

Prophets of a Future Not Our Own

Adapted from a prayer attributed to St. Oscar Romero for Steff's funeral mass

At times like these, It helps to step back and take a long view. Here on earth, the kingdom is not only beyond our efforts, it is even beyond our vision. We accomplish in our lifetime only a tiny fraction of the magnificent enterprise that is God's work. Nothing we do is complete, which is a way of saying that the Kingdom always lies beyond us.

No statement says all that could be said.
No prayer fully expresses our faith.
No confession brings perfection.
No pastoral visit brings wholeness.
No program accomplishes the Church's mission.
No set of goals and objectives includes everything.
This is what Steff did.

He planted the seeds that we will watch grow.
He watered seeds already planted, knowing that they held future promise.
He laid foundations that will need further development, from us.
He provided the yeast that produced far beyond his earthly capabilities.
He could not do everything, and there is a sense of liberation in realizing that.

This now enables us to do something, in turn.
It may be incomplete, but it is a beginning, a step along the way, an opportunity for the Lord's grace to enter and do the rest.
We may never see the end results of our labors on this earth, but that is the difference between the master builder and the worker.
We are workers, not master builders; ministers, not messiahs.

We, like Steff, are prophets of a future not our own.