



Saint Oscar Romero

1917-1980

A reflection for today,
using the words of
Saint Oscar Romero



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**.

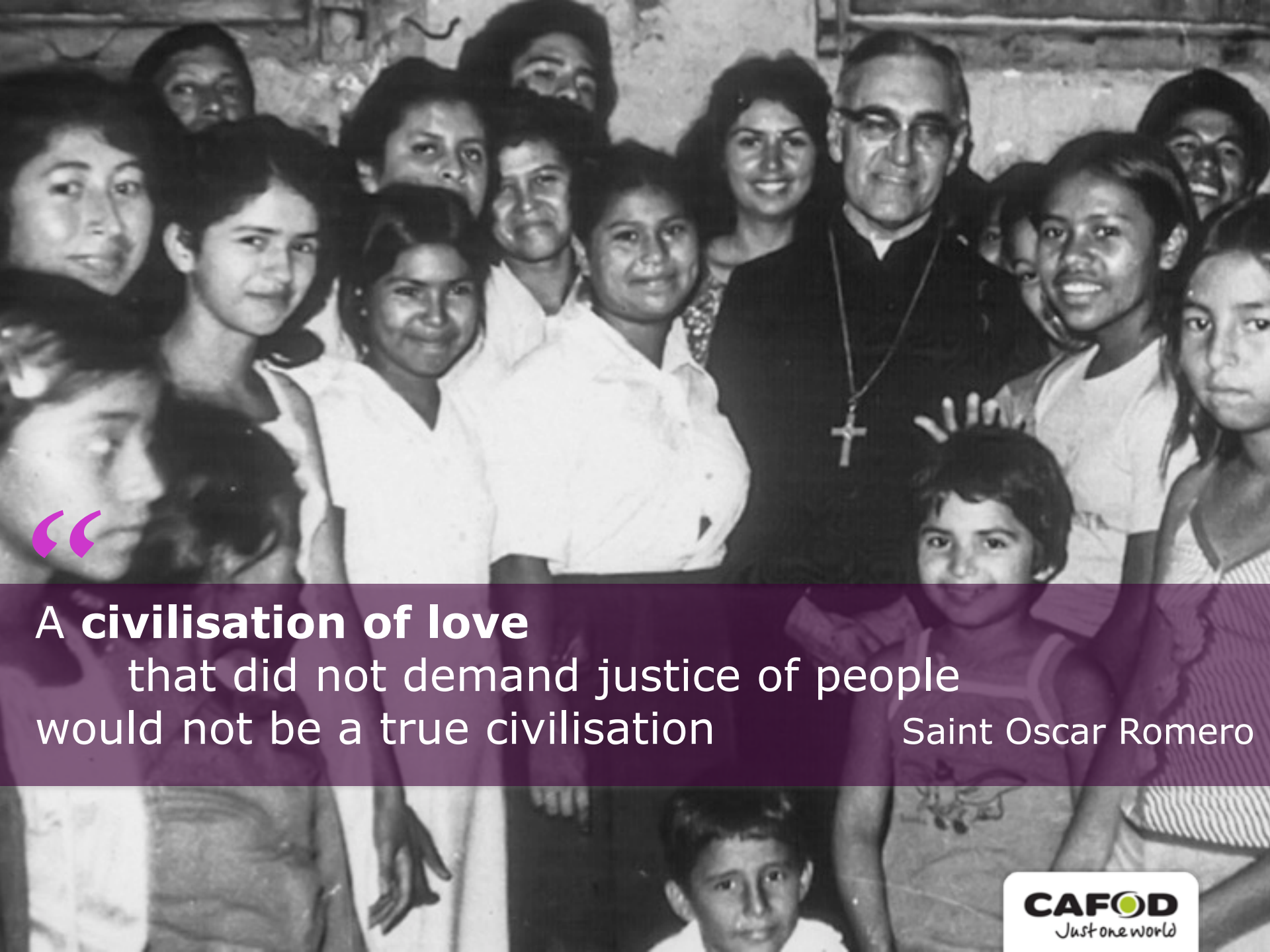
Spoken by Saint Oscar Romero
in his final homily, moments
before he was assassinated whilst
celebrating Mass

“

Love must win out;
it is the only
thing that can.



Chapel of the Divine Providence Hospital
moments after Saint Oscar Romero was martyred



“

A civilisation of love

that did not demand justice of people
would not be a true civilisation

Saint Oscar Romero

“

When we speak of **injustice** here below
and denounce it,
they think we are playing politics.

It is **in the name of God's just reign**
that **we denounce the injustices of the earth.**

Saint Oscar Romero

“

The Church believes that
**in each person
is the Creator's image**
and that everyone who
tramples it
offends God.

Saint Oscar Romero



“

In the theology
of human nature
there is only one class:
children of God.

Saint Oscar Romero







“

Oscar Romero was a very good man.
He was very good to people.
He helped to rescue people.
We should be like him.
I want to be brave like Romero.

Ronaldo, 10,
Puentecitos, El Salvador





We want a **Church**
that is really side by side
with the poor ...

We find that we are
gradually uncovering
the genuine face of the
Suffering Servant of God.

We are getting to know
closer at hand
the mystery of the Christ
who becomes human
and becomes poor for us.

Saint Oscar Romero



“

This is why I want a **Church which is poor and for the poor.** They have much to teach us. We are **called to find Christ in them,** to lend our voice to their causes, but also **to be their friends, to listen to them,** to speak for them and **to embrace the mysterious wisdom** which God wishes to share with us through them.

Pope Francis, The Joy of the Gospel, 198



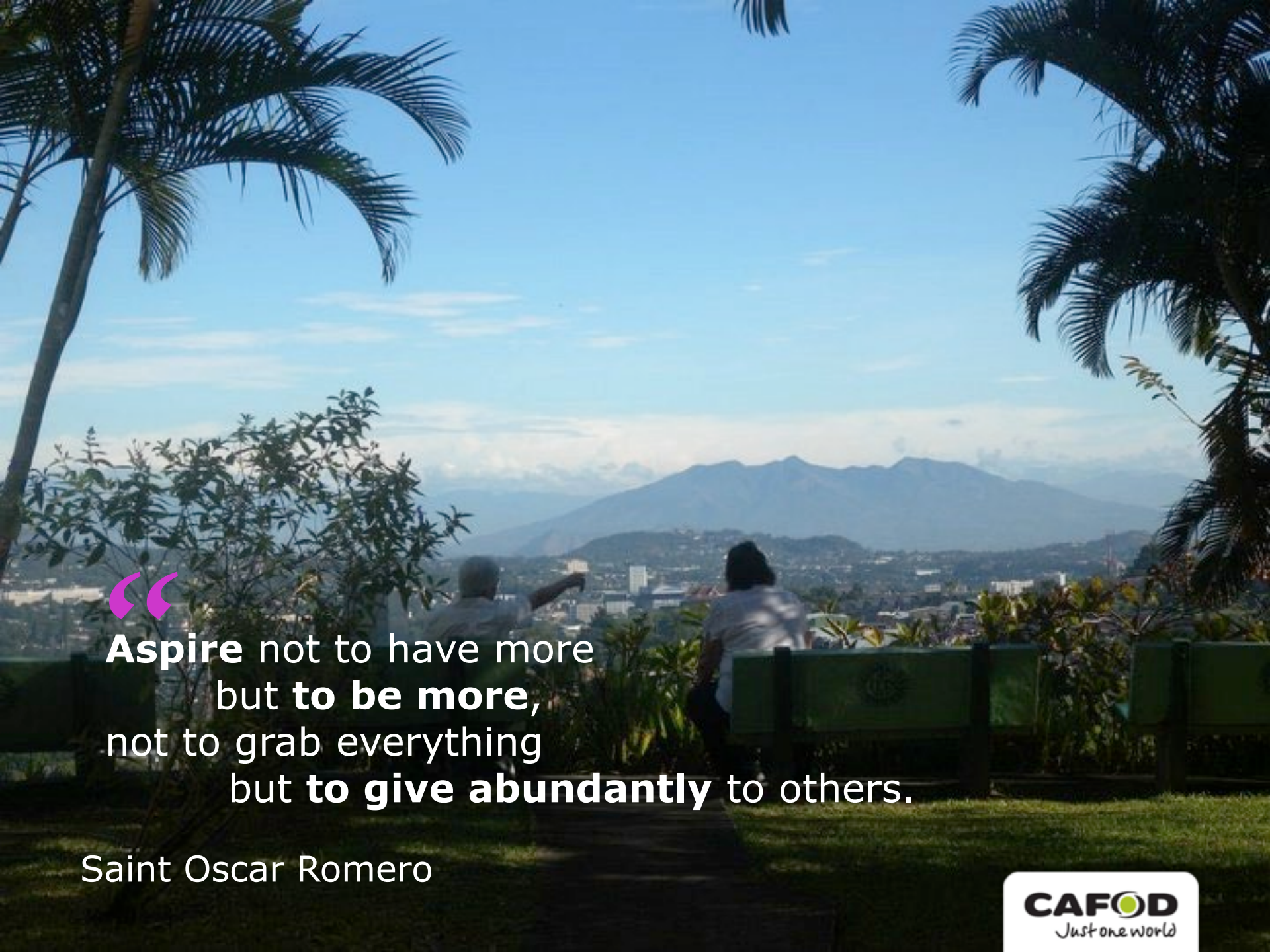
“

The Christian,
the Christian community,
must not despair.

We are a **community of hope.**

Saint Oscar Romero



A scenic view of a city and mountains from a hillside. In the foreground, two people are sitting on a green bench, looking out over the city. The city is nestled in a valley, with mountains in the background. The sky is blue with some clouds. Palm trees are visible on the left and right sides of the frame.

“
Aspire not to have more
but **to be more**,
not to grab everything
but **to give abundantly** to others.

Saint Oscar Romero



God in Christ dwells near at hand to us.

Christ has given us a guideline:

“I was hungry and you gave me to eat.”

Where someone is hungry, there is Christ near at hand.

“I was thirsty and you gave me to drink.”

When someone comes to your house to ask for water,
it is Christ, if you look with faith.

In the sick person longing for a visit Christ tells you,
“I was sick and you came to visit me.”

Saint Oscar Romero





At the end of time, the Lord will recognise us if,
in our turn, **we recognised him in the poor,**
in the hungry, in the indigent and in the outcast,
in those who suffer and are alone ...

This is one of the fundamental criteria
for evaluating our Christian life,
which Jesus calls us to measure up to every day.

I examine my conscience with Matthew 25.
(The parable of the sheep and the goats)

Pope Francis, General Audience, 6 August 2014



In whom do we recognise Christ?



If we could see that **Christ is the needy one**,
the torture victim,
the prisoner,
the murder victim,
and in each human figure
so shamefully thrown by our roadsides
could see Christ himself cast aside,
we would pick him up like a medal of gold
to be kissed lovingly.

The person is Christ,
and in the person viewed and treated with faith
we look on Christ our Lord.

Saint Oscar Romero



OSCAR ROMERO

BISHOP AND MARTYR: DEFENDER OF THE POOR



St John Paul II
praying at
Saint Oscar
Romero's tomb

At the tomb of Oscar Romero – San Salvador

PRAY FOR US



CAFOD
Just one world



Saint Oscar Romero

1917-1980

pray for us

Images:
Archbishop Romero
Trust, CAFOD, Sarah
Smith-Pearse,
Sophie Stanes,
Stephen Davies

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Just one world