

Archbishop Romero Trust

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Fourth Annual Report - Year Ending April 2008

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, Ms Clare Dixon, Sister Pamela Hussey SHCJ, Rt. Rev. Michael Evans, Bishop of East Anglia, Rev. Frank Turner SJ and Rev. Tony Lester O.Carm. During the year Julian Filochowski and Clare Dixon began their second terms as respectively Chair and Secretary of the Trust. Stephen Lloyd was elected as the new Treasurer. The trustees met on 22nd May, 27th September and 14th December 2007 and 4th February 2008.

The Trust secured the additional web address www.romerotrust.org which has been made a direct link to the Trust's original website at www.romerotrust.org.uk. The latter received a high number of visitors during 2007.

In May 2007 the first Archbishop Romero Memorial Lecture sponsored and organised by the Trust was given by Msgr Ricardo Urioste, who had been Archbishop Romero's Secretary and Vicar General. He delivered his

presentation 'Archbishop Romero - A Saint for the 21st Century' to large audiences in Westminster Cathedral Hall, at the Jesuits' Lauriston Centre in Edinburgh with Cardinal Keith O'Brien in attendance, at Aylesford Priory in Kent and at Roehampton University. He also preached in Norwich and Edinburgh Cathedrals on Archbishop Romero's life and spirituality. He was received at Lambeth Palace by Archbishop Rowan Williams and by Cardinal Cormac Murphy O'Connor at Westminster Cathedral. Msgr Urioste's visit was made possible with the financial assistance of the British Province of the Carmelite Friars.

At the end of September 2007 the Trust's Conservation Project got underway when Jan Graffius and the Chair of the Trust made an eight day visit to San Salvador with financial assistance from the Jesuit Social Justice Fund. The purpose of the journey was to offer advice and provide the technical assistance that had been requested by the Carmelite Sisters at the Hospitalito who are the guardians of the relics and belongings of Archbishop Romero; at the same time a visit was made to the Jesuits at the Centro Monseñor Romero at the UCA where there is a gallery of the belongings of the Jesuit Martyrs. An intensive work schedule saw everything at the Hospitalito examined, catalogued and cleaned and emergency conservation measures were taken on those relics which were in danger. A simple schedule to ensure their care and preservation was drawn up and a comprehensive report prepared and translated into Spanish. A separate report on the state of the gallery at the University with major recommendations for a radical overhaul was prepared and submitted to the Jesuits for their consideration.

In October 2007 Sarah Smith Pearse was appointed editor of the Trust's newsletter and she produced a first edition of 'Romero News' for the 'Friends of Romero' at the end of December. With colour photographs and news and stories on Archbishop Romero and his legacy it was warmly received after it was sent out both electronically and by post to the Trust's growing network of well-wishers and benefactors.

On March 24th 2008, to mark the 28th anniversary of Romero's martyrdom, the Trust organised a special ecumenical service hosted by St. Martin in the Fields Church in Trafalgar Square, London. A packed congregation took part in the Service at which the Rev Richard Carter officiated and Rev Tony Lester O.Carm gave the address. The service was co-sponsored by CAFOD, Christian Aid, Pax Christi, Progressio, Westminster Archdiocesan Justice and Peace and the Anglican diocese of

London. There were also liturgies and events in Liverpool, Edinburgh, Lancaster and Shrewsbury and elsewhere to mark the anniversary.

The Trust had no salaried staff members and relied on the voluntary work of its Trustees and other benefactors. The bankers for the Trust are the Cooperative Bank plc. Whilst £13,449.39 was brought forward from 2006/07, for the year ending April 2008 the income of the Trust totalled £9,913.99 and the expenditures came to £6,558.39 and a further £3,355.60 was carried forward into 2007/08 when the postponed grant disbursements for Central America will be made. The relevant accounts were lodged with the Charity Commission.

Julian Filochowski
Chair
Archbishop Romero Trust

June 2008