights abuses.

As Archbishop, Romero became a powerful advocate for the poor and oppressed. He used his position to speak out against the injustices perpetrated by the government and other powerful entities. One of his most effective tools was his weekly sermons, which were broadcast on the radio and reached a wide audience. Through these broadcasts, he condemned violence and called for social change, earning him the reputation of being the "voice for the voiceless."

Tragically, Romero's outspoken stance on social justice led to his assassination. On March 24, 1980, while celebrating Mass in a hospital chapel, he was shot and killed by a sniper. His murder was a direct result of his relentless criticism of the government and its policies.

Romero's legacy endures as a symbol of hope and courage. His commitment to justice and peace continues to inspire many around the world. In recognition of his faith and sacrifice, he was canonized as a saint by Pope Francis on October 14, 2018. Saint Oscar Romero's life teaches the importance of standing up for justice and helping those who are suffering, regardless of the risks involved. His feast day is celebrated on March 24 each year.

Discuss in pairs:

- **What sacrifices did this saint make?**
- **Why do you think this saint is a good role model?**
- **What 3 words would you use to describe your House Saint?**