

# Prophets of a Future Not Our Own

*E-Worship dedicates this poem to all officers everywhere  
who are tackling new appointments and new responsibilities.*

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 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 program accomplishes the church's mission.  
No set of goals and objectives includes everything.

This is what we are about:  
We plant 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 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,  
an opportunity for God'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.  
We are workers, not master builders,  
ministers, not messiahs.  
We are prophets of a future not our own.

*- written by Archbishop Oscar Romero,  
martyred in El Salvador on March 24th, 1980.*