



## A Future Not Our Own

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

The kingdom is not only beyond our efforts.

It is even 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.

No statement says all that could be said.

No prayer fully expresses our faith.

No confession brings perfection.

No pastoral visit brings wholeness.

No programme accomplishes the Church's mission.

No set of goals and objectives includes everything.

This is what we are about.

We plant the seeds that one day will grow.

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

We lay foundations that will need further development.

We provide yeast that produces effects 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 well.

It may be incomplete, but it is a beginning,  
a step along the way  
and opportunity for the Lord's grace to enter and do the rest.

We may never see the results,  
but that is the difference  
between the Master builder and the worker.

We are workers, not Master builders, ministers or messiahs.

We are prophets of a future not our own.

*Archbishop Oscar Romero*