Dr. Martens, thank you for your interesting interview. In regard to your response to the first question: “How did you get into canon law?” and your reference to Archbishop Oscar Romero’s assassination, you said that to this day you don’t know the answer to your childhood question as to “what happened then to Mass.” Perhaps this will help.

A few years ago I celebrated Holy Mass at the altar in the hospital chapel at which Archbishop Romero was assassinated. The Maryknoll priest who was our guide told our group that the assassin fired one fatal shot at Archbishop Romero as he moved the few feet from the lectern at which he had just finished his homily to the altar. The archbishop had not gotten to the offertory or the Eucharistic part of the liturgy. A popular movie about the archbishop had him shot while raising the chalice of the Lord’s blood, so that his blood mixed with Christ’s. That obviously did not happen. The assassination took place at the conclusion of the Liturgy of the Word, and the archbishop’s Mass ended there.

I am so pleased that you are at CUA, my alma mater, and also that you showed an early interest in Archbishop Romero. I pray every day for his recognition by the Church. He was a martyr for the poor.

Sincerely in Christ,
Most Rev. Frank J. Rodimer, J.C.D. 1954
Bishop Emeritus of Paterson

— Kurt Martens, associate professor of canon law, was featured on page 9 of the Spring 2014 issue of the magazine.

“Sophia [Maria] Aguirre, chair of [The Catholic University of America’s Integral Economic Development Management Program, advocated ‘placing the family at the center’ of development solutions. …

Aguirre said ensuring ‘household food access, good health and hygiene conditions, as well as good care and health practices for infants and pregnant mothers’ safeguards the ability of future generations to work toward their own development.”

— Aguirre, professor of economics, was quoted in an April 1 Catholic News Agency article on the congressional hearing “The First One Thousand Days: Development Aid Programs to Bolster Health and Nutrition.” The House of Representatives’ global health subcommittee hosted the March 25 hearing at which Aguirre testified.

“This [pope] was the most fully alive person I’ve ever met in my life. He just blew me away. He was about as alive and vibrant and joyful as you can get. I was this secular kid, but he impressed me so much that I thought ‘whatever this guy has, I want.’ That was my experience with him. It turned out what he had was his faith. I started to have exchanges with him, and also listened to him, which eventually led me to have my own experience of God and finding my faith.”

— Andreas Widmer, director of entrepreneurship in the School of Business and Economics, was interviewed by The Washington Post April 25 before traveling to Rome for the canonization of Pope John Paul II. Widmer was a member of the Swiss Guard during John Paul II’s pontificate.

To share your CUA-related selfie, follow The Catholic University of America Magazine on Twitter @CUAMagazine or Facebook at facebook.com/CUAMagazine. Or email us at cua-magazine@cua.edu to let us know what you think of this issue.