

Saint Oscar Romero

1917 - 1980



Early Life

Saint Oscar Romero was a priest and the Archbishop of San Salvador in Central America.

He was born on August 15 1917 in Ciudad Barrios, El Salvador.

By the time he reached 14, Oscar Romero wanted to become a priest. However, after only a few months into his studies, his mother became ill, so he left the seminary and began to work in a local gold mine to pay for her medicine.

Becoming the Archbishop of El Salvador

In 1942, Oscar Romero went to study to become a priest in Rome. After this he returned to El Salvador and started to preach in schools and prisons and provided food for the poor.

By 1970, he was made a bishop which meant he was now an advisor to senior priests in El Salvador. In the years that followed, the country experienced an extreme level of violence. During this, Oscar Romero continued to support the most needy in El Salvador.

Did You Know...?

In 2015, the Pope announced that Oscar Romero had died a martyr. Then in 2018, he was recognised as a Saint.



seminary – A school or college that trains people to become priests.

martyr – Someone who is killed because of their beliefs.

Serving San Salvador

1977

Romero became the Archbishop of San Salvador, the capital of El Salvador.

1977

Later that year, his friend, Father Rutilio Grande was killed. Oscar Romero gathered everyone at Mass and called for peace.

1979

Oscar Romero visited the Pope and talked to him about the challenges his people faced.

1980

In 1980 he wrote to the President of the United States of America and asked him to help stop soldiers killing innocent people.

1980

Romero was killed while celebrating Mass.

Quick Quiz

1 Where is San Salvador?

- a. Central America
- b. Europe
- c. Asia

2 In what year did Oscar Romero become a priest?

- a. 1942
- b. 1977
- c. 1980

3 When he was young, why did Oscar Romero work in a gold mine?

- a. it was the only job that was available
- b. it was the next best thing to carpentry
- c. it helped pay for the medicine for his ill mother

4 In 1979, who did Oscar Romero visit?

- a. the Pope
- b. the President of the United States
- c. his friend Rutilio Grande

5 In which year was Oscar Romero recognised as a Saint?

- a. 1980
- b. 2015
- c. 2018

Quick Quiz Answers

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