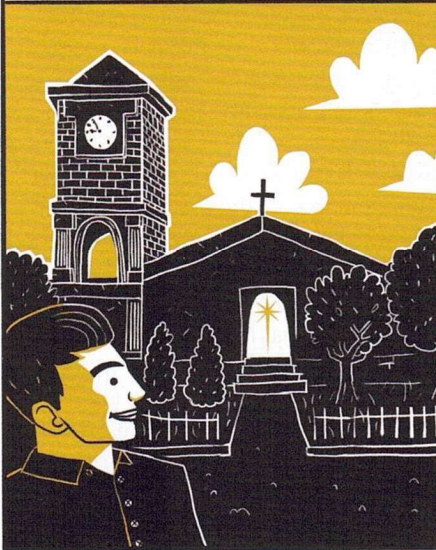


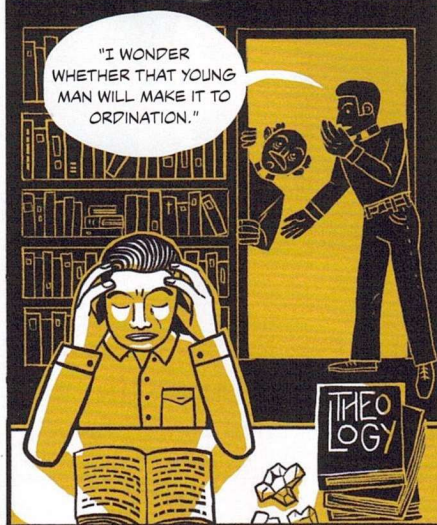
BELOVED FR RUTILIO GRANDE

WRITTEN BY JOE OWENS SJ
ILLUSTRATED BY JOHN PAUL DE QUAY

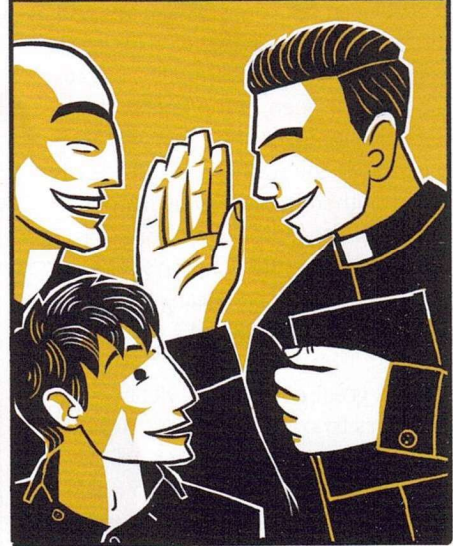
BORN IN 1928, RUTILIO WAS A DEVOUT BOY WHO GREW UP IN THE SMALL TOWN OF EL PAISNAL IN EL SALVADOR.



ENTERING THE JESUITS AT AGE 17, RUTILIO WAS A GOOD STUDENT, BUT HE WAS EMOTIONALLY FRAGILE AND SUFFERED A BREAKDOWN DURING STUDIES.



FINALLY ORDAINED IN 1960, HE WORKED FOR TEN YEARS AS A TEACHER AND COUNSELLOR AT THE SEMINARY IN SAN SALVADOR.



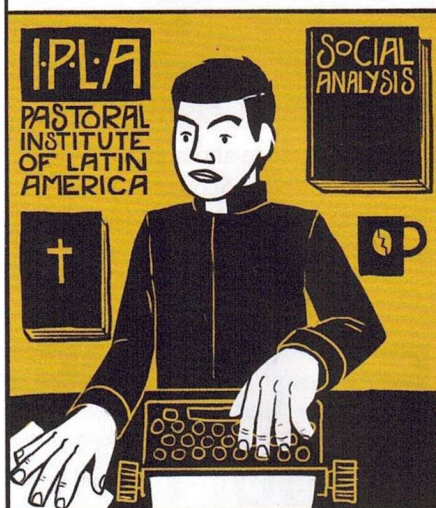
HE INSISTED THAT THE SEMINARIANS GET OUT INTO THE WORLD AND DO PASTORAL WORK WITH THE POOR. HE WANTED TO CREATE TRUE "SERVANT LEADERS".



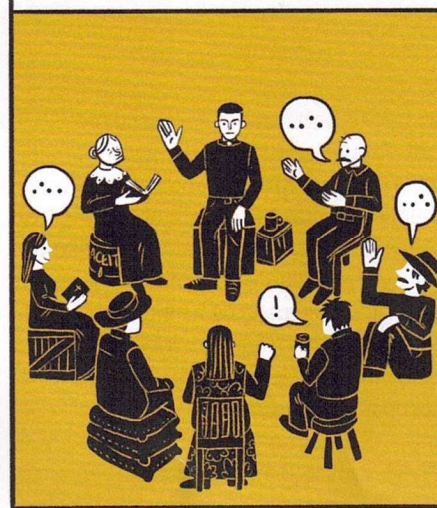
FATHER OSCAR ROMERO CAME TO LIVE AT THE SEMINARY. SEEMINGLY ISOLATED AND ALONE, RUTILIO STRUCK UP A FIRM AND ENDURING FRIENDSHIP WITH HIM.



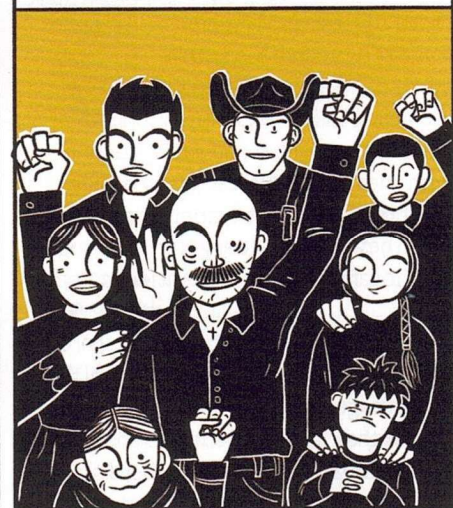
FEELING A GREAT NEED TO BE MORE CLOSELY CONNECTED WITH THE POOR, RUTILIO STUDIED THE CHRISTIAN BASE COMMUNITY MOVEMENT THAT WAS THEN SPREADING THROUGH LATIN AMERICA.



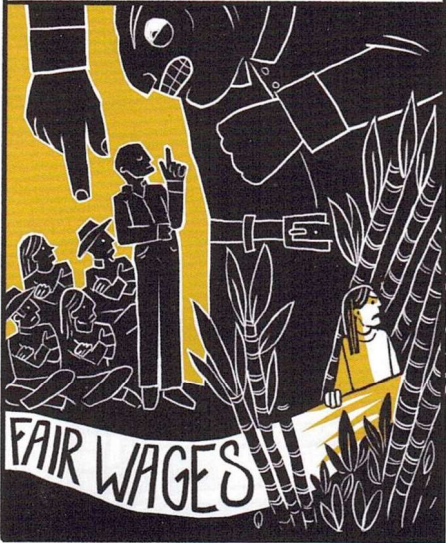
WITH A TEAM OF JESUITS, RUTILIO BEGAN A PROCESS OF INTENSE EVANGELISATION IN THE PARISH OF AGUILARES, STRESSING ESPECIALLY THE NEED FOR JUST TREATMENT OF WORKERS ON THE VAST SUGAR PLANTATIONS.



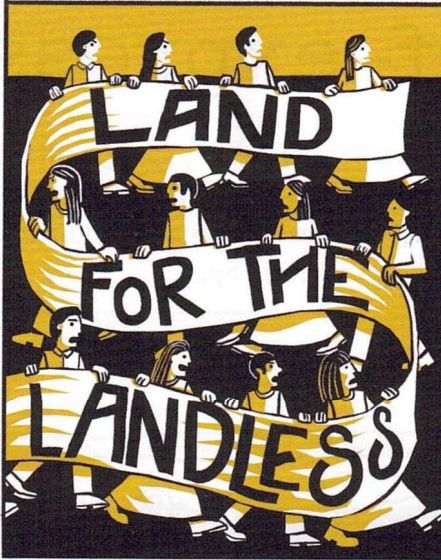
RUTILIO AND HIS TEAM SPENT THREE YEARS GIVING MISSIONS AND COURSES IN ALL THE VILLAGES, AWAKENING IN THE PARISHIONERS A KEEN AWARENESS OF THEIR GOD-GIVEN DIGNITY AND THE NEED TO DEFEND THEIR RIGHTS.



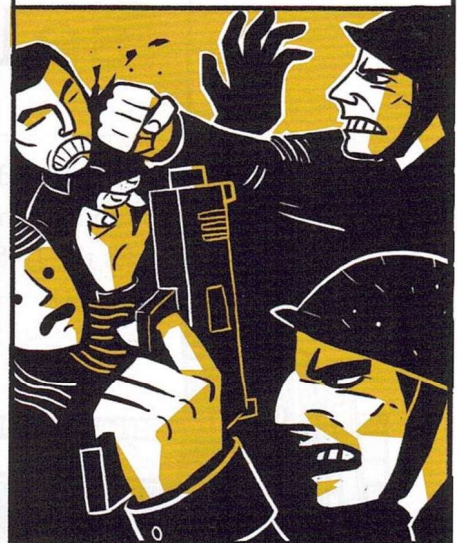
MEMBERS OF THE PARISH WHO WORKED ON THE LARGE PLANTATIONS BEGAN TO PROTEST THE LOW WAGES AND INHUMANE WORKING CONDITIONS.



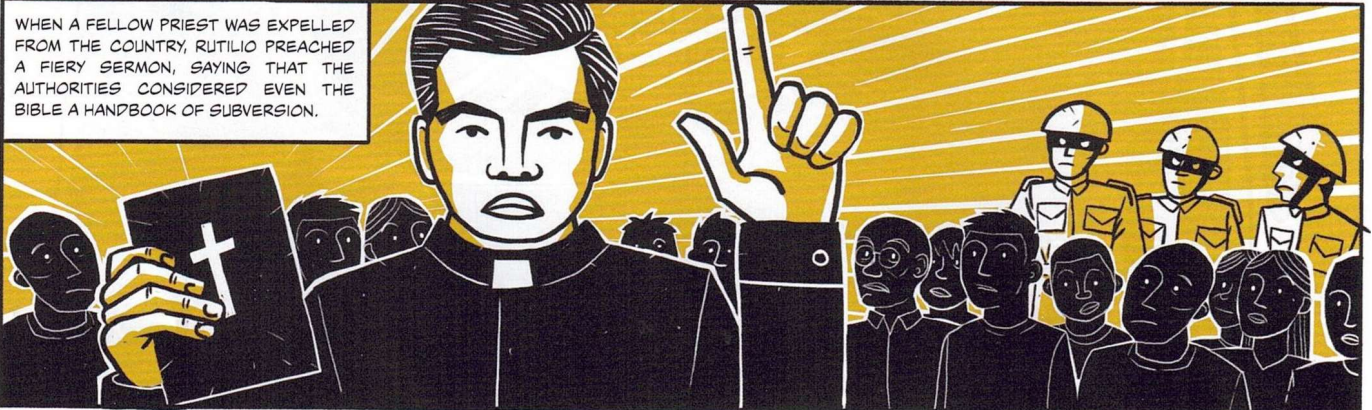
MANY PARISHIONERS ALSO JOINED FARMWORKER MOVEMENTS THAT HAD A NATIONAL BASE AND A REVOLUTIONARY POLITICAL AGENDA.



THE MILITARY GOVERNMENT AND BIG LANDOWNERS BEGAN A RUTHLESS REPRESSION OF THE POOR FARMERS AND WORKERS, BLAMING THE CHURCH FOR STIRRING UP TROUBLE.



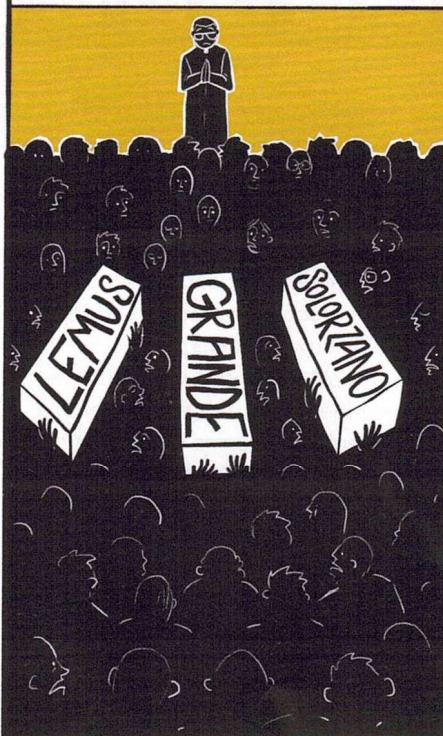
WHEN A FELLOW PRIEST WAS EXPELLED FROM THE COUNTRY, RUTILIO PREACHED A FIERY SERMON, SAYING THAT THE AUTHORITIES CONSIDERED EVEN THE BIBLE A HANDBOOK OF SUBVERSION.



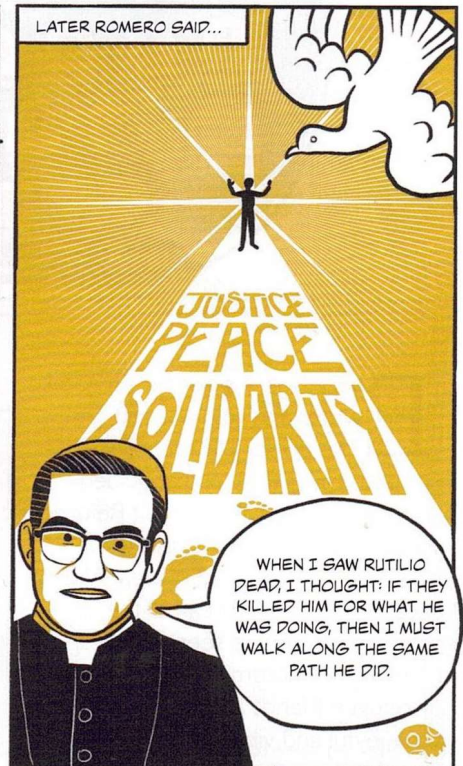
THE AUTHORITIES, SEEING RUTILIO AS THE MAIN INSTIGATOR OF THE UNREST, HIRED GUNMEN TO KILL HIM AS HE WAS DRIVING TO CELEBRATE MASS IN A VILLAGE.



OSCAR ROMERO, RECENTLY NAMED ARCHBISHOP OF SAN SALVADOR, WAS SHOCKED BY THE ASSASSINATION AND ORDERED THAT ONLY A SINGLE MASS BE CELEBRATED THE NEXT SUNDAY IN THE WHOLE ARCHDIOCESE.



LATER ROMERO SAID...



IN FEBRUARY 2020, POPE FRANCIS APPROVED THE BEATIFICATION OF FR RUTILIO GRANDE SJ.