

WORLD & NATION

Salvadorans mark martyrs' deaths

By Ellie Hidalgo
Catholic News Service

LOS ANGELES — Most Salvadorans agree that the significant turning point in the late Salvadoran Archbishop Oscar Romero's ministry took place when his close friend, Jesuit Father Rutilio Grande, was assassinated for speaking out against the harsh economic conditions of El Salvador's poor.

From that point forward, Archbishop Romero also began to identify more closely with the plight of the poor and speak out publicly against their oppression.

March 12 marked the 25th anniversary of the martyrdom of Father Grande. The 22nd anniversary of Archbishop Romero's martyrdom occurred 12 days later, on March 24.

Father Grande was gunned down, along with an altar boy and an elderly helper, in a rural village. The priest was one of many clerics who had received death threats at that time for their work among the poor.

Ana Grande, 22, a parishioner at Blessed Sacrament Church in Hollywood and a graduate of Mount St. Mary's College, recently traveled to El Salvador to mark her great-uncle's legacy.

She recalled how, galvanized by the Second Vatican Council and the historic 1968 Latin American bishops' meeting at Medellin, Colombia, her great-uncle started analyzing the conditions of poverty for the majority of Salvadorans from the point of view of the Gospels.

Through the Bible, Father Grande saw



Edgar Romero/CNS

Residents of El Paisnal, El Salvador, rest below a mural depicting Jesuit Father Rutilio Grande following a Mass marking the 25th anniversary of the priest's death March 12. Father Grande was assassinated for speaking out against the harsh economic conditions of El Salvador's poor.

the chance to empower El Salvador's most humble people. The country's military thought differently, and while traveling between the small towns of Aguilares and Paisnal where he served as pastor of both parishes, Father Grande was assassinated along with two others accompanying him. He was 49 years old.

His death marked the beginning of es-

calated military oppression in El Salvador against those who challenged government policies benefiting the few wealthy families controlling the country's assets. The repression would eventually claim Archbishop Romero's life and the lives of some 70,000 Salvadorans during 12 years of civil war that ended with the signing of peace accords in 1992.

Vatican releases revised Roman Missal

By Cindy Wooden
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY — Bishops' conferences around the world are expected immediately to begin work on revising texts of prayers currently used at Mass, translating the new prayers issued by the Vatican and changing ritual practices to comply with new Vatican guidelines.

The new and the revised prayers and the new guidelines — contained in the third typical edition of the Roman Missal and the General Instruction of the Roman Missal — were released March 22 by the Vatican printing press.

Cardinal Jorge Medina Estevez, prefect of the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Sacraments, said that, with the public availability of the texts, the new rules are church law.

The official date of promulgation by

Pope John Paul II was April 20, 2000, and the date the changes were to go into effect was the feast of the Body and Blood of Christ in June 2000.

However, technical problems with the printing of the 1,318-page book and especially with the notation and printing of dozens of pages of Gregorian chant led to an almost two-year delay for its release.

The Latin text contains all of the prayers used for every Mass throughout the year as well as rubrics, or instructions, on how the liturgy is to be celebrated.

Each bishops' conference around the world is to begin work on translating the texts into their local languages, a work that must receive Vatican confirmation before being used in parishes.

The new edition of the missal, replacing one issued in 1975, includes an updated calendar of feast days and new texts for remembering those saints Pope John

Paul has added to the calendar.

Cardinal Medina said 11 new optional celebrations are available with the March 22 publication of the missal. They include: the Jan. 3 feast of the Most Holy Name of Jesus; the return to the calendar of the May 22 feast of St. Rita of Cascia; and the Aug. 9 feast of St. Edith Stein, a feast that is mandatory in Europe.

The missal also includes a new prayer for the feast day of a martyr, new prayers for Marian feast days and texts for a new Mass, specifically requested by Pope John Paul, for celebrating and requesting God's mercy.

Two additional texts for Masses for special needs have been restored from the 1962, pre-Vatican II, missal: one praying for a contrite heart, "asking God to help us despise sin and yearn for holiness," and one praying for continence or "purity, asking God for the virtue of chastity."

Alleged priest-killers may die

KAMPALA, Uganda (CNS) — Two Ugandan soldiers charged with murdering an Irish missionary will be executed immediately if convicted by a military court, a military spokesman said.

A corporal and a private were arrested for allegedly shooting Mill Hill Father Declan O'Toole March 20 along the road from Moroto to Kotido. Two other people, local parish workers, also were killed in the roadside ambush.

Ugandan Army Col. Sula Semakula said that the soldiers would be tried by a field court martial and, if convicted, would be executed.

"We shall have them executed in Kotido town so that the community gets to know that we are serious with soldiers who violate the law," Semakula said.

The ambush took place near Kalosaric, a village no more than two-and-a-half miles from a Ugandan military encampment.

Father O'Toole was born in Headford, Ireland, and was ordained a priest in 1997. He had been working in Uganda for about four years at the time of his assassination.

For the past 18 months, Father O'Toole was involved in peace and reconciliation talks with the Karimojong's warring tribes.

His superiors acknowledge that the priest had protested the army's violence and recently was beaten by soldiers.

Archbishop Michael Neary of Tuam, Ireland, who ordained Father O'Toole to the priesthood, said he was shocked and saddened by the news of the murders.

Archbishop Neary said "It is hard to believe that the life and ministry of this dedicated and thoroughly likable young priest could have been ended in such a brutal and untimely manner."

Archbishop Sean Brady of Armagh, Northern Ireland, described the death of the missionary as "tragic and untimely."

"Father O'Toole's death is a reminder of the extraordinary commitment, courageous faith and heroic generosity of our Irish missionaries throughout the world, who minister, often in very difficult circumstances, far from their families and homes," the archbishop said.

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