



## ***Committee on International Justice and Peace***

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[Below is the text of the letter that was sent to the Sponsor and Cosponsors of Senate Resolution 321]

Dear Senator:

On behalf of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, I write to commend you for cosponsoring Senate Resolution 321, remembering the murder and commemorating the lives and work of the six Jesuit Priests, their housekeeper and her daughter in El Salvador. By passing this resolution by unanimous consent, the Senate has recognized the important education work of Catholic religious communities and institutions like the Universidad Centroamericana José Simeón Cañas in El Salvador as well as the 28 Jesuit Colleges and Universities in the United States.

Pope Benedict XVI, in his most recent encyclical, *Charity in Truth*, states that “Charity is at the heart of the Church's social doctrine. ... [Charity] gives real substance to the personal relationship with God and with neighbour; it is the principle not only of micro-relationships (with friends, with family members or within small groups) but also of macro-relationships (social, economic and political ones).” It is precisely this kind of charity that was exemplified by the Jesuits in El Salvador—a commitment to a more just and peaceful society where the human needs and rights are acknowledged and respected. S. Res. 321 rightly “continues to find inspiration in the lives and work of the Jesuit Martyrs.” Their legacy continues to be embodied in the many women and men who still seek a more just, peaceful and secure world where the life and dignity of all persons is defended.

As dedicated men and women continue to foster the common good of all, not only in El Salvador, but throughout our world, USCCB joins you in commemorating the lives and work of the six Jesuits and their collaborators. We also affirm the call of S. Res. 321 for, “the President, the Secretary of State, the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development, and other Federal departments and agencies to support and collaborate with the Government of El Salvador and other public, private nongovernmental, and religious organizations in efforts to reduce poverty and hunger and promote education opportunity, human rights, the rule of law, and social equity for the people of El Salvador.” This call is especially important at this time when the people of El Salvador are striving to strengthen respect for human rights and the rule of law.

Sincerely yours,

Most Reverend Howard J. Hubbard

Bishop of Albany

Chairman, Committee on International Justice and Peace