

MONSEÑOR (Monseñor, the Last Journey of Óscar Romero)

On March 24, 1980, Monseñor Óscar Romero, archbishop of San Salvador, was killed by a professional hit man as he stood at the altar celebrating a memorial Mass for a friend. ***Monseñor, the Last Journey of Óscar Romero*** focuses on the last three years of his life (1977-1980). Based on extracts from his homilies and the recordings of his personal diary, in which each night he recorded the events of the day and his own thoughts and reflections, the film narrates, in Romero's own voice, three parts of a tragic history:

The story of El Salvador as the country advanced inexorably into civil war.

The story of the protagonists of that approaching war: peasants, guerrillas, dissident soldiers of the Salvadoran Army, priests, nuns, catechists and community activists, and politicians and intellectuals who joined the young officers of the Revolutionary Military Movement to create the first Civilian and Military Junta; all shared with Romero the terrible history of their country.

Romero's own story during the three brief years of his Archbishopric—February 1977 to March 1980.

This is the first feature documentary about Monseñor Romero that goes beyond the classic genre of a filmed biography to explore and probe the contemporary significance and legacy of his life and tragic death. It is also the first film about Romero that places the Latin American campesinos at the center of the story: it was they who inspired him to find his mission; it was because of the relationship he developed with them that he was killed.

Towards the end of his life, when his conviction and courage were leading him irrevocably to a "death foretold," Romero had transcended his own small country. In the telling of this story, the film connects Romero's life and death to the larger story of the cycles of poverty, rural abandon, and despair that are today's reality across much of Latin America and beyond.