



## STEWARDS OF OUR EARTH All of God's Creation

### 40th Anniversary Martyrdom in El Salvador

“December 2nd, 2020 marked the 40th Anniversary of the Martyrdom in El Salvador of Maryknoll Sisters [Ita Ford](#) and [Maura Clarke](#), Ursuline Sister [Dorothy Kazel](#) and Lay Missioner [Jean Donovan](#) who were brutally murdered then buried in a shallow grave on December 2nd, 1980. On this day, we also remember the 70,000 Salvadorans who also perished during that nation’s civil war....”  
(maryknollsisters.org)

Parishioner Mary McKenna met Maura Clark and visited a display about Dorothy Kazel at her motherhouse. A parent at a school where Mary was principal was a childhood neighbor of Ita Ford.

“As we are drawn into the vision and hope of these women, our life and our faith are renewed. The inescapable challenge of their lives and deaths calls us to compassion for and solidarity with the poor. They were not blind to the evil and sin in our world, nor were they naïve about its causes. The heart of their faith was that they focused upon the holiness of human life. Their wisdom flowed from the person, message, life, death, and resurrection of Jesus.

Today, four decades later, the starkness of these women’s lives and deaths calls us to open our lives to the ultimate challenge of the gospel: **‘Love Thy Neighbor’** (Matthew 22:39).

**In tragedy we must find inspiration...we hope and pray that what we have learned through these Martyrs sacrifices will touch your lives forever.”** (maryknollsisters.org)



**Sister Ita Ford with children**



**Sister Maura Clarke**

“I hope you come to find that which gives life a deep meaning for you. Something worth living for — may be even worth dying for – something that energizes you, enthuses you, enables you to keep moving ahead. I can’t tell you what it might be – that’s for you to find, to choose, to love. I can just encourage you to start looking and support you in the search.” -*Sister Ita Ford*

“Lord, God of Abraham, God of the Prophets, God of Love, you created us and you call us to live as brothers and sisters. Give us the strength daily to be instruments of peace; enable us to see everyone who crosses our path as our brother or sister. Make us sensitive to the plea of our citizens who entreat us to turn our weapons of war into implements of peace, our trepidation into confident trust, and our quarreling into forgiveness.” – Pope Francis, Prayer for Peace, 2014