



# An Artful Showcase of Unofficial Saints



created by Hugh Gibbons  
[www.just1.org.uk/adelantegallery](http://www.just1.org.uk/adelantegallery)



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ADELANTE is an unusual gallery – a square, freestanding, hollow, wooden column packed with graphics and quotes on panels steadied by magnets. The crosspiece is made of balsa wood, carrying a vintage sickle and a WW2 cannon shell.



The gallery is a sort of vertical commonplace book - items and ideas gathered together to:

- ☞ Chime with the canonisation of Oscar Romero as an official saint of the Catholic Church on 14 October 2018
- ☞ Show why he's respected and valued far and wide
- ☞ Act as a springboard to appreciate a wide range of *Unofficial* Saints around the world: other inspirers, encouragers and wave-makers in a variety of settings
- ☞ Share stories of social justice and common humanity
- ☞ Be suitable to visit and be put to use by schools, churches and other communities with suitable settings
- ☞ Amuse the eye, mind and soul

ADELANTE is compact and built to travel in a family car:

- ☞ Two plywood boxes form the column; one 1200mm, one 1000mm which includes a flat roof.
- ☞ The bottom section slides into the base and is held in place by small bolts. The top fits above, held by magnets
- ☞ Four solid wooden panels carrying laminated quotes
- ☞ The lightweight crosspiece with fixed sickle and cannon shell
- ☞ A solid base 620mm square to keep everything stable - on small rubber castors so that the Gallery can be easily wheeled into place, turned around or stored
- ☞ Small information displays for the base
- ☞ A retired guiding angel

Adelante is free to borrow. If you'd like to discuss a visit, the requirement is an indoor space of at least 5 metres square that allows it to stay safely for a minimum of two weeks. If you want to use it to raise funds for a charity, that'll be fine.

Hugh invited several people to have a small but cheery part. The balsa wood was funded by Pax Christi, Holme Grange School and the Vice-Chancellor of the Royal College of Art. The Fairtrade socks came from Churches Together in England. And the carpenter's pencil from Frances O'Grady of the TUC recognises that trade unions around the world are among Romero's many admirers.

ADELANTE is the creation of Hugh Gibbons in Bracknell, UK. It's the latest in his knockabout series you can see at [www.just1.org.uk/galleries](http://www.just1.org.uk/galleries). Hugh is happy to give talks, btw.

For more information, contact [hughgibbons@just1.org.uk](mailto:hughgibbons@just1.org.uk)





## In-brief Guide to Exhibits on the Faces

### ANYONE Face

This starts with the ecumenical assertion by Romero that anyone who protests about justice is working for the Kingdom of God. The DNA graphic echoes commonalities of spirit.

- Diffident Saints is a comparison between Romero and Dorothy Day, ending with their unassuming views on sainthood.
- Former Bishop of Bath & Wells Peter Price cites them as True Saints
- Sox Vobiscum is a cheery reference to the modest lifestyle and possessions of Romero, which included just three pairs of socks. To show their appreciation and admiration, Churches Together in England were invited to provide a new pair – which are Fairtrade from Sir Steve Redgrave's 5G.
- Aspire Not to Have More but to Be More is a CAFOD Romero card

### CROSSPIECE

This is made of balsa wood embodying lightness and strength

- The 1920s sickle and cannon shell references Romero's saying about the violence of love willing weapons into sickles.
- The carpenter's pencil on the top alludes to Romero's original career path. Used throughout construction, it was sent by Frances O'Grady of the TUC exemplifying the respect for Romero of trade unions worldwide.
- The back references Daniel Berrigan on Romero, and Kurt Vonnegut on The Beatitudes.



### ADELANTE Face

Explores « Forward » in a variety of ways

- The story of an important turning point for El Salvador – when Romero shouted Adelante to the crowd in a stand-off with soldiers.
- Two fine NGOs – Adelante Africa and Vamos Adelante in Guatemala
- Journalists on the Adelante Program of the International Women's Media Foundation – at work on the US-Mexico border.
- Winners of the Adelante Debating Competition 2018 in The Philippines
- About 20 other organisations with Adelante in their name
- Hand signs carry Hugh Gibbons' personal Alphabet of Unofficial Saints
- The word Adelante in over 20 different languages



### CIVILISATION Face

is centred on examples of spirit of common humanity in practice.

- The lead is Henri Dunant's definition "...helping each other, people to people, nation to nation". The candles allude to the procession at Solferino, founding point of today's International Red Cross & Crescent.
- Jo Cox MP
- The Royal British Legion asserting its belief in reconciliation
- The people of Schweinfurt in Germany under air raid – with a reconciliatory capsule of earth from the city, the UK and USA for you to touch
- The Forgiveness Project and its stories of coming to terms

### VOICES Face

This has a focus on those who have been voices for the voiceless

- Romero's role is cited – and his listening ability.
- The hanging panel sets Romero in a long line of Catholic bishops who have spoken out or taken action on behalf of the poor of Latin America – starting with Bartolomeo de las Casas. Below this is a picture of the statues of 10 Martyrs of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century above the West Door of Westminster Cathedral.
- Below are quotes by Malala Yousafzai, Martin Luther King Jnr, and Archbishop Desmond Tutu – all of them awarded the Nobel Peace Prize – on the importance of speaking out.
- On the face is a small panel speaking up for silence – as provided each week by Sidcot Quaker School in Somerset. Visitors are welcome to touch a panel to take away some of this breathing space.
- Circling base of each face: People Who Make Waves!



### Hugh Gibbons' Alphabet of Unofficial Saints

Who'd be in yours?

**A**&E Teams; **B**omberos (Fireservices); **C**arpenters; **D**evil's Advocates; **E**veryone, at Times; **F**ood Bank Staff & Supporters; **G**ardeners (esp Market); **H**uman Rights Campaigners; **I**nterpreters & Translators; **J**olly-Uppers; **K**ittens; **L**aities; **M**edecins Sans Frontieres etc ; **N**uns & Nurses ; **O**n-Timers ; **P**icassos ; **Q**uietness-Providers ; **R**eporters Under Fire; **S**chindlers & Silas Soules; **T**eachers & Assistants; **U**kelele Players; **V**olunteers; **W**hite Helmets; **X**enas & Other Warrior Princesses; **Y**ou; **Z**ipadee-Doo-Dah Singers & Singalongers.

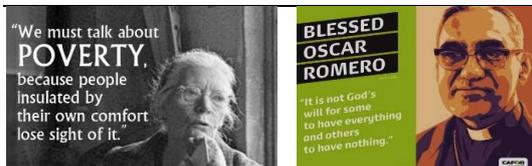


## ANYONE Face of the Gallery

**ANYONE who struggles for justice, anyone who makes just demands in an unjust atmosphere, is working for the Kingdom of God. This person may not be a Christian. The church doesn't have a monopoly on the Kingdom of God.**

Oscar Romero, 4 December 1978

### DIFFIDENT SAINTS official and unofficial



*Carlos X (Polycarpio) compares and contrasts two in Supermartyrio May 2015*

Archbishop Oscar Romero (1917-80) and Dorothy Day (1897-1980) are like photographic negatives - mirror images in some respects; and still quite diametrically opposite! Both are heroes of progressive Catholics, but the popular hagiography often glosses over their differences. Their contrasts make Romero's and Day's commitment to social justice the more astonishing, and bolster and confirm their stands because they are reached through such opposite trajectories.

Both ended up becoming icons of Catholic social justice and held similar views, but they reached these positions through widely diverging paths. It can be said that Dorothy Day found Catholicism through social justice and that Oscar Romero found social justice through Catholicism.

Day was a rebel who got religion; and, Romero, a believer who stood up to the status quo. Dorothy Day grew up as an activist. Romero, on the other hand, was always the consummate churchman.

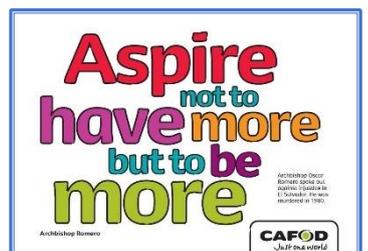
In the end, both Day and Romero end up in about the same place - orthodox (Romero was, and Day became) but unconventional (Day was, and Romero became). Similarly, both Day and Romero take up and defend the cause of the poor. The juxtaposition of Romero as an "advocate" and Day as an "activist" is true in part, but it can lead us to overlook the fact that Day was persuasive

in her outspokenness in defense of the poor and therefore was an advocate, too; and that Romero promoted particular projects to benefit the poor, which can be considered "activism" on his part. He boycotted all government functions in protest of political repression. He counselled conscientious politicians, criticized unscrupulous ones and lobbied on pending or proposed legislation. In short, Romero was not all talk.

The contrast in Archbishop Romero's and Dorothy Day's personalities can even be seen in their attitudes toward their own sainthood. Discussing threats against his life two weeks before his assassination, Archbishop Romero said that "martyrdom is a grace of God that I do not think I deserve"—adding that he would accept it, if it came, and offered it for the good of his people.

Day was more curt on the subject: "Don't call me a saint," she famously said: "I don't want to be dismissed so easily."

### SOX VOBISCUM



Romero was admired for his modesty of lifestyle. As Archbishop of San Salvador, he lived in a tiny bungalow in the grounds of the Divina Providencia Hospital, cared for by the nuns. His few personal possessions are preserved there. They include blood-stained clothing, spectacles, passport, and diabetes medication. And his three pairs of socks – one on, one in the wash, one of the drawer.

The conservator of these relics of Romero is based at Stonyhurst College in Lancashire – typically painstaking like others around the world who look after works of art and history so future generations can see, share and appreciate.

### Churches Together in England

gave this new pair of socks – Fairtrade, made by Sir Steve Redgrave's 5G Company – as an ecumenical token of their admiration and respect.



## **THE TRUE SAINTS**

Rt Rev Peter Price former Bishop of Bath & Wells  
Letter in The Guardian 26 August 2014  
replying to their editorial  
*"Pope Francis and Liberation Theology:  
Second Coming*

**The decision to put in process  
the beatification of Oscar Romero is  
considered by many to be overdue.**

**I suspect, however, that in many ways  
Romero would echo the sentiment of Dorothy  
Day, founder of the Catholic Worker:  
Don't call me a saint. I do not want to be  
dismissed so easily.**

**The true saints are those who continue to  
strive, against the odds, for the foundation of  
civil society marked by biblical  
accompaniment, human rights, historical  
memory and the martyrs.**

**If there is to be any kind of second coming  
as a result of the decision to beatify  
Oscar Romero, it is the poor church of the poor  
that will need to be rehabilitated, together  
with the methodology and spirit that once  
offered the hope of true liberation.**



Peter is seen here at a 2012 Romero celebration  
at St Martin's in the Fields in London – with Julian Filochowski,  
Chair of the UK's ecumenical Archbishop Romero Trust; and  
Werner Romero,

the then Ambassador from El Salvador.

His 2018 book *Things That Make for Peace* draws on the  
experiences and lessons of over forty years working on the  
frontline of reconciliation and peace-building - in Northern  
Ireland, Latin America, Africa and the Middle East.

Inter alia, Peter is Chair of the Trustees of  
Conciliation Resources, a peace-building NGO working in  
many conflict areas around the world.

The Burns-Price Foundation promotes good citizenship among  
young people in the UK – unusually, with project grants  
given directly to them.



## **"ADELANTE!" LET US GO FORWARD**

*The inspiration for this gallery came from an account of courage in Oscar Romero: Memories in Mosaic, by Maria Lopez Vigil*

Just after he was made archbishop of San Salvador, Romero had to preside in March 1977 at the funeral of his friend Fr. Rutilio Grande, an outspoken Jesuit priest who had been assassinated. On that day, the scales fell from his eyes and Romero took up where Grande left off.

The military had previously turned Grande's town of Aguilares into an encampment of the death squads, who stormed the church and desecrated the Blessed Sacrament. Hundreds were killed. When the military left the church in June, Romero held a special Mass, then decided to process through the town with the Blessed Sacrament to purify the village

*Another priest, Fr Jon Sobrino SJ, was witness.*

We left the church singing. It was a terribly hot day, and Monsenor Romero was soaked in sweat under his red rain cape. He held the monstrance high. Before him there were hundreds of people. We circled the main square singing and praying. The municipal offices across from the church were full of guardsmen who were watching us. When we neared, several of them went to the middle of the road and pointed their rifles at us.

Then more of them came. They spread their legs defiantly and with their large boots formed a wall that we could not go through. Those at the front stopped and gradually those further back had to stop as well.

The procession came to a halt. There we were, face to face with the rifles. When no one was moving anymore, we turned to look at Monsenor Romero, who was at the very back. He lifted the monstrance a little higher and said in a loud voice so that all could hear, **"Adelante. Let us go forward."**

Then, little by little, we moved toward the soldiers, and little by little they began to back up. We moved forward. They moved backward. Eventually they backed up toward their barracks. Finally they lowered their rifles and let us pass.

From that day on, when any important event occurred in El Salvador, whether you were with him or against him, you always had to look to Monsenor Romero.

## **SOME OTHER UPLIFTING ADELANTES!**

- **MISSION ADELANTE & ADELANTE THRIFT** in Kansas City is an evangelical mission founded in 2005 by Kristen & Jarrett Meek as outreach to Latino immigrants – now working with the Bhutanese, Chinese, Karen and Kareni Christians from Myanmar.
- **UNIVERSITY OF NOTRE DAME ADELANTE CONFERENCE** in July 2018 addressed the variety of ways in which Catholic schools and parishes can work creatively together to embrace, educate and empower Latino families through the ministry of Catholic education
- **THE ADELANTE US EDUCATION LEADERSHIP FUND** is a non-profit organization whose mission is to inspire the best and brightest Latino students to graduate and lead through scholarships, internships, and leadership training. The fund started in 1993 with the Miller Brewing Company partnering the Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities.
- **ADELANTNC** is a coalition of 20 organisations that focuses on education issues affecting Latino and migrant students and families in North Carolina.
- **ESO ADELANTE** based in Redwood City CA creates a community of academic support for Latino and high need, high potential low resources students
- **IN NEW YORK**, the John Jay College of Criminal Justice runs its Adelante Program – leadership for Latina/o
- **HOUSTON BAPTIST UNIVERSITY'S** College of Education and Behavioral Sciences has Project Adelante for pre-service and in-service leadership candidates to get English Learners certification.
- **ADELANTE Program at Dixie State University** in St George, Utah, is "to increase the access and participation in higher education for university high school students".
- **SANTA MONICA COLLEGE'S ADELANTE PROGRAM** is a network of Latino students, faculty and staff focussing on academic achievement,, transfer, cultural awareness, and personal growth.
- **ADELANTE LATIN BALTIMORE** provided a free-after-school academic enrichment and college preparatory program for promising Latina high school girls.
- **ADELANTE MUJERES** in Forest Grove, Oregon is a journey to college program that promotes a pro-college culture among Latino families.
- **ADELANTE OF SUFFOLK COUNTY** in Brentwood NY is a multiservice community resource providing supported housing and case management; mental hygiene, family & youth service, housing and tenant counselling services; nutrition program for the elderly; educational, career counselling and youth leadership; after school program; and Medicaid service co-ordination program.
- **ST PATRICK'S CHURCH IN NORRISTOWN PA**, the focus of a film called Adelante which shows how Mexican immigrants revitalised a moribund Irish-Catholic church.
- **ADELANTE SPECIAL NEEDS SCHOOL** is in Hoenstbruck, The Netherlands.

## ADELANTE Face of the Gallery 2

### TWO ADELANTE NGOs 2018

The world's thousands of local, national and international non-governmental organisations (NGOs) abound with unofficial saints – among their creators, organisers, field workers, and office staff. And, of course, supporters who provide funds, encouragement, time, hope, and appreciation. Here are two examples.



It's quite a story. Adelante Africa started when a lorry carrying a group from Spain travelling in Uganda and Rwanda broke down next to a community school dedicated to orphans, very poor and refugee children. The group was so impressed with the efforts of the local community to keep the school going that they decided to do something. When they got back to Spain they started to look for people at home and in the international community to provide the funds to rebuild and equip the school.

After this first project, Adelante África has continued to support different projects in the community. Of late, the Omwaama Tudende Children's Home has 65 children and the Adelante Africa Secondary School has 56 pupils! A team of doctors from Spain came out to help with local healthcare. Sewing and hairdressing classes help girls learn a trade. And 45 tons of newly-grown sunflower seeds have gone to a local oil press. "Food is much tastier and I don't feel our arteries are clogged up". So it's Well Done and Adelante all round.

Supporters in Spain also have an uplifting story. El Burgo Ignacio Echevarria Secondary School is in Las Rozas on the outskirts of Madrid. It's been renamed after a Las Rozas resident – The Skateboard Hero who gave his life in helping protect a woman during the 2017 London Bridge attack.



is another holiday heartwarming story. Nina Jorgensen is the founder and director. A former PanAm flight attendant, by chance in 1989 she found herself in Guatemala. She stayed to build a not-for-profit organisation that provides healthcare, education and

nutrition services to poor people in 24 villages in the Esquintla region. The focus is to motivate people to work together on their communities priorities so they may become self-sustaining.

### ADELANTE FELLOWS

#### women on tough reporting assignments in Latin America

Adelante is the Latin America reporting initiative of the International Women's Media Foundation. It seeks to reduce the gender gap in the region by giving women journalists the opportunities and skills to amplify their voices and to advance in their careers.

Adelante provides international reporting trips, year-long fellowships for in-country journalists, and expanded security training in Colombia, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico and the United States border. For example, in 2018, Tamara Merino (left) based in Chile and Lujan Agusti (right) based between Mexico and Argentina reported on the harrowing Scenes from a Migration Crisis – on Both Sides of the US-Mexico Border.



Adelante is made possible by a grant from the remarkable Howard G Buffett Foundation, which marked an important milestone in 2017 having fulfilled over \$1 billion in philanthropic contributions since they began making grants in 2000.

### THE 2018 ADELANTE DEBATE CUP

#### Skills-building students win lively arguments in the Philippines!

More than 100 debaters took part in the annual competition organised by the Josenian Debate Varsity and held at the University of San Jose at Cebu. The team of Mikko Vitug, Matti Tan, and David Africa from Ateneo Senior High School won the Grand Final, defending the motion, "Upon the request of immediate relatives (i.e. spouses, children, parents), this house believe that states should subsidize the creation of AI substitutes of individuals who have passed away." (!)



## ADELANTE Face of the Gallery 2

### Hugh Gibbons' Alphabet of Unofficial Saints

#### Inspirers, Encouragers & Makers of Waves

Who'd be in yours?

**A**&E Teams

**B**omberos (Fireservices)

**C**arpenters

**D**evil's Advocates

**E**veryone, at Times

**F**ood Bank Staff & Supporters

**G**ardeners (esp Market)

**H**uman Rights Campaigners

**I**nterpreters & Translators

**J**olly-Uppers

**K**ittens

**L**aities

**M**edecins Sans Frontieres etc

**N**uns & Nurses

**O**n-Timers

**P**icassos

**Q**uietness-Providers

**R**eporters Under Fire

**S**chindlers & Silas Soules

**T**eachers & Assistants

**U**kelele Players

**V**olunteers

**W**hite Helmets

**X**enas & Other Warrior Princesses

**Y**ou

**Z**ipadee-Doo-Dah Singers & Singalongers



# VOICES Face of the Gallery 1

## "THE VOICE OF THOSE WHO HAD NO VOICE."

Romero became the defender of the oppressed, 'the voice of those who had no voice', the conscience of a nation.

Little did the authorities realise that, instead of silencing his voice, his assassination would spread it to the four corners of the earth, and that his message would give hope to thousands.



Fr Michael Campbell-Johnson SJ  
23 March 2011

What impressed me was his silence. So Romero was listening. The whole tone of the meeting changed because you saw a person listening. It was not another guy saying, 'Yeah, sure, whatever, next.' You see it. You feel it. You perceive it.... He would not only listen. You would perceive that he was listening."



Francisco Rico-Martinez, Co-director of the FCJ Refugee Centre in Toronto, writing in Grandin Media 18 April 2018. As a student Francisco met Romero to

protest against violence in El Salvador. (He continues to have a big voice himself!)

In my experience, human rights has always been a struggle. We don't always keep going forward; there are setbacks and then you dig deeper. You get the prisoner-of-hope mentality and you fight harder.

Mary Robinson, quoted in The Guardian 13 October 2018, is former President of Ireland, United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, now President of the Mary Robinson Foundation For Climate Justice



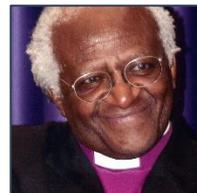
I speak not for myself but for those without voice... those who have fought for their rights: their right to live in peace, their right to be treated with dignity, their right to equality of opportunity, their right to be educated.



Malala Yousafzai - Awarded Nobel Peace Prize 2015

If an elephant has its foot on the tail of a mouse and you say that you are neutral, the mouse will not appreciate your neutrality.

If you are neutral in situations of injustice, you have chosen the side of the oppressor.



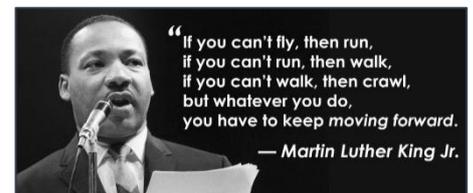
Archbishop Desmond Tutu, awarded Nobel Peace Prize 1984

Our lives begin to end the day we become silent about things that matter.

The ultimate tragedy is not the oppression and cruelty by the bad people, but the silence over that by the good people... There comes a time when silence is betrayal.

In the end, we will remember not the words of our enemies, but the silence of our friends.

Dr Martin Luther King Jr  
Awarded Nobel Peace Prize 1964



## VOICES IN UNISON



*Hans Egil Offerdal sets Romero in historical context in Razon y Palabra August 2000.*

*Hans is Specialist in Liberation Theologies and Catholic Social Teaching at Bergen University, Norway.*

Romero was not alone. The preferential option for the poor is an old tradition in the church of Latin America.

Romero is one of many bishops, priests, theologians and lay people that have seen that the church has to be a church of the poor...

During the centuries many of the church's men and women have raised their voice against the injustices committed during the ongoing colonisation of Latin America.

Monseñor Romero and Don Samuel are not the only bishops that have brought forward the legacy of Bartolomé de Las Casas.

Outstanding examples from the early times include:

- Bishop Cristobal de Pedraza, Honduras
- Mons. Antonio de Valdevesio, Nicaragua
  - Bishop Pablo Torres, Panamá
- Bishop Tata Vasco de Quiroga, Mexico
  - St. Toribio de Mogrovejo, Peru
  - Bishop Juan del Valle, Colombia

In our own times memorable bishops are:

- Archbishop Víctor Sanabria in Costa Rica
  - Mons. Manuel Larrain in Chile
- Mons. Gerardo Valencia Cano in Colombia
  - Mons. Enrique Angelelli in Argentina
  - Don Hélder Câmara in Brazil
    - Mons. Raul Silva in Chile
  - Mons. Leonidas Proaño in Ecuador
  - Mons. Sergio Méndez Arceo in Mexico
  - Mons. Juan Gerardi in Guatemala

Oscar Romero is venerated around the world by Christians and non-Christians. For example, his statue, along with those of nine other twentieth century martyrs, stands above the Great West Door of Westminster Abbey



The line-up (left to right) is Maximilian Kolbe, Manche Masemola, Janani Luwum, Grand Duchess Elizabeth of Russia, Martin Luther King, Oscar Romero, Dietrich Bonhoeffer, Esther John, Lucian Tapiedi, Wang Zhiming.

## SPEAKING UP FOR SILENCE

(and taking some away with you)

**“While mindfulness gains popularity and we hear of its increasing use in schools, I want to bring your attention to the long held practice of Quakers, where we gather in silence to calm the mind and focus the attention.**

**While other schools start bringing this mindful practice in to their extended curriculum, Sidcot School in Somerset celebrates the fact that they have provided breathing space for staff and students for over 300 years.”**

Jacqueline Bagnall, Director,  
Centre for Peace & Global Studies, Sidcot School.  
in Guardian Letters Wednesday 5th March 2014



In May 2014 Jacqui (right) handed over a supply of Sidcot Silence – specially bottled by pupils in the Junior School – to Hugh Gibbons for Thanksgiving Field. The space below has also been eternally doused with it. So if you'd like to have some of the Silence to take away and use anywhere as breathing space, gently touch the space below with a fingertip while (silently) saying: Adelante!

BTW The background music here is John Cage's 4'33"

# CIVILISATION Face of the Gallery 1

## CIVILISATION IS HELPING EACH OTHER: PEOPLE TO PEOPLE, NATION TO NATION



During a business trip in 1859, Henri Dunant was witness to and

helper in the aftermath of the Battle of Solferino in modern-day Italy. He recorded his experiences in A Memory of Solferino which inspired the creation of the International Committee of the Red Cross and later Red Crescent.

Henri was the first recipient of the Nobel Peace Prize. – which ICRC have since been awarded six times.

The candles on this face of Adelante echo the candlelit procession at Solferino every 8th May – World Red Cross Day.



**We are far more united and have far more in common than that which divides us**

Jo Cox MP for Batley & Spens,

assassinated June 2016

*I would like to thank you, the people of Brussels, for this wonderful gesture, which will allow Jo's legacy to live on in a city she loved.*



*In Jo's memory we must recommit to the values of peace and justice that she fought for every day. We must stand up for the values of internationalism, the values of reaching out to support those in need all across the world. We will never forget Jo. In her memory, let us build a better world.*

Jeremy Corbyn MP speaking on 27 September 2018 at a square in Brussels renamed in her honour.

Rue Jo Cox at Avallon in Burgundy shows that naming places after notable people is a way that France also pays tribute not just to its own but foreigners too. The Paris metro stops at George V (named in appreciation of the UK's support for France during the first world war), Michel-Ange (Michelangelo) and Franklin D Roosevelt. There's a Rosa Parks station on the RER suburban line in north Paris. Several cities have streets named after the British astronomer Edmund Halley, and many have their Rue Anne Frank. In the UK, The Great Get-Together each June is another lasting tribute to Jo's spirit of common humanity.



## The FORGIVENESS PROJECT

collects and shares stories from individuals and communities who have rebuilt their lives following hurt and trauma

Founded in 2004 by journalist Marina Cantacuzino and based in London, the Forgiveness Project provides resources and experiences to help people examine and overcome their own unresolved grievances. The testimonies bear witness to the resilience of the human spirit and act as a powerful antidote to narratives of hate and dehumanisation, presenting alternatives to cycles of conflict, violence, crime and injustice.



At the heart of The Forgiveness Project is an understanding that restorative narratives have the power to transform lives; not only supporting people to move on from harm or trauma, but also building a climate of tolerance, resilience, hope and empathy. This idea informs their work across multiple platforms – in publications and educational resources, through the international F Word exhibition, in public conversations, and their award-winning RESTORE prison programme.

Marina is an award-winning journalist who has worked for most British mainstream publications including The Guardian, The Telegraph and Hello magazine. In 2003, in response to the invasion of Iraq, she embarked on a personal project collecting stories of people who had lived through trauma and injustice, and sought forgiveness rather than revenge.

As a result Marina founded The Forgiveness Project and started speaking widely about forgiveness and restorative storytelling.

## CIVILISATION Face of the Gallery 2

**"Dedicated by some who witnessed the tragedy of war, now united in friendship and the hope for lasting peace among all people"**



### Civilisation & Reconciliation Exemplified

October 14th 2018 saw not only the Canonisation of Oscar Romero but the 75th anniversary of "Black Thursday" in 1943. During the liberation of Europe. It was the day of the greatest-ever aerial battle, as the American 8th Air Force for a second time fought its way to the city of Schweinfurt deep in Germany. In the air and on the ground, the long day saw many examples of courage and compassion by military and civilians alike – and constant acts of civilisation. The city suffered over 20 more raids, creating a poignant example of common humanity – often encountered in conflicts elsewhere in the world.

Uwe Muler in Schweinfurt in the Air War 1943-1945 included this story.

*"An unexpected, and for its human touch, welcome side effect of the raids was an improvement of relations between the Germans and the many civilian foreign workers and prisoners of war and forced labour from concentration camps..."*

*The fact that there had been many victims of the bombings in the workers' camps showed suspicious Germans that the foreigners were not spared by the Americans. The foreign workers, on the other hand, saw that, if it was possible at all, they would be pulled out of the rubble just like the Germans were. All in all, both parts of the population closed ranks."*

The city has a lasting example of reconciliation between attackers and defenders. In 1998, the American Second Schweinfurt Memorial Association got together with Black Thursday's young Luftwaffe flak helpers to place a fine sculpture(left) created by G Hubert Neidhard, a local schoolteacher and himself a flak-helper, in the American German Air Memorial Garden.

The key words are:

*"Dedicated by some who witnessed the tragedy of war, now united in friendship and the hope for lasting peace among all people".*

The capsule below contains soil from the Garden in Schweinfurt; from St Josef's Catholic Church destroyed during the bombing; Podington airfield; Central Park New York; and Thanksgiving Field. There's also a fragment from one of the planes that day B17F #3351Z whose happy crashlanding at 6.24pm Tally Ho Farm in Winkfield led to the creation of Thanksgiving Field and its tiny Uplifters Celebration Park.

To show approval of this spirit of humanity, just gently touch the capsule.



**"As a champion of Remembrance, The Royal British Legion promotes the message of reconciliation after conflict and hope for a peaceful future, and we encourage the nation to embrace these core principles."**

RBL Statement 24 September 2018 welcoming news that Germany's president might be invited to join veterans and royalty for the 100th anniversary of the end of the First World War in London



## CROSSPIECE of the Gallery – front and back

The violence we preach is not the violence of the sword, the violence of hatred.

It is the violence of love, of brotherhood;  
the violence that wills to beat weapons into sickles for work

Archbishop Oscar Romero, 27 November 1977

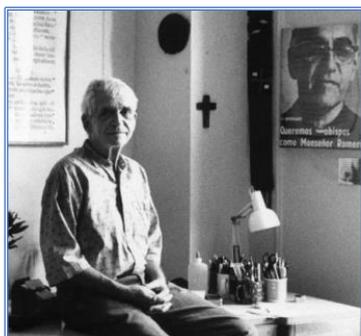
English sickle believed made c1920 – around the time of Romero's birth

RAF 20mm cannon shell probably fired in WW11 – found in Berkshire field 30 June 2013

PLEASE DO NOT TOUCH – THOUGH OLD, THIS SICKLE STILL HAS A SHARP CUTTING EDGE



**I'm reminded of a poster that used to hang over Daniel Berrigan's writing desk. It was a mammoth picture of Romero with a big bold caption that read:**  
**"We want more bishops like Romero."**



*In "Looking to the example of Archbishop Oscar Romero" by Fr John Dear in National Catholic Reporter 19 March 2013*

*Daniel Joseph Berrigan SJ 1921–2016 was an American Jesuit priest, anti-war activist, and poet. He was on the FBI's Most Wanted List, the front cover of Time, and in prison. His own particular form of militancy and radical spirituality in the service of social and political justice was said to have shaped the tactics of resistance to the Vietnam War. In 1980, he founded the Plowshares Movement – a Christian pacifist movement that advocates active resistance to war.*

**For some reason, the most vocal Christians among us never mention the Beatitudes (Matthew 5). But, often with tears in their eyes, they demand that the Ten Commandments be posted in public buildings. And of course, that's Moses, not Jesus.**

**I haven't heard one of them demand that the Sermon on the Mount, the Beatitudes, be posted anywhere.**

**"Blessed are the merciful" in a courtroom?  
"Blessed are the peacemakers" in the Pentagon? Give me a break!**

*Kurt Vonnegut in A Man Without a Country*



Kurt Vonnegut Jr. 1922-2007 was an American writer, most famous for his darkly satirical, best-selling novel Slaughterhouse-Five. Captured in 1944, he was interned in Dresden and survived the February 1945 Allied bombing. He had taking refuge in a meat locker three stories underground. "It was cool there, with cadavers hanging all around", he said. "When we came up the city was gone ... They burnt the whole damn town down." Vonnegut and other American prisoners were put to work immediately after the bombing, excavating bodies from the rubble. He described the activity as a "terribly elaborate Easter-egg hunt".

Vonnegut's earlier works had appealed strongly to many college students, and the antiwar message of Slaughterhouse-Five resonated with a generation marked by the Vietnam War.

So it goes.