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***THE FREEDOM AND MISSION OF THE CHURCH  
JOHN PAUL II AND ARCHBISHOP OSCAR ROMERO***

***S u m m a r y***

The article shows that freedom of the Church was one of the fundamental values to defend in the communist countries in East-Central Europe and in Latin America as well. In spite of different political circumstances it was the same task and challenge to undertake for the Catholic Church. A comparison between John Paul II and Archbishop O. Romero from San Salvador is eloquent because of the situation of the Church in their home countries. Their controversial meeting held in the Vatican (May 7th, 1979), has been discussed in the study. It has been established that the version by María López Vigil, who was an advocate of the extreme views of theology of liberation, is not compatible with the testimony left in O. Romero's writings. The true consensus between the Pope and the Archbishop was put into evidence. They understood well that freedom of the Church is very important to fulfill her mission in the world and for creating a democratic society.