

Tuesday, May 11th

Josimo Morais Tavares:
defender of the poor; priest and martyr
by Pr. Tim for St. Laika's

Today Saint Laika's travels to Brazil to celebrate a priest who defended the poor against wealthy landowners at the cost of his own life.

Josimo Morais Tavares was a child of migrant workers in Brazil. He was born in 1953 into hardship and poverty and the stress of his family's migrant lifestyle eventually broke his family asunder, leaving him as a small child with his mother and sister. They moved to Xambioá, Brazil, where his mother worked as a laundress. Eventually, his sister died, leaving him with just his mother in a hostile environment. In Brazil, children like Josimo were often called "orphans of living parents."

He was a bright boy and was able to go to school. He eventually discerned a vocation to the priesthood and was sent to study first with the Salesians in Sao Paulo and then with the Franciscans in Rio de Janeiro. It was there that he came under the tutelage of the noted liberation theologian, Leonardo Boff.

He was ordained in 1979 and immediately became involved with the struggle for land rights which was raging in Brazil. He was a "people's priest." He attracted many to the cause and began to be threatened and attacked by the wealthy landowners.

After an attempt was made on his life in April of 1986, he wrote:

"In spite of everything, I want to and will continue to struggle, trying to bring together the need for peace and the Christian mission of creating a fraternal and just world, moving from the situation of the impoverished and oppressed. May my faith be penetrated by political clarity and impregnated by that courage which is a witness of the resurrection of Jesus of Nazareth, the Christ."

On the tenth of May, 1986, at the age of thirty-six, he was killed.

The Brazilian newspaper printed this terse announcement: "The priest of São Sebastião do Tocantins and the coordinator of the Pastoral Land Commission in the extreme north of Goiás, Father Josimo Tavares, was assassinated by two gunmen. Thirty-six years". (Correio Brasiliense, 11/05/1986).

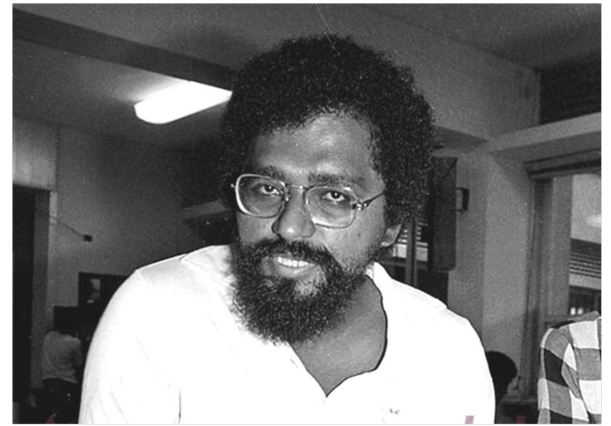
Scripture: In the "Gospel of John," chapter sixteen, verse thirty-three, we read:

"I have said this to you, so that in me you may have peace.
In the world you face persecution.
But take courage; I have conquered the world!"

Prayer:

Gracious God, in every age you have sent men and women who have given their lives in witness to your love and truth. Inspire us with the memory of Josimo Morais Tavares, whose faithfulness led him to the way of the cross. Give us the courage to bear full witness with our lives to your son's victory over sin and death. For he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Image unattributed on the internet



We are holding Gathered Worship at our usual time of 10:30 AM: We will continue to livestream our service. If you would like Home Communion, please email or call the church. Our ZOOM Worship login, "Worship and Meetings" can be found at:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85167890638?pwd=eHptd21KN01Vc0QyS2pSNVU4U3hUQT09>

ID # 851 6789 0638 Passcode: 860145

Wednesday Exegesis continues to offer in-person and Zoom, using Pr. Dan's account:

ID# 460 550 4086 Passcode: 600776

Both of these accounts can be found at <https://zoom.us/>. You will need to download the app to your computer, phone or device. Then, to join our Zoom meeting simply go to: <https://us04web.zoom.us/j/4605504086> If you are using dial-up, find your local number at: <https://us04web.zoom.us/u/fei59xzihG>. To watch the recording of Sunday's service go to Trinity's YouTube Channel [here](#).



This past Sunday, May 9th, the Worship & Music Ministry sent you a survey via email soliciting your input regarding worship service times, congregational singing and Covid safety issues. It is a short survey and will only take you a couple of minutes to complete. Please do so as soon as you can. Thank you!



For those of you who aren't able to come in to church, here are a few pictorial updates on the interior environment renovations Pr. Wendy has been up to. We wouldn't have thought it was possible, but Trinity is even more warm and welcoming than before!



On page 1 Pastor Tim offers this prayer, "Give us the courage to bear full witness with our lives to your son's victory over sin and death. For he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen" In the quote below, Martin Luther suggests that our ability to "bear full witness with our lives" will be a natural fruit of our "righteous principles". May it be so, but I believe Pastor Tim's prayer for courage shows wise understanding of weak human nature.. No doubt Fr. Josimo, the martyr described on page 1, was wise enough in his circumstances to pray often for courage. The fruit of that courage, and his righteous principals, was born out in full witness of his life for the cause of justice for the people he served. May each of us have the wisdom to pray for courage along with the righteous principals which guide our use of that gift, that we may be faithful witnesses to Jesus Christ in whatever ways he calls us to.

Suellen

**"People must have righteous principals in the first,
and then they will not fail to perform virtuous actions."**

—Martin Luther

