

# Daily Meditation 02/02/2023

## Speaking of Love, A Word from Oscar Romero

Good morning.

In today's meditation we are following up on the theme of non-dualism and love in the wonderful poem in yesterday morning's meditation from Rafael Jesús González. A beautiful summary of the love of the universe for us, the love of Earth, Mother Earth for us, which raises the question of whether we're responding with love, love for love.

And Oscar Romero, of course, bears witness to justice, which is an important part of love, by his teaching, by his life, and by his martyrdom. I'd like to speak briefly to a close friend of ours, Bishop Ramiro, and that is Bishop Pedro Casaldáliga, whose diocese was Amazonia, was the Amazon.

It was my privilege to spend about a week with him in his home, which he shared with three or four other people, lay people and a priest as I recall. Their Chapel was a tree in the backyard; they'd sit around the tree, and share psalms together and so forth. And he put me up in his bed. And I noticed there was a charcoal sketch of him over the bed.

I said, "What's the story behind that?"

He said, "One of my priests was tortured to death in jail in prison."

This was during the military occupation of Brazil. And he said, "He sketched this in prison before he died."

And he had many other stories to tell like that. He wasn't dramatic about it. He didn't volunteer the story. He just answered a question that I asked.

He had a whole wall of artifacts from priests and sisters and lay people working in base communities who had been murdered by the government and the military of that time.

Among other things, Bishop Pedro Casaldáliga also was silenced by the Vatican. And I visited him the year I was silenced by the Vatican. And one reason they silenced him was that he called his friend Oscar Romero, who had been murdered, martyred, a saint. And the Vatican under popes John Paul II and Benedict XVI did not want to grant Oscar Romero that title, even on an informal basis. They in fact, fought Oscar Romero for a lot of his support of the poor and so forth. It was Pope Francis who canonized Oscar Romero.

Bishop Casaldáliga was, among other things, a poet. Here's one thing that he wrote upon.

*Every poet is a prophet [he says]. Every poet listens to the heart of the people and translates it into a cry, an outcry. All poets give it to their people: the word, the vision, the climate, that makes the people vibrate, that gives it life. And the Bible itself has shown us that all prophets are poets.*

...all prophets are poets.

*Moreover, I believe that, depending on the sensitivity that one has, Grace moves within one and acts within one. It is evident that in what is mathematical, Grace will express itself mathematically in experiences and projects and performances more certain, more exact, more precise. And in the person who is a poet, Grace expresses itself in a poetic way. Pay homage to the poet.*

By Bishop Pedro Casaldáliga of Brazil, of the Amazon, a beautiful, beautiful man.

Thank you. We'll see you tomorrow.