

***Celebrate the life and living legacy of
the four Churchwomen of El Salvador
LCWR - SHARE Foundation
Virtual Event***

1. Bienvenida, Jose Artiga.

Buenas tardes, good afternoon, my name is Jose Artiga, the Executive Director of the SHARE Foundation.

On behalf of The SHARE Foundation and LCWR we welcome you to this celebration of the life of Ita, Maura, Dorothy and Jean. Les damos la bienvenida a nuestras hermanas y hermanos en esta celebración de las vidas de Ita, Maura, Dorothy y Jean. We come together from, se unen desde El Salvador, Honduras, Mexico, Colombia, Argentina, Chile, Spain, Italy and Peru!

Every year, more and more people have joined in the celebration of our sisters, keeping their memory and their work alive! Thank you!

This event is transmitted via zoom and the SHARE El Salvador Facebook live and is being recorded for all who want to see it later.

Since 1983, the SHARE Foundation has been organizing delegations to El Salvador for the December 2nd celebration, and last year and this year we had to cancel them due to the pandemic.

Next year, god willing, we will have a December 2nd 2022 delegation to El Salvador! Please save the date

The theme for the celebration of this year December 2nd is **Ita, Maura, Dorothy and Jean PRESENTE**, present in the current struggle in El Salvador, in Honduras, at the border, in the US and everywhere there is injustice.

Our program will consist of

- A news clip from December 2nd, 1980 and the voices of the sisters.
- Videos from this year's celebrations of December 2nd 2021 in El Salvador at the site where they were killed as well as the cemetery in Chalatenango
- A presentation by the Sisters of Halifax Canada of a water project in the very communities the 4 women used to work.
- An invitation to the beatification of Rutilio Grande and the inauguration of the water project in Chalatenango.
- A beautiful song dedicated to the 4 church women – Misionera –
- A message from the youth of El Salvador about remembering in action our sisters
- We will end with a slideshow of pictures of previous delegations and celebrations of December 2.

Once again Bienvenidas, welcome and thank you for remembering our beloved sisters and for keeping their living legacy alive with the SHARE Foundation and LCWR.

2. We begin with the 1980 news clip announcing the death of our sisters and the culpability of the Salvadoran military. *Noticia sobre el asesinato de las hermanas*

[Killed in El Salvador: An American Story | Retro Report | The New York Times](#)

3. Next a song to reflect in silence *Long before the night* - an ancient love

[Long Before the Night \(This Ancient Love\) by Carolyn McDade](#)

As we listen to this song, let us remember where we were on December 2, 1980, not only physically but where we were in our work for justice and how the terrible news impacted us. Let us also claim the ancient love that our sisters embodied and that we carry.

4. Events in Chalatenango – Today the relatives of the families with whom Ita, Muara, Dorothy and Jean worked remember them.

Many of them were not even born yet. But they have learned the story. And have claimed the sisters as their own. Here we see live footage from this year's celebration at the cemetery in Chalatenango where Ita, Maura and a Maryknoll sister – Carla - are buried. The presentation of the floral

arrangement from SHARE was followed by a Mass at the cathedral in Chalatenango.

Events in memory of the Four Churchwomen of El Salvador in Chalatenango, El Salvador

5. Every year at the site of the assassination, communities from across the country gather at the community of Santiago Nonualco with a procession, music, flowers and a mass.

Commemoration of the 41st Anniversary at Santiago Nonualco

6. Now please welcome Sister Cecilia of the Sisters of Halifax, Canada who will share a water project that will benefit more than 800 families in the communities where the 4 Churchwomen worked.
7. Now, please welcome Racine Dominican Sister Ann Pratt with a special reflection and invitation.
8. Thank you, Sister Ann. And now, we will listen to the song, MISIONERA, written by Father David Rodriguez and interpreted by Sandra and Miriam, dedicated to our sisters.

Misionera

9. The Bishop of Chalatenango Osvaldo Escobar has celebrated mass for the last 5 years as a bishop of Chalatenango and sent us a message.

Message from the Bishop of Chalatenango Osvaldo Escobar

10. We hear from our sister, Claudia of the SHARE Foundation and a representative of the youth movement in El Salvador, and an indispensable part of the planning for today's program. Bienvenida Claudia

Para mí como joven en El Salvador, es muy importante conmemorar y continuar con el legado de las hermanas que fueron un ejemplo de amor y solidaridad con los demás, y aunque yo no había nacido en ese momento recordarlas y conocer su historia es muy valioso para seguir con el trabajo de apoyar a las comunidades. Como dijo la hermana Ann Prat, queremos ser la voz de los que no tienen voz y continuar con el legado de nuestros mártires en El Salvador.

Un momento muy valioso de inspiración son las delegaciones que nos visitan cada año para conocer la historia y celebrar con alegría la vida de las hermanas, he tenido la oportunidad de compartir con muchos de ustedes ese legado y alegría de que ellas siguen vivas en nuestra lucha y esperanza por la justicia y amor a los demás.

Quiero agradecer a LCWR, a todos y todas los que están presente esta tarde por recordar siempre la memoria de Ita Ford, Maura Clarke, Dorothy Kazel y Jean Donovan y continuar su misión de amor y justicia por los demás.

As a young person in El Salvador, it is very important to commemorate and continue the legacy of the sisters who were and are an example of love and solidarity with poor people, although I was not born at that time remembering them and knowing their history is very important to continue with the work of supporting communities. As Sister Ann said before, we want to be the voice of the voiceless to continue the legacy of the martyrs of El Salvador.

An important moment of inspiration are the delegations that visit us every year to learn about the history, the reality of El Salvador and the joyfully celebration of the lives of the four churchwomen of El Salvador, I have had the opportunity to share with many of you that legacy and joy that they are still alive in our struggle. and hope for justice and love for others.

I want to thank LCWR, and everyone who is present for always remembering the memory of Ita Ford, Maura Clarke, Dorothy Kazel and Jean Donovan and continuing their mission of love and justice for others.

Muchas gracias!

11. would like to close renewing our gratitude to each and every one of you for keeping the spirit and memory of Ita, Maura, Dorothy and Jean alive. We thank you for inspiring us with your many works of mercy, love, and compassion and in the struggle for justice.

You have and continue to dedicate your lives to immigrants, refugees, women, the poor, in El Salvador, Honduras, the US and across the globe.

We thank you for being a great light in the darkness – for living out the invocation inscribed by Mica and practiced by Ita, Maura, Dorothy and Jean: What Does the Lord Require of You? to Act Justly and to Love Mercy and to Walk Humbly With Your God."

Gracias!

[Our closing song is from the Misa Campesina and accompanied by pictures of December 2nd celebrations](#)

[CLICK HERE! To watch the virtual event](#)



**COMMEMORATING
41 YEARS**

*Celebrating the lives
of Ita, Maura
Dorothy and Jean
1980-2021*

LCWR+
Leadership Conference of Women Religious

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