

Archbishop Romero Trust

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Third Annual Report - Year Ending April 2007

The Archbishop Romero Trust - also known as the Romero Trust - is a registered charity (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 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. Rev. Tony Lester O.Carm was invited to become a sixth Trustee following his 2006 visit to San Salvador. The trustees met on 4th July 2006 and 11th January 2007.

During the course of the year Cardinal Keith O'Brien, Archbishop of St Andrews and Edinburgh, Cardinal Cormac Murphy O'Connor, Archbishop of Westminster, and Archbishop Diarmuid Martin of Dublin agreed to become Patrons of the Trust alongside the Archbishops of Canterbury and York, Rowan Williams and John Sentamu. The Trust continued to maintain close contact during 2006 with the Promoter of Oscar Romero's Cause, Msgr Vincenzo Paglia, Bishop of Terni.

On 11 January 2007, at Vaughan House, Westminster, the Trust was able to welcome two of its Patrons, Cardinal Murphy O'Connor and Archbishop

Sentamu, who joined the Trustees for a special double event with the public presentation of the Trust together with the launch of the British publication of 'Through the Year with Oscar Romero' (by the publisher Darton Longman Todd) a book of beautiful extracts from Archbishop Romero's homilies.

A special colour brochure setting out the work of the Trust was produced to coincide with the public launch. Several thousand copies were distributed through various Christian organisations and Catholic dioceses. It included an invitation to become a 'Friend of Romero'. The Friends of Romero is a network of solidarity set up and serviced by the Trust as a means to keep interested individuals abreast of Romero events and news and a mechanism for them to become involved in the charitable work of the Trust. By the end of the year over 200 'Friends' had enrolled and donated to the Trust.

On March 24th 2007, to mark the 27th anniversary of Romero's martyrdom, the Trust organised a special liturgy at the Church of the Assumption and St Gregory, London W1. A packed congregation took part in the Service and Ms Pat Jones gave the address. There were also liturgies and events in Liverpool, Norwich, Edinburgh and Shrewsbury.

The Trust set up a website www.romerotrust.org.uk to carry news on the work of the Trust and resources on Archbishop Romero and the Central American martyrs. This complements the Trust's email address which has been widely publicised romerotrust@btinternet.com. The texts of homilies on Romero, reports of Trust projects and details of forthcoming events were put up on the website.

The Trust had no salaried staff members and relied on the voluntary work of its Trustees and other benefactors. Mr Stephen Lloyd is the Honorary Accountant to the Trust. The bankers for the Trust are the Cooperative Bank plc. Whilst £10,921.44 was brought forward from 2005/06, for the year ending April 2007 the receipts of the Trust totalled £4,745.68 and the payments £2,217.73 and £13,449.39 was carried forward into 2007/08 when the first grant applications from Central America will be considered. The relevant accounts were lodged with the Charity Commission.

Julian Filochowski
Chair, Archbishop Romero Trust

June 2007