

Oscar Romero was the fourth Archbishop of San Salvador. He was a very timid man who never wanted to rock the boat. But after he was chosen Archbishop he began to hear the cries of the poor. They were living in severe poverty. He was transformed by learning of the horrible injustices they were enduring, by the government sponsored assassinations and torture. He began to speak out against the unfair, unjust practices of the government. He was assassinated March 24, 1980. He once said it is only the poor and hungry, those who know they need someone to come on their behalf, who can celebrate Christmas.

Our American way of life really doesn't help us celebrate Christmas. We've lost our focus. Mind you not all of us but too many of us. The last thing we want is to be poor. I don't blame you. But there is a poverty that we need – poverty of the heart, poverty of the spirit. "Blessed are they who know their need for God. Blessed are the poor in spirit.

God is almighty, all powerful, all knowing. But did you ever hear of the poverty of God? That's right; the poverty of God. God saw the mess we were in; the wars, the unfaithfulness, the greed, etc., etc. God reached into His heart and decided He would give His all for us.

God sent us His Son in the most simple, most generous, loving way. He sent His Son in the most humble way possible. His Son become a tiny child in the womb of His mother. God was born as a simple, shivering child. He was laid in a feeding trough, wrapped in swaddling clothes, warmed by cattle's breath, He is God enclosed, locked into the body of a baby.

St. Paul writes so beautifully, so strongly about the humility of the Son of God.... Though he was in the form of God, He did not regard equality with God something to be grasped. Rather He emptied Himself, taking the form of a slave, coming in human likeness; and found human in appearance, He humbled Himself becoming obedient to death, even death on a cross." "It is only the poor and hungry, those who know they need someone to come on their behalf who can celebrate Christmas."

Heavenly Father we really want to celebrate Christmas this year, this day, this night. Please make us pure and humble of heart. It is only those who know they need Jesus who can celebrate Christmas.

We praise you Father for your humble hear, we praise you Jesus for humbly sharing our flesh, for loving us in all your humanity. We praise you for coming in the simple appearance of Bread – Your own Body and Blood our food.