

Prayer of Archbishop Oscar Romero

It helps, now and then,
to step back and take a long view.
The kingdom 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 a way of saying that the kingdom
always lies beyond us. No statement says all that
could be said. No prayer fully
expresses 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 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.