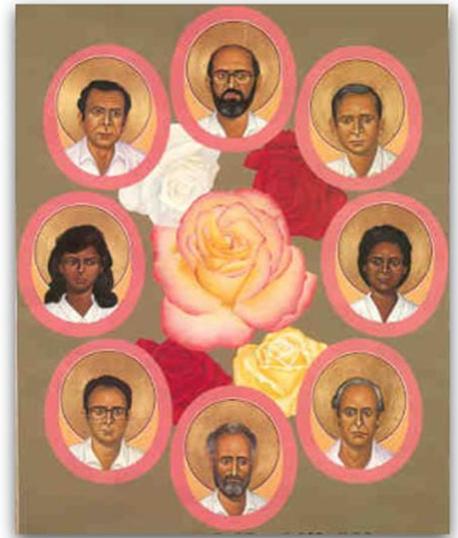


*Do everything possible so that freedom is the victory over oppression, justice over injustice and love over hate.*

“Hacer todo lo posible para que la libertad sea la victoria sobre la opresión, la justicia sobre la injusticia y el amor sobre el odio.”

(Ignacio Ellacuría, S.J.'s June 1982 Commencement Address Santa Clara University)



Leader: We gather to remember the deaths and celebrate the lives of the six Jesuits and the two women who were murdered on November 16, 1989, thirty years ago next Saturday. The Jesuit priests were killed because they had raised their voices to protest the unjust government and had worked for social justice and human rights during the civil war in El Salvador.

The Jesuits, the cook, and her daughter were in a residence on the campus of the Jesuit University of Central America when a death squad, under orders from the Salvadoran military High Command, entered the building and shot them with military-style weapons.

They are remembered as martyrs who spoke truth to those in power despite threats of violence.

Leader: Let us remember each of these martyrs who followed the path of justice, guided by the Holy Spirit, to do the will of God in a dark time. With words from the Beatitudes, we pray for their souls and give thanks for their witness.

Reader Three: We remember the university rector and an internationally-respected intellectual and advocate for human rights and a negotiated solution to the Salvadoran civil conflict the philosopher, Fr. Ignacio Ellacuría.

*All: Blessed are those who are persecuted for the sake of justice, For theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven.*

Reader Four: We remember the head of the Sociology Department and the University's Human Rights Institute, who did extensive work on Salvadoran refugees in the United States during the period of the Salvadoran conflict, including providing documentation and advice to United States Members of Congress on refugee issues, Fr. Segundo Montes. All: Blessed ...

Reader Five: We remember the social psychologist, a leading analyst of national and regional affairs, the founder and director of the respected polling organization, the Public Opinion Institute, Fr. Ignacio Martín-Baró. All: Blessed ...

Reader Six: We remember the theology professor, former novice-master for the Jesuits, and a tireless pastoral worker and spiritual guide Fr. Juan Ramón Moreno. All: Blessed ...

Reader Seven: We remember the theology professor, Fr. Armando López.

All: Blessed ...

Reader Eight: We remember the founder of the Fe y Alegría network of schools for the poor, , which opened 30 educational centers in marginalized communities throughout the country where 48,000 people received vocational training and education, Fr. Joaquín López y López.

All: Blessed ...

Reader Nine: We remember the cook and housekeeper at the University and witness to the murders, Julia Elba Ramos. All: Blessed ...

Reader Ten: We remember the sixteen-year-old daughter of Julia, Celina Ramos was staying with her mother the night.

All: Blessed

Leader: We also remember the thousands of others who died in El Salvador during the reign of terror in the 1970s and 1980s, including Archbishop Oscar Romero, Ita Ford, Maura Clark, Dorothy Kazel, and Jean Donovan. We pray for all those who died in those dark days, for all those who were tortured, and for all the families who still mourn their loved ones. May their courage and deep faith be a model for us as we struggle to respond to God's call to participate in His great work of justice and peace.

All: God, Creator of life and human dignity, we celebrate the witness of your martyrs for faith, for peace, and for justice. May the memory of the Jesuits and the members of the Ramos family who died in El Salvador in 1989 help us move to a deeper understanding of the demands of justice and guide us to speak your truth to those in power. Give us the courage to raise our voices for those who suffer oppression and violence. Grant us your joy as we work to bring your kingdom to this world. Amen.



Song: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sBezvh1S80U> David Haas and Lori True