The Four Martyred Churchwomen: Allies In Today’s Struggle for Social Justice

Wednesday, December 2, 2020 | 6 p.m.
Free and open to the public. This lecture will be virtual, and a Zoom link will be sent upon registration. Registration is required. For more information or to RSVP, email cacs@fordham.edu.

A presentation by
Edward T. Brett, Ph.D., and Donna Whitson Brett, M.A.

On December 2, 1980, Sisters Dorothy Kazel, Ita Ford, and Maura Clarke, along with lay missionary Jean Donovan, were raped and brutally murdered by National Guardsmen in El Salvador because they had dared to side with the marginalized in their struggle for human dignity. Forty years after their deaths, their stories still serve as an inspiration for all who struggle nonviolently against racism, economic injustice, and the mistreatment of immigrants and refugees. At a time when the Catholic Church is rocked by scandals and seen as no longer relevant by an ever-growing number of young people, their lives of faith-based service to those who suffered injustice also provides a much-needed blueprint for a church in need of reform.

Donna Whitson Brett served as an academic advisor for 22 years at the University of Pittsburgh.

Edward T. Brett, Ph.D., is a history professor emeritus at La Roche University in Pittsburgh.

Along with their individual publications, they have co-authored two books: Martyrs of Hope: Seven U.S. Missioners in Central America (Orbis Books, 2018), which received Honorable Mention in the biography category from the Catholic Press Association; and Murdered in Central America: The Stories of Eleven U.S. Missionaries (Orbis Books, 1988), which earned a Christopher Award.