

Oscar Romero, a CAFOD partner

A CAFOD partner is an organisation in a developing country that works with the local community, supported by donations from CAFOD supporters in England and Wales.

Just as Romero did, CAFOD partners know the needs of their communities because they live and work alongside them.

CAFOD has partners in many countries around the world. Together we bring hope and compassion to poor communities, standing side by side with them to end poverty and injustice.

CAFOD's work in El Salvador stretches back to the early 1970s; the Legal Aid Office of Romero was one of CAFOD's principal partners there.



The Jesuit Development Service CAFOD partner

CAFOD is supporting the JDS, who work with some of the poorest communities in El Salvador, to the west of the country.

People here grow food to survive, but the steep, rocky landscape makes farming difficult. The JDS helps train farmers, so people can share skills, develop new ways to earn money and create a better life for their families.



Fidel: "The JDS has helped us to develop our farm and shown us how to breed pigs. Looking ahead, I would like my children to learn how to work the land. I hope that they will have a better future and a better quality of food."

At the time, the country was ruled by a military-dominated government that used violence to crush demands for social reform. Romero's Legal Aid Office helped the families of people who were arrested, tortured and killed by the army and police.

Romero stood alongside his people facing terrible oppression and violence, as they spoke out against injustice. He is remembered for his courage, his faith and, above all, his great love for the poor. Romero still inspires people today, and CAFOD continues to support partners in El Salvador, working to overcome poverty and injustice.

The JDS also works to reduce the risk of disasters like floods and mud slides, by providing emergency equipment, helping communities to develop evacuation plans and to plant crops to stop soil erosion.

Rosita: "The JDS has helped us a lot. Now we are better organised and we meet more frequently. We know that we are not on our own and we know what to do in a situation of emergency."



CAFOD partners in El Salvador today

Our partners focus on four key areas of development:

- 1 Helping farmers to improve their crops and find ways to earn money.
- 2 Reducing the risk of disasters.
- 3 Treatment and raising awareness of HIV and AIDS.
- 4 Creating peace.