

## ENVISIONING OUR FUTURE – 2017

### Opening Reflection April 17, 2006

#### “We are Prophets of a Future Not Our Own”

**Leader:**

To begin to describe a future is an audacious undertaking. To dare to choose a future is even more risky. Without a vision for the future, however, the present has little meaning. All of life is a calling forward. To ignore this is to stagnate and eventually to perish.

To look forward ten years seems impossible. Yet, in so doing, we listen for a call that will affect not only us, but next generations. Our future is inextricably linked with that of those we serve. Our future involves those who serve with us and who will serve in the decades to come.

We choose a future for the sake of others, that others might say: “you (all who serve now, all who come after us) were there.”

Let us begin with a reading from one who gave his life for the future of others.

#### **A Reflection of Archbishop Oscar Romero**

It helps, now and then, to step back and take the long view.

The kingdom is not only beyond our efforts, it is 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 another way of saying that the Kingdom always lies beyond us .....

That is what we are about. We plant the seeds that will one day grow.

We water seeds already planted, knowing that they hold future promise....

We cannot do everything, and there is a sense of liberation in realizing that.

This enables us to do something and do it very well.

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, but that is the difference between the master builder and the worker.

We are workers not master builders, ministers, not messiahs.

We are prophets of a future not our own.

## **Prophets of a Future Not Our Own: A Visual Reflection**

### **Let Us Pray:**

Compassionate and powerful God, you invite us into a future you have prepared for us. Open our ears that we might hear your call as it comes to us in the realities of our work. Open our eyes that we might see the vision that will encourage, enliven and strengthen us. Open our hearts that we may always remember we work toward a future that is for others. Amen