



**Saint
Oscar
Romero**
1917-1980

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A special person



Saint Oscar Romero

was born on **15
August 1917** in
El Salvador,
Central America.

When he left **school**
he became a
carpenter, but soon
decided he wanted
to become a **priest**.

El Salvador at the time

A few families were **very rich and owned** lots of **land**. Most people **were** poor **and** earned very little.

People **became** very angry **at this** unfairness.

But the rich **were** very powerful. **If** anybody complained **they were** put in prison **or** even killed.



A quiet man

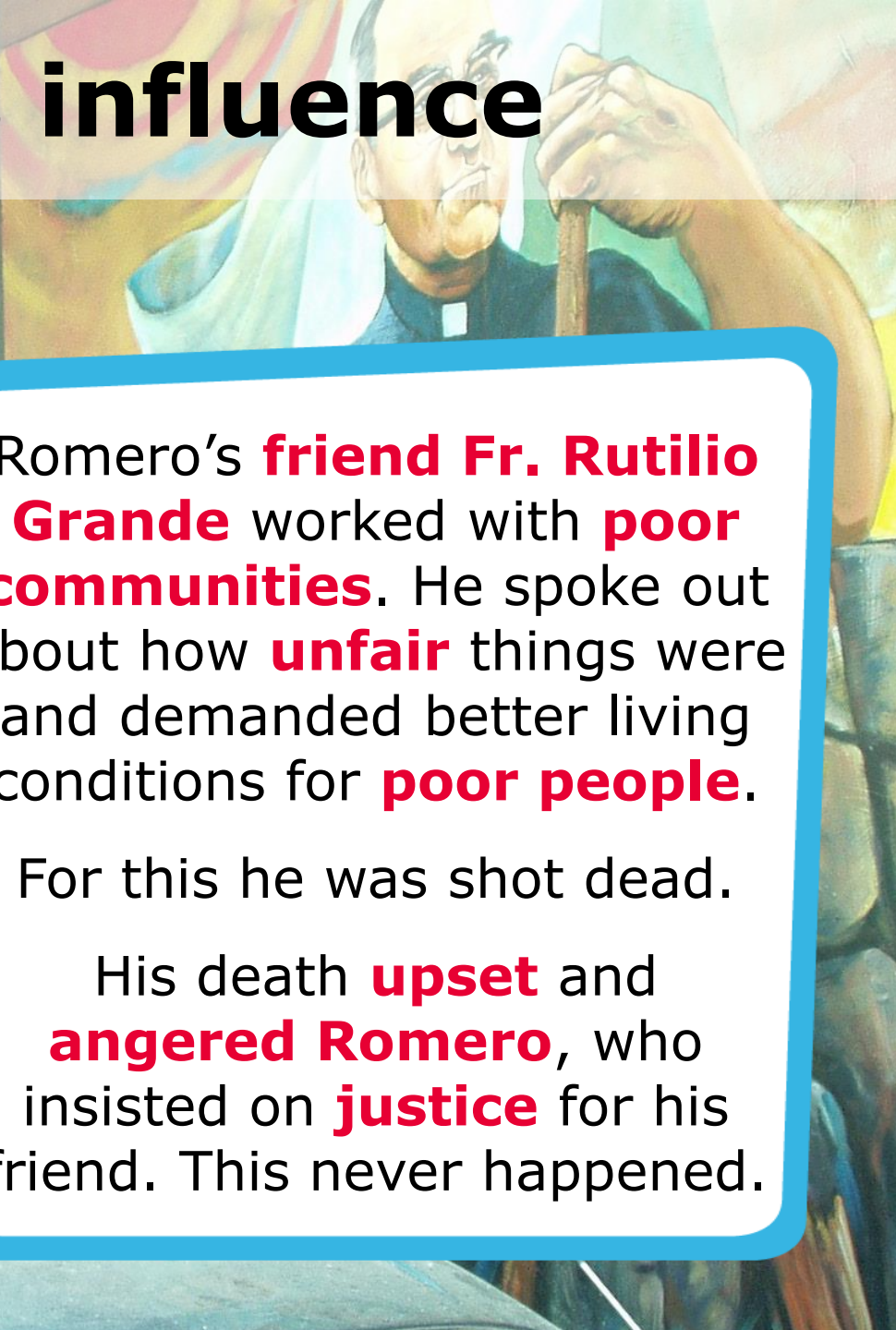


In **1977 Oscar Romero** became the **Archbishop** of **San Salvador**, the capital.

He was a **quiet, shy man** and nobody thought he would **speak out** about how **poor people** were being treated.

They **thought** he would be **too afraid**.

A friend's influence



Romero's **friend Fr. Rutilio Grande** worked with **poor communities**. He spoke out about how **unfair** things were and demanded better living conditions for **poor people**.

For this he was shot dead.

His death **upset** and **angered Romero**, who insisted on **justice** for his friend. This never happened.

A voice for the voiceless

From that point Oscar Romero stopped being a quiet man and spoke out. He told the truth about what was happening to poor people in his country. Every week in his sermons on the radio, he spoke out against the violence.

"Many would like the poor to keep on saying it is God's will for them to live that way. But it is not God's will for some to have everything and others to have nothing. That cannot be of God."

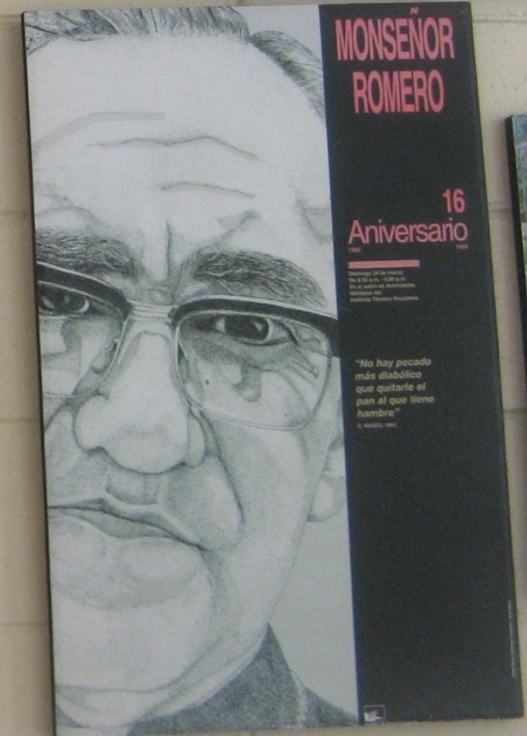
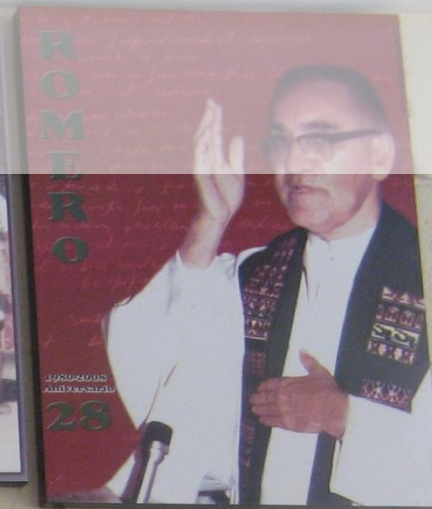
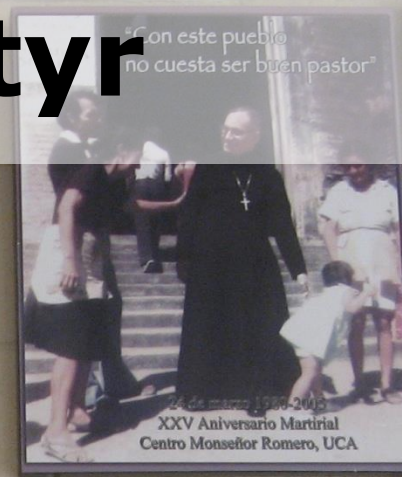
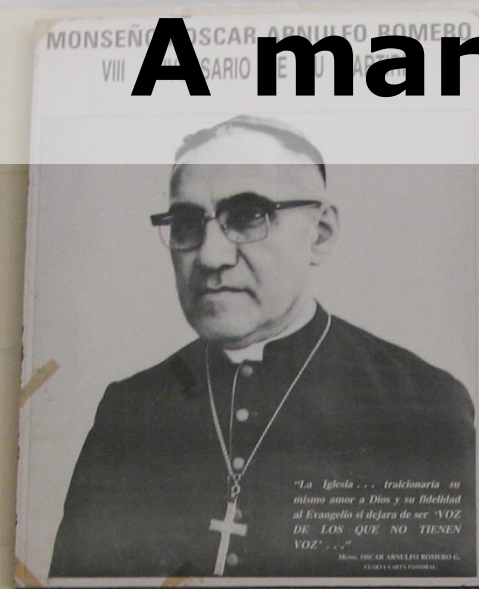
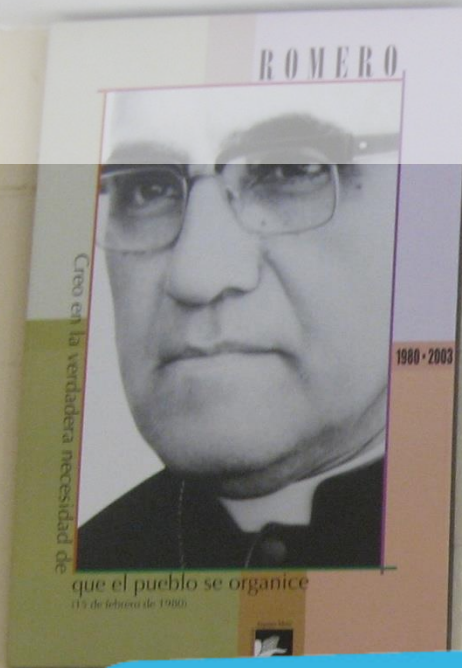
A brave man



Even though he was **afraid** that he would be **killed**, his **strong faith** in **God** helped him **carry on**.

"if they kill me I will rise again in the salvadorian people"

A martyr



On **24th March 1980**, **Oscar Romero** was celebrating Mass. A car drew up and a **shot** was **fired** through the open church door.

Oscar Romero was killed.

CAFOD in El Salvador

Archbishop Oscar Romero was one of CAFOD's partners.

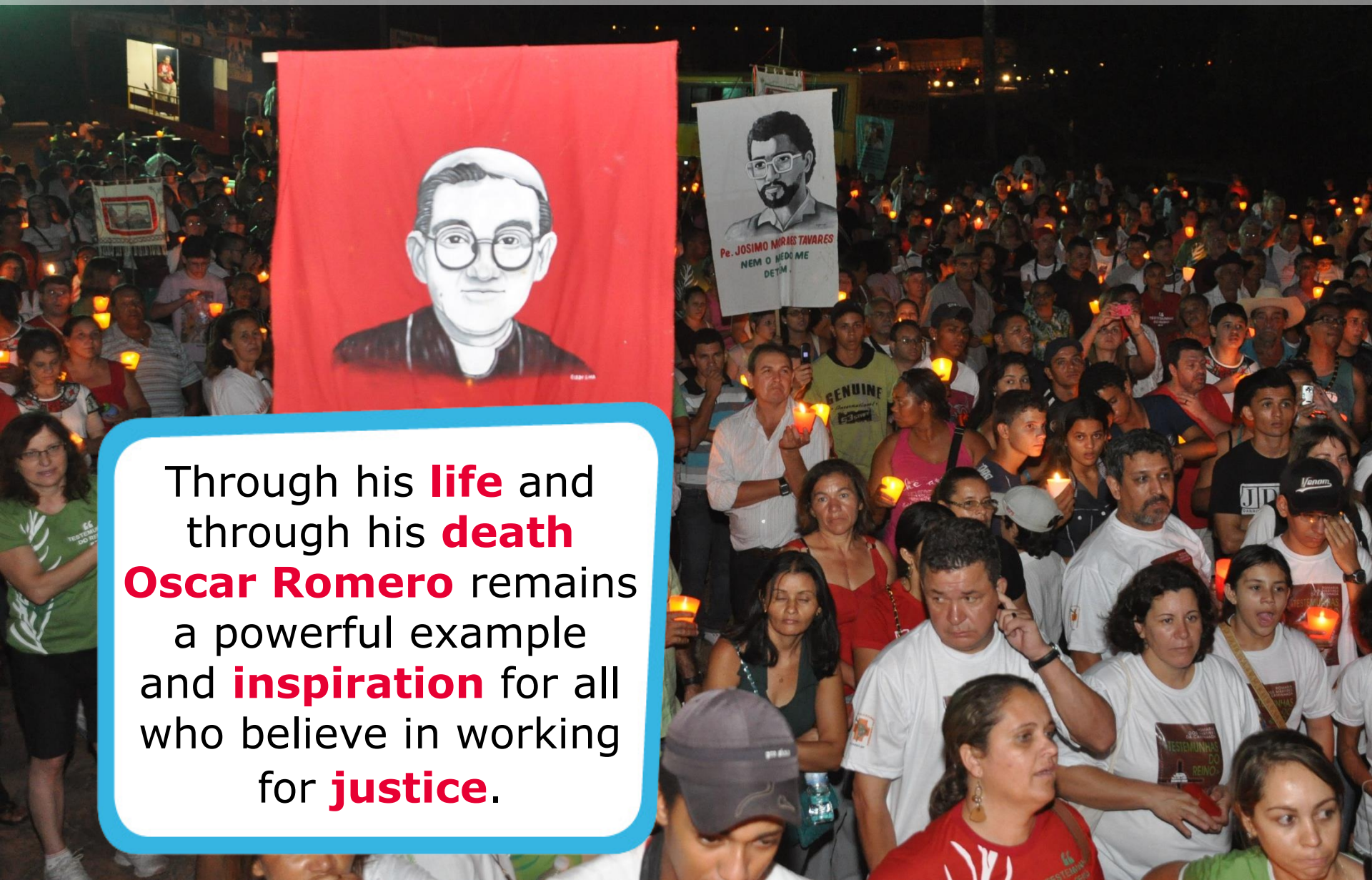


CAFOD partners continue
working for **justice** in
El Salvador alongside the **poor**.

A guiding light



Through his **life** and through his **death** **Oscar Romero** remains a powerful example and **inspiration** for all who believe in working for **justice**.





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Photographs: Equipo Maiz , Claudia Torres , CAFOD.