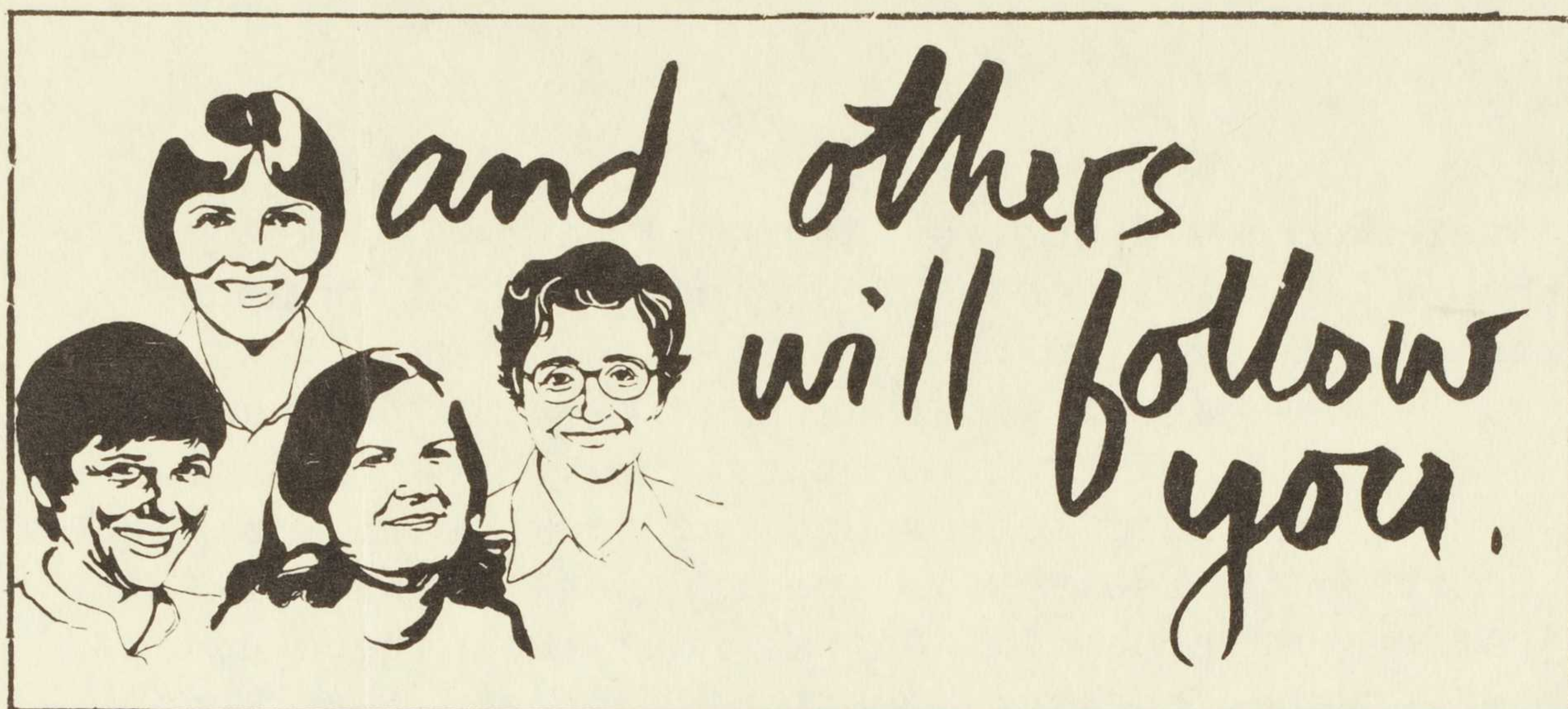


12/85



Nothing is so important as human life,
as the human person.

Above all, the person of the poor
and the oppressed...

Jesus says that whatever is done to them
he takes as done to him.

That bloodshed, those deaths
are beyond all politics:

They touch the very heart of God.

Monsignor Oscar Romero, March 16, 1980

On December 2, 1980, Maryknoll Sisters Maura Clarke and Ita Ford, Ursuline Sister Dorothy Kazel and lay missionary Jean Donovan gave their lives for the people of El Salvador. Their witness of justice, of care for the poor, of a total dedication in faith to God's presence in our world, has touched the lives of people throughout the United States, called us to conversion, urged a response to the violence and injustice in Central America. Their martyrdom has sealed with their blood a solidarity and unity of faith between the people of Central America and the people of the US.