Modern-Day Martyrs: Redemptive Love in Action

Introduction

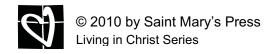
Learning about modern-day martyrs—people who have witnessed to the importance of their beliefs by enduring great personal suffering—will lead to a deeper understanding of Jesus' suffering and death as acts of redemptive love.

Purposes

- to learn about the lives of several modern-day martyrs (one in-depth)
- to draw connections between the lives (and, in many cases, deaths) of these people and the life and death of Jesus
- to explore what the witness of martyrs, from the time of Jesus to the present, might teach us about our own lives, values, and priorities

Instructions

- 1. Together with a partner, you will research one of the following online:
 - Bishop Juan Gerardi Conedera (Guatemala)
 - Fr. Stanley Rother (Guatemala)
 - Sr. Dorothy Stang (Brazil)
 - Sr. Alicia Domon (Argentina)
 - Archbishop Oscar Romero (El Salvador)
 - Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. (United States)
 - Saint Maximilian Kolbe (Poland)
 - Dietrich Bonhoeffer (Germany)
 - Blessed Damien de Veuster (Hawaii)
 - Nelson Mandela (South Africa)
 - Sr. Maura Clarke, Sr. Dorothy Kazel, Sr. Ita Ford, and Jean Donovan (combined; El Salvador)
 - Tenzin Gyatso (the Dalai Lama; Tibet)
 - Mahatma Gandhi (India)
 - Bishop Carlos Belo (East Timor)
 - The Jesuit martyrs of El Salvador, Julia Elba Ramos, and Celina Meredith Ramos (combined)
 - Aung San Suu Kyi (Burma)



- 2. You will be given 30 to 40 minutes to conduct your research. Focus on the following:
 - basic information about your person, including the place and context in which she or lived, worked, and died
 - the beliefs to which this person was faithful, despite the risk of suffering and death (Were they religious beliefs? political beliefs? something else?)
 - what, specifically, this person suffered in order to remain faithful to those beliefs
 - similarities between this person's story and the story of Jesus' suffering and death
- **3.** Take some notes on these points so you can share what you have learned about your person with the whole class.

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