

You who fear the Lord, wait for his mercy; do not stray, or else you may fall. You who fear the Lord, trust in him, and your reward will not be lost.
—*Ecclesiasticus 2:7-8*



SESSION 1
CALLED THROUGH FAITH

Ambrose: Eloquent for Christ



words to remember

[Apollus] was an eloquent man, well-versed in the scriptures. He had been instructed in the Way of the Lord; and he spoke with burning enthusiasm and taught accurately the things concerning Jesus, though he knew only the baptism of John.

—*Acts 18:24b-25*

prayer O God, you gave your servant Ambrose grace eloquently to proclaim your righteousness in the great congregation, and fearlessly to bear reproach for the honor of your Name: Mercifully grant to all bishops and pastors such excellence in preaching and faithfulness in ministering your Word, that your people may be partakers with them of the glory that shall be revealed; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

Ambrose
Lesser Feasts and Fasts, December 7

COMMENTARY

To persuade or convince—there are many ways to do this. One way we can persuade others is by choosing our words carefully. If you use really big words, people may not understand you. If you use words that people understand, then you are more likely to get their attention.

Another way to persuade is by the use of expression or the tone of voice that you use. If you sound very excited, people will respond and listen more carefully to what you are saying. If you sound really dull—like you want to be somewhere else—you aren't very convincing.

Ambrose knew how to talk to people and how to reach them where they were. People use many ways to persuade, but sometimes the simplest ways are the best.

—Katy, Grade 7

Youth prayer

Dear God,
Forgive us our sins. Help us to persuade people in good and loving ways, instead of harmful ways. Help us to use our powers of persuasion for your good. Amen.

—Katy, Grade 7

DAILY DEVOTIONS

reflections

Monday—Exodus 4:10-12

Tuesday—I Samuel 16:18

Wednesday—Luke 6:43-45

Thursday—Esther (Greek) 14:12-14

Friday—II Corinthians 8:7

Saturday—I Peter 4:10-11

voices



After the font [of baptism], the Holy Spirit is poured on you, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and strength, the spirit of knowledge and godliness, and the spirit of holy fear.

De Sacramentis 3.8

Great talkers are so constituted that they do not know their own thoughts until, on the tide of their particular gift, they hear them issuing from their mouths.

Thornton Wilder

Were the works of God readily understandable by human reason, they would be neither wonderful nor unspeakable.

Thomas à Kempis



—Luke 10:16
one who sent me,
rejects me rejects the
rejects me, and whoever
whoever rejects you
listens to me, and
however listens to you

M



SESSION 2

CALLED THROUGH FAITH

Columba: Building Community



words to remember

In the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and in view of his appearing and his kingdom, I solemnly urge you: proclaim the message; be persistent whether the time is favorable or unfavorable; convince, rebuke, and encourage, with the utmost patience in teaching.

—II Timothy 4:1-2

prayer O God, by the preaching of your blessed servant Columba you caused the light of the Gospel to shine in Scotland: Grant, we pray, that, having his life and labors in remembrance, we may show our thankfulness to you by following the example of his zeal and patience; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

Collect for Columba
Lesser Feasts and Fasts, June 9

COMMENTARY

Columba was a great man. He traveled to distant lands to bring the word of God to people. He also created a link between Christians in Ireland and Scotland.

Columba showed us how to link people and countries together. We achieve this by putting our faith in God and doing what we can where we are. I have two friends who absolutely hate each other. Maybe as I put my faith in God, I can help them work their differences out and become friends. They are alike in so many ways—they are both very stubborn. But with God's help, bringing people together and showing love is what we are called to do.

—Ariel, Grade 8

Youth prayer

Dear God,
Let us be more like Columba. Teach us how to spread your word, even if it means traveling to distant lands, or reconciling people here at home. Help us to live out the gospel with people everywhere. Amen.

—Ariel, Grade 8

DAILY DEVOTIONS

reflections

Monday—Ecclesiastes 7:8

Tuesday—Luke 8:11-15

Wednesday—Romans 8:24-25

Thursday—I Corinthians 13:4-7

Friday—I Thessalonians 5:14-18

Saturday—Hebrews 6:10-12

voices



Whatever type of man [Columba] may have been, we know for certain that he left successors distinguished for their purity of life, their love of God, and their loyalty to the monastic rule.

Bede

Deep peace of the running wave to you.
Deep peace of the flowing air to you.
Deep peace of the quiet earth to you.
Deep peace of the shining stars to you.
Deep peace of the Son of peace to you.
Amen.

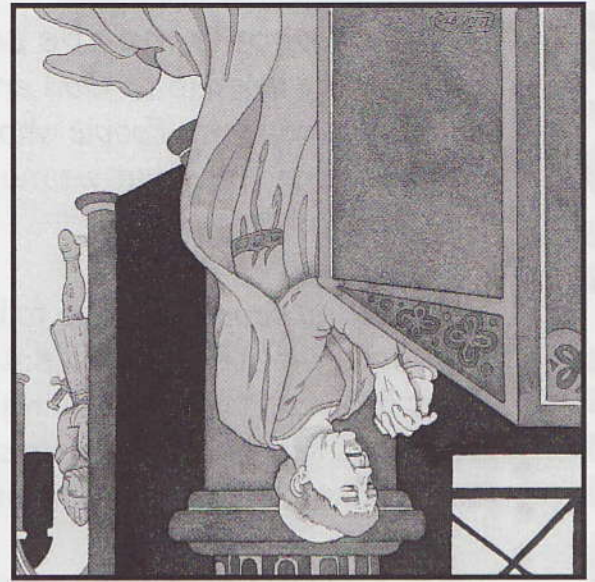
Prayer of the Iona Community

A lot of young people I meet do not know what they want to do with the rest of their lives. While it's getting later and they're under pressure to make a decision, it's for them not to worry, but to be well prepared, open, and educated. Learn as much as you can about everything. It's hard to tell young people to be patient, but that's what they need to be.

Judith Jamison



Jesus said to them, "Give to the emperor the things that are the emperor's, and to God the things that are God's."
—Mark 12:17a



SESSION 3
CALLED THROUGH FAITH

Thomas à Becket: Choosing God



words to remember

[Elihu said:] "Hear my words, you wise men, and give ear to me, you who know; for the ear tests words as the palate tastes food. Let us choose what is right; let us determine among ourselves what is good."

—Job 34:2-4

prayer O God our father, whose Son forgave his enemies while he was suffering shame and death: Strengthen those who suffer for the sake of conscience; when they are accused, save them from speaking in hate; when they are rejected, save them from bitterness; when they are imprisoned, save them from despair; and to us your servants, give grace to respect their witness and to discern the truth, that our society may be cleansed and strengthened. This we ask for the sake of Jesus Christ, our merciful and righteous Judge. *Amen.*

For those who suffer for the sake of Conscience
The Book of Common Prayer, p. 823

COMMENTARY

A lot of people may be confused

about what belongs to God and what belongs to the government. People who aren't sure may do the wrong thing, but we must forgive them just as God forgives us.

I think that people need to follow their good instincts, and they should not be afraid to fight for what they think is right or what they believe in. People should respect others and not be afraid to share their opinions.

What belongs to God and what belongs to the government is really hard to decide. We all have to go with our instincts or feelings we have because God helps us know right from wrong.

—Kristin, Grade 7

Youth prayer

Dear God,
We pray that we will be able to tell the difference between what is yours and what belongs to the government. We would like to have the strength to be able to make the right decision. Please give us the confidence to do so. *Amen.*

—Kristin, Grade 7

DAILY DEVOTIONS

reflections

Monday—Joshua 24:14-15

Tuesday—Psalm 16:5-6

Wednesday—Proverbs 1:28-31

Thursday—Sirach 6:18

Friday—Luke 10:38-42

Saturday—John 13:18-20

voices



I had to choose between God and you, sir. I chose God.

Thomas à Becket

Nobody ever did anything very foolish except from some strong principle.

Lord Melbourne

It is easier to produce ten volumes of philosophical writings than to put one principle into practice.

Leo Tolstoy

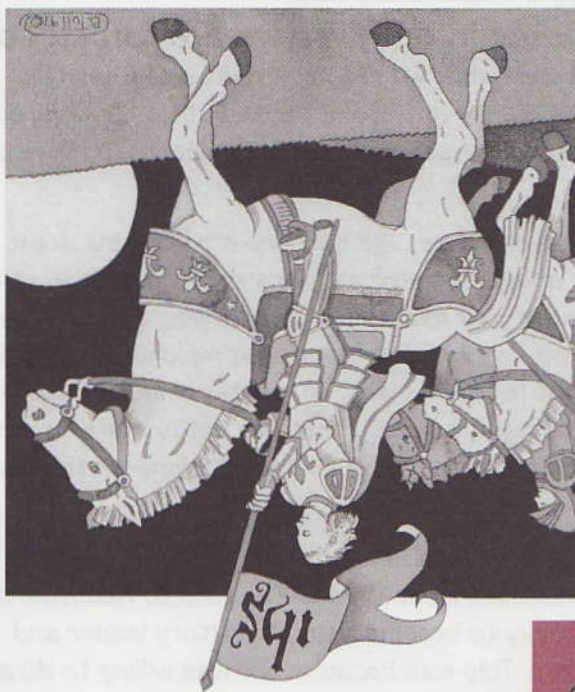
Christianity is the power of God in the soul of man.

Robert Boyd Munger



—II Timothy 4:7

have fought the good
fight, I have finished
the race,
I have kept the faith.



Bobbi Tull

SESSION 4

CALLED THROUGH FAITH

Joan of Arc: Soldier for Christ



words to remember

Indeed, we live as human beings, but we do not wage war according to human standards; for the weapons of our warfare are not merely human, but they have divine power to destroy strongholds. We destroy arguments and every proud obstacle raised up against the knowledge of God, and we take every thought captive to obey Christ.

—II Corinthians 10:3-5

prayer

Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness, and put on the armor of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which your Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge both the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

First Sunday of Advent
The Book of Common Prayer, p. 211

COMMENTARY

Many times in our lives we are forced to decide between what we believe is right and what the majority thinks is right. Sometimes, but not always, our choices could have serious consequences, both for us and for others.

More than ever before, age barriers are breaking down, and people old and young are being heard. However, it is still hard to speak your mind when you are young, even when you are right. We should follow Joan's example and try to do what is right in God's sight, no matter what our age. We should not forget, however, that our actions are important as well. We need to say and do those things we think are right.

In Joan's time, women were considered less important to society than men. However, she was able to rise from a peasant family to become a great military leader and national hero. This was because she was willing to do all that she could to attain her goals.

No matter what "group" you fit into, if you work hard and do what is right, you can succeed. If we do God's will, no barrier will get in our way.

—Matthew, Grade 8

Youth prayer

Almighty God,
May we seek always to do what is pleasing in your sight, no matter what obstacle tries to stand in our way. Grant us the power to do your will, no matter what race, gender, or ethnicity we are grouped with. We pray that we may always fight for what is right in your name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

—Matthew, Grade 8

DAILY DEVOTIONS

reflections

Monday—Exodus 23:20-21

Tuesday—I Samuel 3:8-10

Wednesday—Proverbs 24:5-6

Thursday—Jeremiah 15:20-21

Friday—Luke 24:22-24

Saturday—I Timothy 6:11-12

voices



It was tragic, but in every war innocent people get killed. . . but maybe that's why we win, because as Dr. King said, unearned suffering has to be redemptive.

Fred Shuttlesworth

In disarming Peter, Christ disarmed every soldier.

Tertullian

A vision without a task is a dream;
A task without a vision is drudgery;
A vision and a task is the hope of the world.

Anonymous

You cannot love a thing without wanting to die for it.

G. K. Chesterton



According to the grace of God given to me, like a skilled master builder I laid a foundation, and someone else is building on it. Each builder must choose with care how to build on it.
—1 Corinthians 3:10

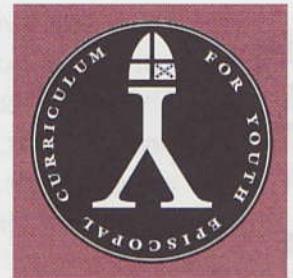


Bobbi Tull

Thomas Cranmer: Building on a Foundation

CALLED THROUGH FAITH

SESSION 5



words to remember

... and you shall come here, and I will light in your heart the lamp of understanding, which shall not be put out until what you are about to write is finished.

—II Esdras 14:25

prayer Keep us, O Lord, constant in faith and zealous in witness, that, like your servants, Hugh Latimer, Nicholas Ridley, and Thomas Cranmer, we may live in your fear, die in your favor, and rest in your peace; for the sake of Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen*

Collect for Hugh Latimer, Nicholas Ridley, and Thomas Cranmer

Lesser Feasts and Fasts, October 16

COMMENTARY

I think we all have something we can learn from Thomas Cranmer: fighting for what we feel is right, fighting for what we know is right, and doing it without violence.

At the school I attend, there are people I avoid completely, people who are picked on, and people who are “cool.” I admit that I do pick on people sometimes, but feel bad about it later because I know in my heart that it was not right. I find it hard to apologize to people I have hurt if I think they deserved to be hurt.

I also see conflicts at my school that could be violent, but are resolved peacefully because people know that violence is wrong. I try to help resolve conflicts, but I cannot help people as much as Thomas Cranmer did. I may not be able to write a prayer book, but I can make a difference in small ways like peacefully resolving conflicts and doing what I feel in my heart is right.

—Peter, Grade 7

Youth prayer

Dear God, we ask you to give us strength to do your will. We ask you to make us servants of your peace, and to give us courage to do what is right in our hearts and in your sight. Also, we ask you to help us to be kind and forgiving to others who have strayed from your path. *Amen.*

—Peter, Grade 7

DAILY DEVOTIONS

reflections

Monday—Deuteronomy 10:20-21

Tuesday—Proverbs 20:6-7

Wednesday—Daniel 11:32-35

Thursday—Sirach 49:1-3

Friday—John 4:23-24

Saturday—

Revelation 7:15-17

voices



The worship of God is not a rule of safety—it is an adventure of the spirit, a flight after the unattainable.

Alfred North Whitehead

Almost every reform consists in the clearing away of an old rather than in the making of a new law.

H. R. Buckle

It is only when [people] begin to worship that they begin to grow.

Calvin Coolidge

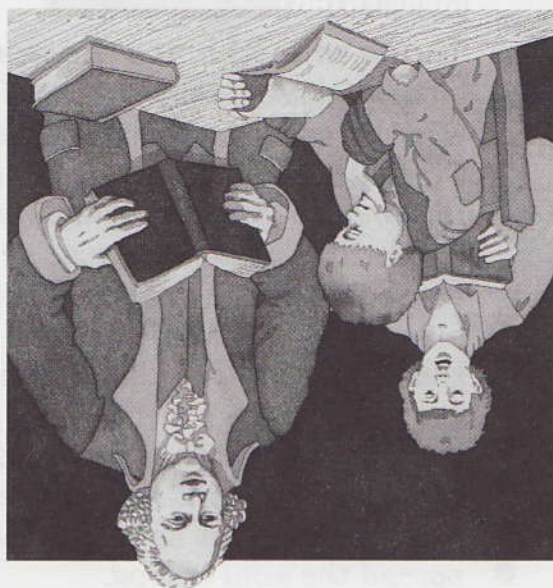
It is not the suffering but the cause which makes a martyr.

English Proverb



We will not hide them from
their children; we will tell to
the coming generation the
glorious deeds of the Lord,
and his might, and the
wonders that he has done.
—Psalm 78:4

M



SESSION 6

CALLED THROUGH FAITH

Robert Raikes: Teaching the Gospel



words to remember

You have dealt well with your servant,
O Lord, according to your word.
Teach me good judgment and knowledge,
for I believe in your commandments.

—Psalm 119:65-66

prayer Almighty God,
the fountain of all
wisdom: Enlighten by your Holy Spirit
those who teach and those who learn,
that, rejoicing in the knowledge of
your truth, they may worship you and
serve you from generation to genera-
tion; through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you and the
Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and
ever. *Amen.*

For Education
The Book of Common Prayer, p. 261

COMMENTARY

Those who educate are some of the most influential people in the world. They are the ones who impress upon young people what is right and wrong from a very early age. For many living in England in 1780, school was not an option. Robert Raikes is admirable because he made education accessible to the poor and improved the quality of many children's lives. He added inspiration and knowledge to their otherwise monotonous days.

It takes courage to start a project when you don't know how the public will respond. Raikes, however, stood up for what he believed was right and to spread the word of God.

As a teenager, it can feel awkward to stand up for what you think is right and to try to influence others. Everyone, however, can do something to spread God's word, from donating to the poor to doing what your heart tells you is right. If we remember God's command to love one another, we can make the world a better place.

—Tim, Grade 8

Youth prayer

Dear God,
We pray that we may be a positive influence to society by spreading your will throughout the world. We pray to have the courage to do what is right and educate others of this. Let us persist in performing your will despite public opposition.

—Tim, Grade 8

DAILY DEVOTIONS

reflections

Monday—I Samuel 2:2-3

Tuesday—II Chronicles 1:7-12

Wednesday—Proverbs 1:7-9

Thursday—Daniel 1:17-19

Friday—I Corinthians 1:4-7

Saturday—Philippians 1:9-11

voices



One of the most effective ways to keep a people enslaved. . . is to create in that people a disrespect and fear of the written and spoken word.

Haki Madhubuti

An empty head has room for much knowledge.

Karl Kraus

The usual education of young people is to inspire them with a second self-love.

La Rouchefoucauld

When good [people] die their goodness does not perish,
But lives though they are gone.

Euripides



The Spirit of the Lord is
anointed me to bring good
news to the poor.
—Luke 4:18a



SESSION 7
CALLED THROUGH FAITH

Amy Carmichael: Saving the Poor



words to remember

Since there will never cease to be some in need on the earth, I therefore command you, "Open your hand to the poor and needy neighbor in your land."

—Deuteronomy 15:11

prayer Almighty and most merciful God, we remember before you all poor and neglected persons whom it would be easy for us to forget: the homeless and the destitute, the old and the sick, and all who have none to care for them. Help us to heal those who are broken in body or spirit, and to turn their sorrow into joy. Grant this Father, for the love of your Son, who for our sake became poor, Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

For the Poor and the Neglected
The Book of Common Prayer, p. 826

COMMENTARY

The interesting characteristic about Amy Carmichael is that she aided the poor without blaming the rich. Most people don't do that. She must have known that if you don't blame someone for a problem, they are more willing to help fix it.

Even as a young girl, Amy Carmichael was the instigator or leader. She was what Christians call a shepherd, always leading, letting no one go hungry or stray too far. At age 17 she became a very dedicated helper to the poor. She envisioned herself in God's arms, but since she couldn't physically feel that, she did the next best thing and took other people into her arms. She was a true Christian because she did what she said she believed.

—Bill, Grade 9 and Brittany, Grade 8

Youth prayer

Dear God, please let us help people, especially people living in poverty. And as you have taught us, let us put other people before ourselves.

Amen.

—Sarah, Grade 7

DAILY DEVOTIONS

reflections

Monday—Deuteronomy 15:7-8

Tuesday—Psalm 41:1-3

Wednesday—Proverbs 14:20-21

Thursday—

I Corinthians 13:4-7

Friday—Luke 6:20-21

Saturday—James 2:2-7

voices



The light that seemed to shine in and through and around [Amy Carmichael] was love.

Elisabeth Elliot

My first memory as a tiny child is this: after the nursery light had been turned low and I was quite alone, I used to smooth a little place on the sheet and say aloud, but softly, to our Father, "Please come and sit with me." And that baby custom left something which recurs and is with me still: Our God is a God at hand, and to him who is everywhere, men come not by traveling but by loving.

Amy Carmichael

There is a place in God's sun for the youth "farthest down" who has a vision, the determination, and the courage to reach it.

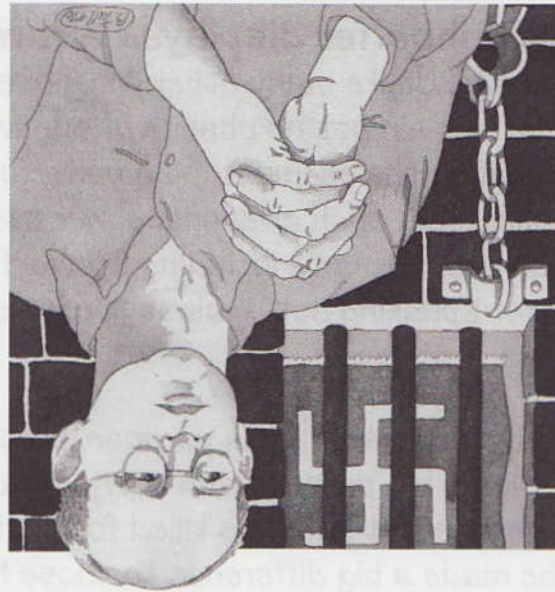
Mary McLeod Bethune

Poverty is a blessing hated by all [people].

Italian Proverb



The face of the Lord
is against evildoers,
to cut off the
remembrance of
them from the earth.
—Psalms 34:16



Dietrich Bonhoeffer: Facing Evil



SESSION 8
CALLED THROUGH FAITH

words to remember

[Jesus said,] “Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.”

—Matthew 5:11-12

prayer

Grant, O God, that your holy and life-giving Spirit may so move every human heart, that barriers which divide us may crumble, suspicions disappear, and hatreds cease; that our divisions being healed, we may live in justice and peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

For Social Justice
The Book of Common Prayer, p. 823

COMMENTARY

Dietrich Bonhoeffer displayed a rare type of courage. Unlike many other "religious warriors," he had almost no chance of surviving his fight because the enemy was so powerful. Because Hitler had such awesome power over the German people, many, including Bonhoeffer, were killed for speaking out against the government.

Everyone is put on earth for a purpose. Dietrich Bonhoeffer knew his purpose and carried it out. Even though he eventually was killed for that purpose, he made a big difference to those he touched.

Standing up for what he believed in took bravery. Not many of us would have the courage to stand up and say "this is wrong" to an entire country.

—Bill and Rich, Grade 9
Sarah, Grade 7

Youth prayer

Dear God, we pray that in our lives we might find our purpose and carry it out, even in the face of evil. We pray we can do this even if we have to die, as Dietrich Bonhoeffer did. *Amen.*

Sarah, Grade 7

DAILY DEVOTIONS

reflections

Monday—1 Kings 3:7-9

Tuesday—Psalm 97:10-12

Wednesday—Proverbs 12:17-20

Thursday—Isaiah 5:20-24

Friday—Romans 12:17-21

Saturday—James 4:7-8

voices



Christ kept himself from suffering till his hour had come, but when it did come he met it as a free man, seized it, and mastered it. . . We are not Christ, but if we want to be Christians, we must have some share in Christ's large heartedness by acting with responsibility and in freedom when the hour of danger comes. . .

Jesus Christ lived in the midst of his enemies. At the end all of his disciples deserted him. On the cross he was utterly alone, surrounded by evil-doers and mockers. . . So the Christian, too, belongs not in the seclusion of a cloistered life but in the thick of foes.

Dietrich Bonhoeffer

Fear of something is the root of hate for others, and hate within will eventually destroy the hater.

George Washington Carver

All that is necessary for the triumph of evil is that good [people] do nothing.

Edmund Burke





For to me, living is Christ and
dying is gain.
—*Philippians 1:21*

SESSION 9

CALLED THROUGH FAITH

Oscar Romero: Taking a Stand



words to remember

For the righteous will never be moved;
they will be remembered forever.
They are not afraid of evil tidings;
their hearts are firm, secure in the Lord.
Their hearts are steady, they will not be afraid;
in the end they will look in triumph on their foes.

—*Psalms 112:6-8*

prayer Look with pity,
O heavenly Father,
upon the people in this land who live
with injustice, terror, disease, and death
as their constant companions. Have
mercy upon us. Help us to eliminate our
cruelty to these our neighbors.
Strengthen those who spend their lives
establishing equal protection of the law
and equal opportunities for all. And
grant that every one of us may enjoy a
fair portion of the riches of this land;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

For the Oppressed
The Book of Common Prayer, p. 826

COMMENTARY

I think it is really bad that people are killed for political reasons. I find it hard to believe that Oscar Romero was shot for telling the truth. I guess the truth scares some people, even though truth is supposed to set you free.

The truth in El Salvador was that there was a lot of violence. Because he knew it was bad, Romero began to preach against the violence. He also pointed out the injustices against the poor. Oscar Romero was a really decent person that I respect very much.

—Lauren, Grade 7

Youth prayer

Dear God, please make the violence stop. I know it is a hard thing to do, but help us try to stop the violence. I know that you want all of your people to be safe. *Amen.*

Lauren, Grade 7

DAILY DEVOTIONS

reflections

Monday—Exodus 14:13-14

Tuesday—Isaiah 7:9

Wednesday—Micah 5:2-5a

Thursday—

I Corinthians 16:13-14

Friday—Ephesians 6:13-17

Saturday—

II Thessalonians 2:15-17

voices



Together with thousands of Salvadorans, I have seen Jesus. This time his name was Oscar Arnulfo Romero. His broken body is broken with the body of Jesus, his shed blood is shed with the blood of Jesus. And as with Jesus, so it is with Monsignor, he died for us that we might live in freedom and in love and justice for one another. His resurrection is not a future event. It is a present reality.

*Jorge Lara-Braud
At Romero's funeral*

Martyrs are needed to create incidents. Incidents are needed to create revolutions. Revolutions are needed to create progress.

Chester Himes

To know how to say what other people only think, is what makes [people] poets and sages; and to dare to say what others only dare to think, makes [people] martyrs or reformers.

Elizabeth Rundle Charles

