

Archbishop Romero Trust

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Second Annual Report - Year Ending April 2006

On 17th June 2005 the Archbishop Romero Trust (also known as the Romero Trust) was registered as a charity with the number 1110069. It is governed by a Trust Deed executed on 6th September 2004 amended by a deed of variation dated 9th June 2005. The purposes of the Trust are: a) to advance the education of the public in the life and works of Oscar Romero, the martyred Archbishop of San Salvador, and his principles of human rights, social justice and the relief of poverty; b) to advance religion by promoting liturgical celebrations including commemorations of the life of Oscar Romero and prayer for the cause of his beatification and canonization; and c) the relief of poverty and the promotion of human rights and social justice (as set out in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and subsequent United Nations Conventions and Declarations and in "Gaudium et Spes", the Pastoral Constitution on the Church in the Modern World of the Second Vatican Council) in Latin America in memory of Oscar Romero.

The five trustees are Mr Julian Filochowski (Chair), Ms Clare Dixon (Secretary), Sister Pamela Hussey SHCJ (Treasurer), Rt. Rev. Michael Evans, Bishop of East Anglia, and Rev. Frank Turner SJ. The trustees met on 6th June and 4th October 2005. Mr Stephen Lloyd was appointed as Honorary Accountant to the Trust. The bankers for the Trust are the Cooperative Bank plc.

Because of the unusually early timing of Easter in 2005 the celebrations for the 25th anniversary of Archbishop Romero's assassination took place in April 2005. Three trustees were present in San Salvador to attend the jubilee events and to set up partnerships for the Trust with the Archdiocesan Office of Canonisation, the Centro Monseñor Romero at the UCA, the Romero Foundation, the Archdiocesan Legal Aid Office (Tutela Legal), and the Carmelite Sisters at the 'Hospitalito' where Archbishop Romero had lived and the site of his martyrdom.

In December 2005, in cooperation with other church bodies, the Archbishop Romero Trust organised a memorial liturgy at St Aloysius Church, London NW1 to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the killing of the four US church women in El Salvador.

During the course of the year the Chair of the Trust delivered the Howard Lecture in Brighton on 'The Option for the Poor - the Life and Death of Oscar Romero' and individual trustees spoke at a range of events and liturgies organised to mark and celebrate Oscar Romero and the martyrs of El Salvador. CAFOD made available to the Trust copies of prayer cards and various special materials they had published for the anniversary year. The Trust in turn provided advice and support for many diverse occasions organised by local Justice and Peace Groups.

In March 2006 the Trust organised a special visit to San Salvador for the British Provincial and two other Carmelite Friars for the celebration of the 26th anniversary of Archbishop Romero's martyrdom. This led to a special bond of commitment linking the British Carmelites & the Carmelite Sisters at the Hospitalito through the Archbishop Romero Trust.

The Trust searched for a Conservator who might be able to advise the Carmelite Sisters about the sustainable preservation of the relics and belongings of Archbishop Romero that were in their care and which they wanted to be visible and available for the benefit of the multitude of pilgrim visitors who stream to the Hospitalito every month. Mrs Jan Graffius, the Curator at Stonyhurst College in Lancashire, was identified and agreed to become the Trust's advisor and collaborator.

The Trust maintained close contact during 2005 with the Promoter of Oscar Romero's Cause, Msgr Vincenzo Paglia, and provided various materials that might assist the beatification process in Rome.

The Trust had no salaried staff members and relied on the voluntary work of its Trustees and other benefactors. Whilst £3,968.92 was brought forward from 2004/05, for the year ending April 2006 the receipts of the Trust totalled £8,761.19 and the payments £1,808.67 and £10,921.44 was carried forward to 2006/07. The relevant accounts were lodged with the Charity Commission.

Julian Filochowski
Chair, Archbishop Romero Trust.

June 2006