

"Let the holiness of God shine forth" (cf. Mt 5, 16)

item 314

OSCAR ROMERO on Easter



GOOD FRIDAY RADIO BROADCAST – 1977

I had the honor and the pleasure of participating in the Sacred Burial Procession.

A great number of people left the parish church of El Calvario, traveled through the streets of the city, passed in front of the cathedral and then returned to the church.....

There, in the church of El Calvario, Jesus remains "buried" during this time before the celebration of the Easter Vigil.

Holy Saturday

It would be good if we visited this holy place, El Calvario. Also in each parish, and town and village I invite you, my radio audience, to live this Holy Saturday in the way that the Church wishes. This is not some other vacation day...Saturday is still a day of mourning, a day of silence before the Lord's tomb.

Today the Church is like that widow who is in a state of waiting. The Church awaits the resurrection of the Lord. The Church, like the lonely Virgin after the tragic death of her son, is waiting with a calm sadness the resurrection of the Lord. The Church and Mary are all of us, joined together at the Lord's tomb, awaiting the solemn hour when Easter will arrive. After the sacred burial, this state of expectation characterizes the Church's situation, that is, her reality, psychology, faith, and hope.

Therefore I invite you to share in these sentiments of calm sadness and of hope in the glory of the Lord. For we know that this tragic death of Jesus was undertaken for the good of the world and entered into voluntarily, for Jesus himself said: *I lay down my life in order to take it up again* (John 10:17). As we await this

moment when Jesus will take up his life once again, let us live this Holy Saturday in holy expectation of the resurrection of the Lord.

the Easter Vigil

These then are the thoughts that ought to fill our minds during Good Friday and Holy Saturday as we await the time of the blessing of the new fire that will proclaim that the hour of the Lord's resurrection has arrived.

This will be followed by readings about biblical events that refer to this holy night and to our baptism. At this celebration we will renew our baptismal commitment and thus celebrate in our own life, as a redeemed people, baptized, filled with the grace of God, the resurrection of the Lord...

This is why the ancient baptismal fonts were in the form of a tomb where the catechumens formed a procession and one by one lowered themselves into the font as if they were to be buried. There the bishop baptized and confirmed them and they came up from the font as one arises from the tomb, dressed in white garments – a precious representation of Christ who arose from his tomb.

How good it would be if during this Easter Vigil we offered repentance for our unfaithfulness to our baptismal promises and firmly resolved to live our baptism more intensely! There could be no better way to participate in this feast of the Risen Lord. Indeed, there is no greater joy for the Divine Redeemer than to imprint in the depths of our souls the reality of his death and resurrection. For the meaning of baptism is rooted in our participation in the death of Jesus and our willingness to die to all that is evil in life, that is, to detach ourselves from selfishness, injustice, hatred, violence, all that is evil and diabolical and all that

is perverse. On the other hand, our baptism is also rooted in our resurrection to a new life, to a life of holiness, simplicity, humility, chastity and all those virtues that gave life to the holy souls. All the baptized are called to be saints. On this night when we celebrate the Easter Vigil we are once again invited to make a resolution to be holy, to be faithful and consistent with our baptism.



our times demand faithfulness

It is here, together at Jesus' tomb, as we await his resurrection, that we examine our life and our commitments to him. We do not want to be Judas nor the cowardly apostles. We want to be faithful today and tomorrow. The time demands this faithfulness. These moments do not allow us to live as Catholics who are asleep, nor is it the time to accommodate Catholicism to our own way of thinking or our individual whim. The hour has come when we must say with Jesus: *whoever is not with me is against me, and whoever does not gather with me scatters* (Matthew 12:31). This is the hour for integrity and laying down one's life. We must constantly recall the fact that Christ died and was buried, and allow these realities to blossom into a resolution to live an integral Catholicism and to accept the ultimate consequence of our fidelity. It would be very fruitful to reflect on this at the Lord's tomb as we await the hour of his resurrection.

We wanted to transmit this message so that during these solemn hours you might reflect on these different thoughts. There are many Christians who do not know what to do at this time and who believe Holy Saturday is the end of Holy Week. Holy Saturday is a time of waiting. Let us live in this time of expectation until the Church tells us that yes, the glorious hour, the joyful hour has come – the time has arrived to celebrate the resurrection of our Lord.

the hope of Christ

When the Easter Vigil concludes it would be beautiful to see in all the streets of San Salvador and in all the town and villages, those candles in the hands of the faithful, illuminating our hope on the roads of the country: the hope of Christ, the only hope that can save us.

At 8:30pm Saturday night we will see you in the cathedral and I want to have the pleasure of greeting you there at that time: Happy Easter. Let us accustom ourselves to greeting one another in this way and thus Christianize that which is most beautiful about this night, a much greater night than Christmas, for Christ was born not to die but so that death would no longer have dominion over us. The resurrection of Christ, the Easter evening, the greatest night in history, is what we are going to celebrate and it is near at hand as we approach Holy Saturday.

My dear radio audience, as this hour approaches, let us, you and I, lift up our prayers to God.....Look at how Catholicism has flourished in our parishes! Look at how we are longing for this Easter season!.....It is our Church that flourishes as a result of Jesus' resurrection. Jesus suffered on the cross during his Lent – a Lent and a cross that enabled him to enter a state of calm joyfulness, the joy of a Church that offers true hope to humankind.



Let us pray often, for prayer will be our power. God is with us. God tries us and knows that the trial is fruitful because the sorrow of the cross blossoms into the resurrection of Easter.

My dear radio audience this voice of the Church has spoken for you, your humble servant

and friend, the Archbishop of
San Salvador

**Archbishop Oscar Romero – San Salvador – EL SALVADOR
Good Friday – 08 Apr – 1977**

item 315

'aid to prayer' opens

PALLOTTI College at Millgrove [Australia] has opened an aid to prayer and, in doing so, has honoured a much-loved former member of its Yarra Valley community and reinforced both its Catholic and ecumenical links.

Fr. Dean Bradbury SAC, the Spiritual Director of the College, blessed and dedicated a Labyrinth in the College grounds on Sunday 15 March honouring late Uniting Church minister the Rev. Robin Pryor, who with his wife Bronwyn were part of the College team from 2000-06. Mr. Pryor, who died of pancreatic cancer on 4 July 2013, had chosen the site shortly before his death with the College's joint Manager, Mr. Bill Henderson.

Mrs. Pryor, friends of her family and members of the College community were joined by VCal students from Mt. Lilydale Mercy College in designing and building the Labyrinth, with rocks and shrubs made available by many benefactors. At the dedication, attended by about 50 people, including many Uniting Church members,

Mrs. Pryor — surrounded by her family, including her children, grandchildren and Mr. Pryor's brother Geoff — unveiled a plaque honouring her husband.

‘Throughout the ages, our loving God has moved His people to set apart holy places for prayer and to recognise and celebrate God's presence in those places,’ Fr. Bradbury said. ‘This Labyrinth is the fruit of many years of dreaming, planning and work. It has come about through the efforts of quite a number of people.’



Mr. Pryor had written that the Labyrinth ‘is simply an aid to prayer.’

‘The Labyrinth is not a “maze” as there are no false paths or tricks to be overcome. Instead, we simply walk the narrow path to the centre, rest a little perhaps, and walk the same way out again. There is a wholeness, a completeness in this journey in, and the journey out ... Scripture abounds with reference to God's people as a “pilgrim people”, a people on the move to a promised end. Here is a symbol or model of this pilgrimage for and to Christ. It is an invitation to encounter the Lord on the road, as those two followers did on the road to Emmaus (Luke 24:13-35).’

Mrs. Pryor still hosts retreatants at her home – which includes a labyrinth – at St. Andrews Beach, on the Mornington Peninsula.

In 2016, Pallotti College, located in the foothills of Mt. Donna Buang just over 70 kilometres east of Melbourne, will mark the 50th anniversary of its opening. The Pallottines, who were founded by Roman priest St Vincent Pallotti (1795-1850) to promote the apostolic life of all the baptised, arrived in Western Australia in 1901 to work with Aboriginal people in the Kimberley and came to Melbourne 36 years later when they established a community in Kew, which still exists.

Their work—involving priests, religious and laypeople—includes parishes, youth and family ministry and outreach to those in need, as well as hosting individual and group retreatants.

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you commented...

on #164