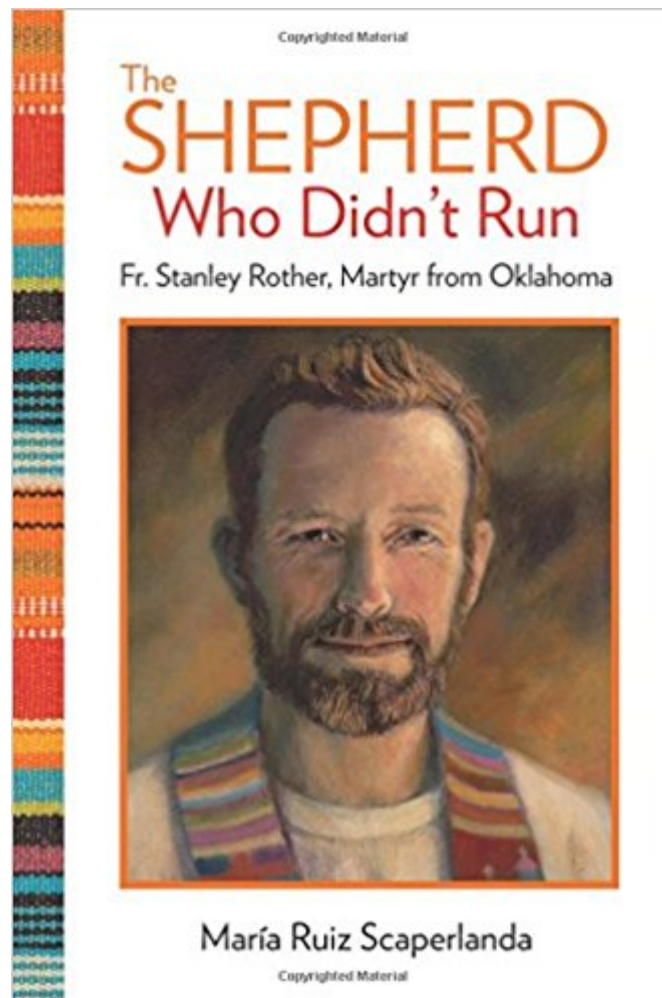




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# The Shepherd Who Didn't Run: Fr. Stanley Rother, Martyr From Oklahoma



## Synopsis

"The shepherd cannot run at the first sign of danger." - Fr. Stanley Francis Rother  
Fr. Stanley Rother was true to his word. He did not run. And was martyred at the age of 46. Fr. Stanley arrived in Guatemala in 1968, and immediately identified with his parishioners' simple, farming lifestyle. He learned their languages, prepared them for the Sacraments, and cared for their needs. Fr. Stanley, or "Padre Francisco" as he was called by his beloved Tz'utujil Indians, had found his heart's calling. After nearly a decade, the violence of the Guatemalan civil war found its way into the peaceful village. Disappearances, killings, and danger became daily occurrences, but despite this unrest Fr. Stanley remained hard at work, building a farmer's co-op, a school, a hospital, and the first Catholic radio station, used for catechesis. In early 1981, his name was on a death list, so he returned to Oklahoma and was warned not to return. But he could not abandon his people, so he went back, and made the ultimate sacrifice for his faith. "Pray for us that we may be a sign of the love of Christ for our people," said Fr. Stanley, "that our presence among them will fortify them to endure these sufferings in preparation for the coming of the Kingdom."

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

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Well written, well documented. This is a Very moving story of his ministry to his congregation and all who needed him. I have the kindle book and bought the paperback to share with friends

Nice read. Great story of a modern day saint. Author did a nice job of telling the story of an American martyr in Guatemala.

Wonderful book. Very inspiring. Hope the sainthood process succeeds quickly. Hope the situation in central america Improves as well for both the people and the church.

Father Rother is truly an inspiration. He was more than a good priest, he was a shepherd who loved his flock. A saint for all time.

This is an easily-read biography about an ordinary man who lived in an extraordinary way of faithfulness to Christ and the Church. Out of his faithfulness flowed his love for the Tz'utujil, the indigenous people of Guatemala he was called to serve as a missionary priest beginning in 1968. During a time of extreme turmoil in Guatemala in the late 1970's and culminating in 1980, he remained faithful to them and was murdered because he would not abandon them. Author Maria Ruiz Scaperlanda surveys Fr. Rother's life from the time he grew up in Oklahoma, through his struggles in seminary, and his early priesthood in rural Oklahoma. She focuses a great deal on his life as a missionary in Guatemala and his realization that he would likely be killed if he stayed in Guatemala to minister as a priest to the Tz'utujil. The story is placed in the context of St. Pope John XXIII's call to American dioceses to send missionary teams to Latin America, and the call of Vatican II to be a missionary Church. The book is easy to read and is likely suitable for high school students and adults. It tells an inspiring story and I highly recommend it. On December 2, 2016 Pope Francis

recognized the martyrdom of Fr. Rother, making him the first martyr born in the United States. The recognition of his martyrdom cleared the way for his beatification on September 23, 2017 in Oklahoma City.

Inspiring

Thoroughly researched and skillfully constructed, Ruiz Scaperlanda's artful portrayal of Fr. Stanley Rother's life and death will touch each reader deeply.

A story for every person to read. An average young man growing up in Oklahoma who followed God's call, brings a story of faith, people and cultures. Must read!

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