

March is Women's History Month

*Dorothy Stang, SND: A Modern Day Martyr*

Dorothy Stang was a Sister of Notre Dame de Namur who grew up in Ohio, and entered religious life hoping to serve the poor in China. Instead she was sent to Brazil, where she worked from 1966 until her assassination in 2005.

In Brazil, Sr. Dorothy worked with poor farmers who were pitted against powerful forces -- loggers, ranchers and agribusinesses -- who were clearing more and more land, displacing farmers and destroying the Amazon rain forest for their own financial gain.

As an outspoken advocate for small farmers and for the preservation of the rain forest, Sr. Dorothy earned the wrath of some of Brazil's wealthy landowners. Other people who had educated and empowered farmers had already been killed. She must have known she was on the list.

On February 12, 2005, two hired gunmen approached her on a dirt road in Para, Brazil. She took out her bible and was reading the beatitudes aloud when she was shot and killed.

Sr. Dorothy's community continues to work with the people of Brazil. You can learn more about their work and about her life at: <http://www.sndohio.org>