

Archbishop Romero Trust

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Sixth Annual Report - Year Ending April 2010

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 canonisation; 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, Rt. Rev. Michael Evans, Bishop of East Anglia, Rev. Frank Turner SJ and Rev. Tony Lester O.Carm. Mr Stephen Lloyd is the Trust's Honorary Treasurer. The trustees met on 23rd April, 20th July and 24th November 2009 and 12th March 2010. Throughout the year the Cardinal Hume Centre generously offered hospitality for these Trust meetings.

The Trust's website at www.romerotrust.org.uk was completely redesigned over the last 12 months with a much wider range of materials relating to Archbishop Romero now clearly signposted and easily accessible. Fr Michael Campbell-Johnston assisted the Trust in the critical task of preparing and assembling consistent English translations of the (almost two hundred) homilies of Archbishop Romero. Thanks to the generous collaboration of a former Vincentian missionary priest, who had embarked upon the daunting translation project some years

previously, the completion of this project, with the downloadable English translation of each sermon on the website alongside the original audio recording, has been scheduled for August 2010.

The present phase of the Trust's conservation project reached its conclusion with a final visit to San Salvador by Jan Graffius, Conservator at Stonyhurst College, in November 2009 for the inauguration of the refurbished 'Sala de Los Martires' at the Centro Monseñor Romero at the UCA - to coincide with the celebrations for the 20th anniversary of the Jesuit martyrs of El Salvador.

During the year, with the assistance of the Carmelite Fathers in Britain, the Trust once again made a grant of US\$5000 to assist the Divine Providence cancer hospital where Archbishop Romero had lived and to which he was dedicated. Additionally the Trust agreed to make a small grant of £3000 to enable Fr Robert Pelton from Notre Dame University and the film producer Ana Carrigan to complete a biographical film on Archbishop Romero in time for 2010's major commemoration of his assassination. The film was premiered both in San Salvador and in the University of Notre Dame during the octave of the anniversary.

To mark the 30th anniversary of Archbishop Romero's martyrdom in Britain, the Trust encouraged dioceses to organise local liturgical celebrations and other events to mark this major milestone. The Trust made available prayer cards, liturgical notes and literature to assist in the preparation of masses, ecumenical services and Romero evenings which were celebrated in Cathedrals and Parishes across England, Wales and Scotland.

The Trust itself co-organised two major ecumenical services. The first was in York Minster on Saturday 20th March 2010 at which a Trust Patron, Cardinal Keith O'Brien, presided and another Trust Patron, Archbishop John Sentamu, preached. A week later at a packed service in Westminster Abbey, the Trust Patron, Archbishop Rowan Williams, preached with a second Trust Patron, Cardinal Cormac Murphy O' Connor standing alongside; the Chair of the Trust placed a wreath of flowers under the statue of Archbishop Romero at the Abbey's West Door.

The Trust provided information, guidance and interviews to journalists in Britain and overseas who were preparing feature articles, book reviews and special radio and television programmes for the anniversary.

The Trust received many expressions of interest in the idea of a pilgrimage to El Salvador to see the 'holy places' of this 'land of martyrs' during Romero's 30th anniversary year. In consequence the Trust decided to investigate the possibility of such a visit. Experienced pilgrimage organisers in Britain and possible collaborators in El Salvador were consulted. The economics and logistics of a ten day trip indicated that it was entirely feasible and a plan was drawn up for a thirty person pilgrimage in November 2010, organised in conjunction with Anthony Coles and Millennium Tours. The pilgrimage was subsequently advertised through Romero News and the various networks which support the Trust.

Liam Bauress and George Daly, who in the 1980s wrote and produced a musical about Archbishop Romero in the style of 'Chess' and 'Evita', worked with the Trust and with CAFOD during 2009. The project was to set up a website through which the libretto, orchestration and guide tracks of 'Romero the Musical' could be downloaded to enable schools and community drama groups to produce the musical themselves. 'Click Productions' agreed to put on a London Premiere in September 2009 to coincide with the launch of the website. The Trust worked closely with the producer and the single-performance London show sold out.

The fourth and fifth issues of Romero News, edited by Sarah Smith-Pearse, were produced and distributed to some four hundred 'Friends of Romero' in July 2009 and February 2010.

The Trust has 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. For the year ending April 2010 the income of the Trust totalled £6,683.52, with expenditure of £8,527.58. £12,697.28 was carried forward to 2010/11 which included monies earmarked for the Divine Providence cancer hospital project. The relevant accounts were lodged with the Charity Commission.

Julian Filochowski
Chair
Archbishop Romero Trust

June 2010