

Building God's Kingdom

The central theme of Jesus' preaching focused on the Kingdom of God; it appears again in today's Gospel. While various Kingdom descriptions are possible, personally, I am inspired by the Kingdom description attributed to Saint Oscar Romero, the martyred archbishop of San Salvador (1917-1980). He was an outstanding embodiment of the prophetic Church, a "voice for the voiceless." Romero's reflection on a prophetic building of the Kingdom is shared for your personal enrichment.

"It helps now and then to step back and take the long view. The Kingdom of God is not only beyond our efforts; it is even beyond our vision. We accomplish in our lifetime only a tiny fraction of the magnificent enterprise that is God's work. Nothing we do is complete, which is another way of saying that the Kingdom always lies beyond us."

"No statement says all that could be said. No prayers fully express our faith. No confession brings perfection. No pastoral visit brings wholeness. No program accomplishes the Church's mission. No set of goals and objectives includes everything. This is what we are about."

"We plant the seeds that one day will grow. We water seeds already planted, knowing that they hold future promise. We lay foundations that will need further development. We provide yeast that produces effects, far beyond our capabilities. We cannot do everything, and there is a sense of liberation in realizing that. This enables us to do something, and to do it very well."

"It may be incomplete, but it is a beginning, a step along the way, an opportunity for the Lord's grace to enter and do the rest. We may never see the end results, but that is the difference between the master builder and the worker. We are workers, not master builders; ministers, not messiahs. We are prophets of a future not our own. Amen."