

1 In 1980 Archbishop Romero was shot dead as he was celebrating Mass in his cathedral in the capital city of the Central American country of El Salvador. He was killed because he complained about the treatment of the poor by the government and army. We can call to mind that the word “*martyr*” is a Greek word meaning “*witness*”.

2 On this day in 1979, just 9 months before he was killed, Archbishop Oscar Romero talked about the witness of Christians, and he even used the phrase “*if they kill your bishop*”:

3 *“If some day they take away from us
our Catholic radio station,
if they close down our newspaper,
if they don’t allow us to speak,
if they kill all the priests
and the bishop, too,
and you are left
- a people without priests -
then each one of you
must be God’s microphone,
a messenger, a prophet.
The Church will always exist
even if there is only one baptised person.
That one baptised person
would be responsible before the world
for holding up high the banner
of the Lord’s truth and justice.”*

4 *Let us pray:*

**Lord our God,
we pray for the strength
to hold to our convictions.
We pray, too,
for the courage and determination
to stand
with those who suffer from injustice.
In all that we do, Lord,
inspire us to act justly,
love tenderly,
and walk humbly with you, our God.
Amen.**

This is an excerpt from the page of this date in
'Praying Each Day of the Year',
a 3-volume book
by Nicholas Hutchinson, FSC.

For details:

<http://www.matthew-james.co.uk/>

Could make use of a search engine
to research this topic further.

This material is part of
the prayer and education website
of the De La Salle Brothers
in Great Britain:
www.prayingeachday.org