

What Does the Eucharist Ask of Us?

Reflecting on the Words of Saint Oscar Romero



“Some want to keep a gospel so disembodied that it doesn’t get involved at all in the world it must save. Christ is now in history, Christ is in the womb of the people. Christ is now bringing about the new heavens and the new earth” (Sunday Homily, December 3, 1978).

“When we leave Mass, we ought to go out the way Moses descended Mount Sinai: with his face shining, with his heart brave and strong to face the world’s difficulties” (Sunday Homily, June 17, 1979).

“A religion of Sunday Mass but of unjust weeks does not please the Lord. A religion of much praying but with hypocrisy in the heart is not Christian. A church that sets itself up only to be well off, to have a lot of money and comfort, but that forgets to protest injustices, would not be the true church of our divine redeemer” (Sunday Homily, December 4, 1977).

“I am glad, brothers and sisters, that our church is persecuted precisely for its preferential option for the poor and for trying to become incarnate on behalf of the poor. And I want to say to all the people, to rulers, to the rich and powerful: If you do not become poor, if you do not concern yourselves for the poverty of our people as though they were your own family, you will not be able to save society” (Sunday Homily, July 15, 1979).

“Anyone who is chosen, for society’s need, to be a cabinet member, to be president of the republic, to be archbishop—to be a servant—is the servant of God’s people. That must not be forgotten. The attitude to be taken in these offices is not ‘I’m in charge here! What I want must be done.’ You are only a human being, God’s servant. You must be at the Lord’s beck and call to serve the people according to God’s will and not according to your whim” (Sunday Homily, September 23, 1979).



“Receive the Holy Spirit.” Christ himself explains: “As my father sent me, I send you.” He means that the church is born with this breath of his, and the mission that the church will bear to the world for all time will be that of Christ dead and risen. The church celebrates its liturgy and preaches its word only for this: to save from sin, to save from slaveries, to overthrow idolatries, to proclaim the one God who loves us. That will be the church’s difficult mission, which earned for Christ a cross and humiliations, it will have to be ready also not to betray that message and, if necessary, to suffer martyrdom like him—suffer the cross, humiliation, persecution” (Sunday Homily, April 22, 1979).

“I repeat what I told you once before when we feared we might be left without a radio station: God’s best microphone is Christ, and Christ’s best microphone is the church, and the church is all of you. Let each one of you, in your own job, in your own vocation—nun, married person, bishop, priest, high-school or university student, workman, laborer, market woman—each one in your own place live the faith intensely and feel that in your surroundings you are a true microphone of God our Lord” (Sunday Homily, January 27, 1980).

“‘God’s reign is already present on our earth in mystery. When the Lord comes, it will be brought to perfection’ (*Gaudium et Spes*, 39). That is the hope that inspires Christians. We know that every effort to better society, especially when injustice and sin are so ingrained, is an effort that God blesses, that God wants, that God demands of us” (Weekday Homily, March 24, 1980).

(*Note:* This is taken from Archbishop Romero’s last Homily. He was assassinated as he concluded the Homily.)

(The quotations on this handout are excerpted from *The Church Is All of You: Thoughts of Archbishop Oscar Romero*, compiled and translated by James R. Brockman [Minneapolis: Winston Press, 1984], pages 39, 86, 10, 90, 99, 77, 105, and 110. Copyright © 1984 by the Midwest Province of the Society of Jesus. Used with permission.)

