

**Ministers to the Future  
Attributed to  
Archbishop Oscar Romero (1917-1980)  
Archbishop of San Salvador,  
El Salvador**

**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 the Lord's work....**

**Nothing we do is complete, which is another way of saying  
that the Kingdom always lies beyond us.**

**No sermon says all that should be said.**

**No prayer fully expresses our faith.**

**No confession brings perfection.**

**No pastoral visit brings wholeness.**

**No program accomplishes the Church's mission.**

**No set of goals and objectives includes everything.**

**That is what we are about.**

**We plant seeds that one day will grow**

**We water seeds already planted  
knowing they hold future promise.**

**We lay foundations that will need further development.**

**We provide yeast that affects far beyond our capabilities.**

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

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

**It may be complete, 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.**

**All: We are workers, but not master builders...**

**ministers, not messiahs.**

**We are prophets of a future that is not our own. Amen.**