



Annual
PILGRIMAGE/RETREAT
TO CENTRAL AMERICA
January 8-19, 2024



Kevin McCarthy

M Fathers and Brothers
ARYKNOLL
PO Box 302, Maryknoll, NY 10545-0302

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For more information, contact
Kris East
Maryknoll Fathers and Brothers
P.O. Box 302
Maryknoll, NY 10545-0302
510-276-5021
KEast@maryknoll.org
www.maryknollpilgrimage.org

*“The violence we preach
is the violence of love”*
Archbishop Oscar Romero

A 10 DAY SPIRITUAL JOURNEY FOR BISHOPS, PRIESTS, BROTHERS AND PERMANENT DEACONS

Walk in the footsteps of modern day martyrs. Learn why these courageous women and men, caught up in situations of civil war in which the people they served and the Catholic Church itself suffered persecution, were able to give their lives as witnesses of Jesus Christ.

We will visit the tomb of Saint Archbishop Romero and celebrate Mass at the altar where he was assassinated. We will also visit the site in El Salvador where Maryknoll Sisters Ita Ford, Maura Clarke, Ursuline Sister Dorothy Kazel and Cleveland Lay Missioner Jean Donovan were murdered in 1980.

Included will be a visit to the University of Central America where six Jesuits, their house-keeper and her daughter were killed.

In Guatemala, the participants will visit beautiful Santiago Atitlan where Blessed Stan Rother from the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City gave his life for his Mayan Indian parishioners.

All this and much more will be experienced during this ten day spiritual event by those who make this Pilgrimage/Retreat journey.

Witness statements FROM PREVIOUS PILGRIMAGE/RETREAT PARTICIPANTS



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“The powerful witness of the people’s faith moved me beyond measure. The witness of those who, in spite of the threats to their lives, continued to minister and take the steps necessary to provide for their people was remarkable.”

“Most impactful was the inner journey to understanding of my vocation as a priest by identifying with the poor and to be able to speak the language of their realities of ongoing struggle for peace and justice.”

“I would love to connect my parishioners with immersion opportunities and build a relationship with sister communities in Central America.”

“I have carried the image of the two women I visited in Santiago with me since our meeting. They are steadfast in their faith, they want very much to be a part of the larger community. I could see their yearning to be remembered to the rest of the members of the parish.”

“The home visits in Santiago Atitlan were profoundly moving.”

“This is an unusual form of retreat / pilgrimage: you will be implicated in their martyrdom, the massacres with those who died, with those who survived and live with the everyday martyrdom of the poor. You dared to walk with them; you are implicated. Now you can tell *their* story; now you can tell *your* story.”