

Father Martin's Pen

April 21, 2019

An Easter Church.

A Jesuit philosopher once said there are four imperatives in life. Be attentive, be intelligent, be rational and be responsible. Of the four, St. Ignatius focused on the first, be attentive.

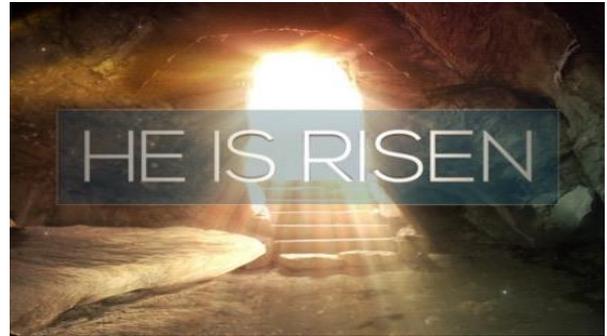
I have always admired the attention that Katie Couric used to pay to the people she interviewed on her morning show. In the show **Today** she held first place for years. Maybe the experience of her husband dying from cancer helped to improve her attention span.

As Catholics we pay attention to God in prayer, but we also draw strength from great Catholic leaders. The recently canonized Archbishop Oscar Romero October 14th 2018 stands out. It was he, who used the phrase "**Easter Church.**"

Quoting from him "The Church of Christ has to be an **Easter Church**. That is, a church that is born of the Easter event and lives to be a sign and an instrument of that Easter in the midst of the world."

During the 8 am Mass at the San Salvador cathedral, you could walk the streets of the towns and villages and find all the radios tuned in to the Archbishop's words. The ordinary people were hungry for his words.

Cardinal Martini of Milan said of Romero, "As bishop he never stopped speaking, making his voice heard among the people, the authorities and the various political groups. His efforts to make himself heard by all was interrupted by death, which hit him at the most intense moment in the mission of a bishop: the celebration of the Eucharist."



Martini continues: "He was not made cardinal by title, but by the crimson of the blood he shed."

Romero himself had said "Martyrdom is a grace of God, that I do not think I deserve. But God accepts the sacrifice of my life, let my blood be a seed of liberation."

Following the example of Romero, let us commit to being a Easter church with each of our lives being a sign of the Resurrection.

In his document titled Tertio Millennio Adveniente (the arrival of the 3rd Millennium) Pope John Paul II said "the church once again has become a church of martyrs." (No 37)

He goes on "This witness must not be forgotten. The martyrs stir in us a profound trust because they give voice to what we already feel, and they declare what we would like to have the strength to express." (No 32)

So yes as Romero said we are an "**Easter Church**" called to be "prophets of a future not our own."

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