

ROSES IN DECEMBER

Remembering women martyrs of El Salvador



Maura Clarke MM



Jean Donovan



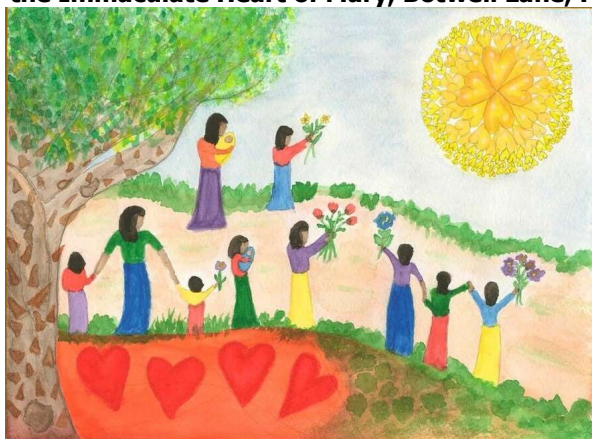
Ita Ford MM



Dorothy Kazel OSU

2 December 2020

The Church of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, Botwell Lane, Hayes UB3 2AB



Remembering Women in El Salvador

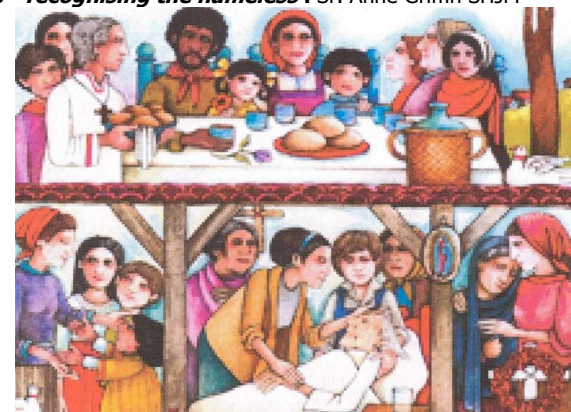
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GRpPeRRzyk>

a video produced by Share-El Salvador for the 30th anniversary of the murder
of
Maura Clarke MM, Jean Donovan, Ita Ford MM, and Dorothy Kazel OSU

Welcome : Fr. Paul Smyth CMF, *Parish Priest, President - Conference of Religious of England & Wales*

El Salvador - then & now : Clare Dixon, *Head of Region - Latin America & the Caribbean*

Naming the names - recognising the nameless : Sr. Anne Griffin SHJM



The names of Salvadoran women who have given their lives for the poor will be proclaimed

Name

Marvel
Elsa
Mercedes de Lopez
Mirna
Ester Godoy
Norma Sofia Valencia
Luisa
Guadalupe Ordoñez
Gloria Rogel
Maura Rogel
Idalia Perez
Saturnina Diaz
Ana Maria Romero Pereira
Florentina Pereira
Reynalda Lopez Sanchez
Priscila Lopez Sanchez
Francisca Sanchez Gomez
Clementina Argueta de Marquez
Hilda Hortensia Marquez Argueta
Fautina Perez Gomez
Maria Florentina Vigil
Eloisa Portillo
Etelvina Portillo
Maria Anastacia Marquez Marquez
Maria Anselma Marquez

Community

Zacamil
Santiago Texacuango
Santiago Texacuango
Plan de Pito
Cuscatancingo
San Salvador
CEBES de Estancia
San Antonio Abado
San Antonio Abad
San Antonio Abad
San Antonio Abad
Cerro Pando
El Mozote
El Mozote
La Joya
La Joya
La Joya
El Mozote
El Mozote
Cerro Ortiz (Cacaopera)
Jocote Amarillo
Cerro Pando
Cerro Pando
El Mozote
El Mozote

and

Maura Clarke, Jean Donovan, Ita Ford, and Dorothy Kazel

at the end of which we declare :

Presente! Presente! Presente!

During the lighting of candles : **Witnesses of dying and of Rising**

The Monks of Weston Priory, Vermont USA

Composed in memory of Maura Clarke, Jean Donovan, Ita Ford & Dorothy Kazel

Refrain : Witnesses of dying and of rising: these martyrs who live the Good News of Jesus risen.
Spirit calls to heed their voice, their message: transform all fear with justice and compassion.

1. As you lead your people to the land which is their home, my presence shall within around you be: sustaining all. **Refrain** ...
2. I shall be your strength, your song, your courage as you free all those held captive by injustice and others' greed. **Refrain** ...
3. Feed the hungry, clothe the homeless, nurture broken lives; in the sharing of your humanness God's love abounds. **Refrain** ...
4. Those possessed by power's comfort live in emptiness; but those who give their lives in my name will birth new hope. **Refrain** ...

A reading from the Gospel of John (15: 13-17): Julian Filochowski, Chair - The Romero Trust

Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends. You are my friends if you do what I command. I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know the master's business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you. You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit - fruit that will last - and so that whatever you ask in my name the Father will give you. This is my command: Love one another.

Homily : Sr. Gemma Simmonds CJ, Director – Religious Life Institute, Margaret Beaufort Institute of Theology, Cambridge

Song : Unless a grain of wheat, Bernadette Farrell

Un - less a grain of wheat shall fall up -
on the ground and die, it re - mains but a
sin - gle grain with no life.

Verses

1. If we have died with him then we shall
2. If an - y - one serves me then they must
3. Make your home in me as I make
4. If you re - main in me and my word
5. Those who love me are loved by my
6. Peace I leave with you, my peace I

live with him; if we hold firm, we shall
fol - low me; where - ev - er I am, my
mine in you; those who re - main in me
lives in you; then you will be my dis -
Pa - ther; we shall be with them and
give to you; peace which the world can - not

D.C.

reign with him.
ser - vants will be.
bear much fruit.
ci - ples.
dwell in them.
give is my gift.

Text: John 12:24; Bernadette Farrell, b.1957
Tune: Bernadette Farrell, b.1957
© 1983, Bernadette Farrell. Published by OCP Publications.

Litany of Remembrance : Pat Gaffney, Peace Activist & Campaigner

By their own testimonies, each of these martyrs articulated a real fear of death and an absolute trust in God. Maura Clark expressed it clearly: "If my time comes, will I be faithful?" Their struggle to be people of integrity and commitment in the face of life-threatening situations continues to speak to us. If the lives and sacrifices of our many modern martyrs are going to have any meaning in the world today, it will be because we still feel their pain and are open to listen to the Gospel calling us. These women sacrificed everything for the sake of God's reign and all God's people :

Response: Listen Lord, John Bell – Iona <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ABICrYqG41w>

Refrain

Lis - ten, Lord, Lis - ten, Lord, not to our words but to our prayer.
You a - lone, you a - lone un - der - stand and care.

Fine

"I hope that you come to find that which gives life a deep meaning for you. Something worth living for - maybe even worth dying for, something that energizes you, enthuses you, enables you to keep moving ahead. I can't tell you what it might be - that's for you to find, to choose, to love. I can just encourage you to start looking and support you in the search." (Ita Ford, MM) **Response** ...

"I don't know what tomorrow will bring. I am at peace here and searching — trying to learn what the Lord is asking. At this point, I would hope to be able to go on, God willing. . . This seems what he is asking of me at this moment. The work is really what Archbishop Romero called "acompañamiento" [accompanying the people], as well as searching for ways to bring help." (Maura Clarke MM) **Response** ...

"El Salvador, Saviour of the World, is writhing in pain - a country that daily faces the loss of so many of its people - and yet a country that is waiting, hoping, yearning for peace. The steadfast faith and courage that our leaders have to continue preaching the Word of the Lord, even though it may mean laying down your life in the very REAL sense, is always a point of admiration and a vivid realization that JESUS is HERE with us. Yes, we have a sense of waiting, hoping, and yearning for a complete realization of the Kingdom, and yet we know it will come because we can celebrate Him here, right now." (Dorothy Kazel OSU) **Response** ...

"The Peace Corps left today and my heart sank low. The danger is extreme and they were right to leave... Now I must assess my own position, because I am not up for suicide. Several times I have decided to leave El Salvador. I almost could, except for the children, the poor, bruised victims of this insanity. Who would care for them? Whose heart could be so staunch as to favour the reasonable thing in a sea of their tears and loneliness? Not mine, dear friend, not mine." (Jean Donovan) **Response** ...

These women sacrificed everything for the sake of God's reign and all God's people on earth, as in heaven :

Padre Nuestro ... <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4EsO5AXDZTE>

Padre nuestro tu que estas, en los que aman la verdad
haz que el reino que por ti se dio/ llegue pronto a nuestro corazón.
que el amor que tu hijo nos dejo, el amor este ya en nosotros.

Y en el pan de la unidad, Cristo danos tu la paz / y olvídate de nuestro error
si olvidamos el de los demás,/no permitas que caigamos en tentación
Oh Señor!, ten piedad del mundo.

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our trespasses,

as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.

Padre nuestro, que estás en el cielo, santificado sea tu Nombre;
venga a nosotros tu reino; hágase tu voluntad en la tierra como en el cielo.
Danos hoy nuestro pan de cada día; perdona nuestras ofensas,
como también nosotros perdonamos a los que nos ofenden;
no nos dejes caer en la tentación, y líbranos del mal. Amén.

Oh Señor!, ten piedad del mundo.

An Act of Commitment: Sr. Anne Griffin SHJM & Pat Gaffney

Solidarity means to accompany people marginalised by institutionalised violence, engaging in a process of social, economic, and environmental transformation, rooted in right relationships, and leading to one's own conversion. Let us now re-commit to:

Have new eyes to see the reality of our world; have our hearts broken by injustice and broken open by new relationships of justice and equality; find life, joy and faithfulness at the margins, even in the midst of great suffering in this time of Covid-19; be, in our own society, people changed, challenged and challenging; become people of hope, who believe that a better world is possible, the kind of world for which the four women, and thousands upon thousands of others gave their lives; make or renew a commitment to work for that reign of God's justice, equality, harmony and peace.

Let these words be so fulfilled in our actions that we might find deep meaning in our lives, something worth living for, even worth dying for, a life beyond exclusion and prejudice. As we struggle at this time of threat and isolation may we know that the transfigured Saviour is our companion on the road, the one eating bread with us on the way, beyond our human and spiritual starvations.

Closing Prayer: Fr. Paul Smyth CMF

Loving God, your friends, prophets and martyrs, have inspired us by their witness, by their deep love and by their total commitment to your reign. May we continue to be nourished and strengthened by their lives. May **we** be witnesses to your love for all that you have created, especially where this is most vulnerable and oppressed. May your reign come through us as we answer your call to mission in all its diversity. Moved by the Spirit, we ask this of you, loving God, in Jesus' name. **Amen**

The Blessing: Bishop Nicholas Hudson, *Bishop in Central & East London, Westminster Diocese.*

The Lord be with you - **And with your spirit.**

Blessed be the name of the Lord - **Now and for ever.**

Our help is in the name of the Lord - **Who made heaven and earth.**

May the peace of God which surpasses all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of his Son, our Lord Jesus Christ. **Amen**

And may the blessing of almighty God, the Father, and the Son, + and the Holy Spirit, come down on you and remain with you for ever. **Amen**

Go in peace, glorifying the Lord by your lives. **Thanks be to God.**

Recessional Hymn: Be not afraid, Bob Dufford

Verse 1

1. You shall cross the bar-ren des-ert, but you
shall not die of thirst. You shall wan-der far in
safe-ty though you do not know the way. You shall
speak your words in for-eign lands and all will un-der-
stand. You shall see the face of God and live.

Refrain

Be not a-fraid. I go be-fore you al-ways.
Come, fol-low me, and I will give you rest.

2. If you pass through raging waters in the sea, you shall not drown.
If you walk amid the burning flames, you shall not be harmed.
If you stand before the pow'r of hell and death is at your side,
know that I am with you through it all.
Be not afraid.
I go before you always.
Come, follow me, and I will give you rest.
3. Blessed are your poor, for the kingdom shall be theirs.
Blest are you that weep and mourn, for one day you shall laugh.
And if wicked tongues insult and hate you all because of me,
blessed, blessed are you!
Be not afraid.
I go before you always.
Come, follow me, and I will give you rest.



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Roses in December

On 2 December 1980, Jean Donovan along with three American religious sisters were brutally murdered by members of El Salvador's security forces. This "sensitive, marvellously constructed film" chronicles Jean's life, from her affluent childhood in Connecticut, to her decision to volunteer with the Maryknolls in El Salvador, to her tragic death. It may be viewed on the Romero trust website:

<http://www.romerotrue.org.uk/videos>



Archbishop Romero Trust