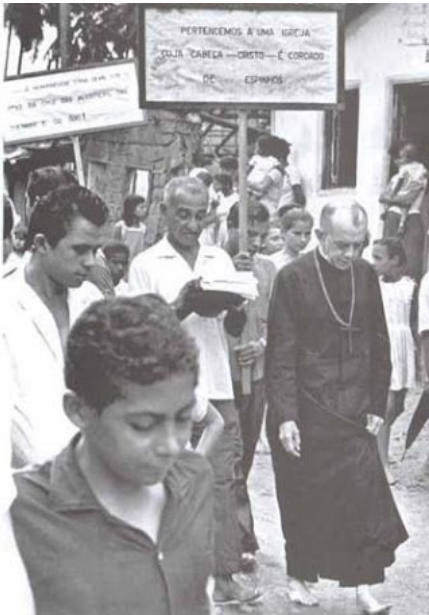

MOTIVOS

HÉLDER CÁMARA (1909-1999) was a Brazilian archbishop. He was born in a humble and numerous family which did not always have food to eat. He felt his priestly vocation from a very young age, as the commitment to the poor, the education, justice and peace, to which he devoted his life.

He was a liberation theologian, called by Joan Paul II as the “brother of the poor”, promoter of what he called “peaceful violence” of Ghandi and Luther King, the violence of Christ, in short, he wanted a complete revolution from active nonviolence.



Dom Hélder had a great ecclesiastical work and participated in a lot of episcopal conferences bringing poverty closer to the Church. Also in the street, he had a pastoral work, for the integral development of people, against the misery, racism and violence. He was a promoter of real socialism.

“If I give food to the poor, they call me a saint. But if I ask why the poor go hungry, they tell me that I am a communist.”

He was a brave person, who denounced the torture policy of the Brazilian military regime and he launched many initiatives mobilizing the poor.

“It is not enough to fight for the poor or to die for them, we have to give them an awareness of their rights. They have the need to free themselves.” For Dom, it was very important the education of people and also the attitude of dialogue with the oppressors.

He lived a humble life, taking into account even the little ones, the children, as reflected in his radio talks. Furthermore he is also known by his books and poetry, and his willing to listen and to receive whoever.

“When a person dreams, it is a dream, a fantasy, an illusion; but when people dream together, it is a hope, a beautiful utopia.”

“Nonviolence is to believe in the strength of truth, justice and love, more than in the strength of lies, injustice and hate.”

