

Saint Oscar Romero

VOICE OF THE VOICELESS

THE FOUR PASTORAL LETTERS
AND OTHER STATEMENTS

Anniversary Edition

*With Reflections by Ignacio Martín-Baró
and Jon Sobrino*

New Introduction by Michael E. Lee

Translated from the Spanish by Michael J. Walsh

ORBIS  BOOKS
Maryknoll, New York 10545

Founded in 1970, Orbis Books endeavors to publish works that enlighten the mind, nourish the spirit, and challenge the conscience. The publishing arm of the Maryknoll Fathers and Brothers, Orbis seeks to explore the global dimensions of the Christian faith and mission, to invite dialogue with diverse cultures and religious traditions, and to serve the cause of reconciliation and peace. The books published reflect the views of their authors and do not represent the official position of the Maryknoll Society. To learn more about Maryknoll and Orbis Books, please visit our website at www.orbisbooks.com.

Copyright © 1985, 2020 by Orbis Books

Published by Orbis Books, Box 302, Maryknoll, NY 10545-0302.

Manufactured in the United States of America.

No part of this publication may be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic or mechanical, including photocopying, recording, or any information storage or retrieval system, without prior permission in writing from the publisher.

Queries regarding rights and permissions should be addressed to Orbis Books, P.O. Box 302, Maryknoll, NY 10545-0302.

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

Names: Romero, Óscar A. (Óscar Arnulfo), Saint, 1917-1980, author. | Walsh, Michael J., 1937- translator. | Martín-Baró, Ignacio, editor. | Catholic Church. Archdiocese of San Salvador (El Salvador). Archbishop (1977-1980 : Romero)

Title: Voice of the voiceless : the four pastoral letters and other statements / introductory essays by Ignacio Martin-Baro, and Jon Sobrino; with a new introduction by Michael E. Lee ; translated from the Spanish by Michael J. Walsh.

Description: Anniversary edition. | Maryknoll, NY : Orbis Books, 2020. | Translation of: *La voz de los sin voz*. | Includes bibliographical references and index. | Summary: "Official pastoral letters and other speeches by Oscar Romero, the martyred archbishop of San Salvador"— Provided by publisher.

Identifiers: LCCN 2019031357 (print) | LCCN 2019031358 (ebook) | ISBN 9781626983625 (paperback) | ISBN 9781608338269 (ebook)

Subjects: LCSH: Catholic Church—El Salvador. | Catholic Church—Pastoral letters and charges. | Catholic Church—Sermons. | Sermons, Spanish. | Romero, Óscar A. (Óscar Arnulfo), Saint, 1917-1980.

Classification: LCC BX1446.2 .R6613 2020 (print) | LCC BX1446.2 (ebook) | DDC 252/.02—dc23

LC record available at <https://lcn.loc.gov/2019031357>

LC ebook record available at <https://lcn.loc.gov/2019031358>

Contents

<i>Introduction to the Anniversary Edition</i> <i>Michael E. Lee</i>	<i>ix</i>
Oscar Romero: Voice of the Downtrodden <i>Ignacio Martín-Baró</i>	1
A Theologian's View of Oscar Romero <i>Jon Sobrino</i>	25
First Pastoral Letter, The Easter Church	57
Second Pastoral Letter, The Church, the Body of Christ in History	69
Third Pastoral Letter, The Church and Popular Political Organizations	93
Fourth Pastoral Letter, The Church's Mission amid the National Crisis	125
Georgetown Address	177
Pastoral Message to the National Council of Churches	183
Louvain Address, The Political Dimension of the Faith from the Perspective of the Option for the Poor	193
Letter to President Carter	205
Last Homily of Archbishop Romero	209
<i>Index</i>	213