

# Archbishop Romero Trust

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## Seventh Annual Report - Year Ending April 2011

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 6<sup>th</sup> September 2004 amended by a deed of variation dated 9<sup>th</sup> 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 - re-appointed September 2010), Ms Clare Dixon (Secretary - re-appointed September 2010), Sister Pamela Hussey SHCJ (resigned December 2010), Rt. Rev. Michael Evans, Bishop of East Anglia, Rev. Frank Turner SJ, Rev. Tony Lester O.Carm. and Rev Richard Carter (appointed September 2010). Mr Stephen Lloyd, the Trust's Honorary Treasurer, was also re-elected until September 2013. Madge Rondo took over as the Trust's Honorary Membership Secretary and Derek Butler designed and set up a customised data-base for the Trust to which all records have been transferred. The Trust has no offices of its own but the registered address is 8 Dean's Mews, London W1G 9EE.

The trustees met on 3<sup>rd</sup> June, 16<sup>th</sup> September and 14<sup>th</sup> December 2010 and 1<sup>st</sup> March 2011 to approve budgets and project grants and to oversee the Trust's annual programme of activities. The Cardinal Hume Centre and CAFOD generously offered hospitality for these Trust meetings.

In January 2011 Sister Pamela Hussey SHCJ, who had been a founding Trustee, was appointed to be the sixth Patron of the Trust alongside Archbishop Diarmuid Martin, Cardinal Cormac Murphy O'Connor, Cardinal Keith O'Brien, Archbishop John Sentamu and Archbishop Rowan Williams.

During the course of the year the downloadable English translations of all Archbishop Romero's homilies were posted in pdf format on the Trust's website at [www.romerotrust.org.uk](http://www.romerotrust.org.uk). As word has spread of this unique English language resource there has been a huge increase in the monthly number of visitors to the website. Fr Michael Campbell Johnston SJ assisted the Trust in the critical task of preparing and assembling consistent English translations of the (almost two hundred) homilies. He was able to utilise the earlier painstaking work of a US based Vincentian priest who had spent many years as a missionary in Central America. The more difficult and time-consuming task of uploading all the available original audio recordings of Archbishop Romero delivering the homilies got underway towards the end of the year. It is hoped that this will be completed during 2011-12.

Southwark's archbishop, Peter Smith, on the advice and recommendation of the Dean of St George's Cathedral, agreed to accept the blood-stained fragment of Archbishop Romero's alb together with his zucchetto to be put on permanent display in a reliquary in the Cathedral. A proposal for the commissioning of a special reliquary, included within a large three-dimensional painted Salvadoran Cross, was accepted and approved in principle by the relevant authorising bodies. Fernando Llort, the distinguished Salvadoran artist, was then approached to design the Cross which would stand in a space between the St Joseph and St Patrick chapels of the Cathedral.

The cost of the commission, the carriage and installation of the Cross together with the associated and necessary refurbishment to the Cathedral was estimated at some £25,000. CAFOD pledged a major contribution of £10,000 which was bound up with their historic ties with Archbishop Romero and the people of El Salvador going back many years and their close links to the Cathedral, with their head office, Romero House, located adjacent to the Cathedral. The Trust agreed to fundraise as necessary to find the balance of funds and created a designated fund for this 'Southwark space' project. Similar fragments of the alb will be displayed in Edinburgh's Cathedral and at Stonyhurst College in Lancashire.

With the assistance of the Carmelite Friars 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 whose work he was utterly dedicated. Additionally the Trust made small grants of US\$500 each to the Romero Committee in Ciudad Barrios, Archbishop Romero's birthplace, and to the Martyrs' Committee of San Juan Nonualco parish where Fr Cosme Spesotto OFM was killed in June 1980. These were to assist the Committees to finance special events organised for the 30th anniversary year. A number of earmarked donations for the Fé y Alegría school in the poorest sector of San Salvador were paid out as a grant payment. A further grant of US\$1000 was also made to the Canonisation Office of the Archdiocese of San Salvador to enable it to continue to operate and maintain the website with its special record of Archbishop Romero's life and martyrdom.

On successive evenings in July 2010 the annual Archbishop Romero Lecture was given by Fr Thomas Greenan and warmly received by audiences in Edinburgh, Glasgow, Leeds, Liverpool and London. Fr Greenan is a priest of the diocese of St Andrews and Edinburgh but has worked for many years in Central America. He spoke movingly about Archbishop Romero's ministry under the title 'Remembering Romero'. SCIAF made a grant to the Trust towards the costs of Fr Greenan's lecture tour.

The 2011 Lecture was combined with the Romero anniversary celebrations in March. Fr Juan Hernandez Pico SJ was the guest of the Trust and delivered a memorable lecture to packed venues in Edinburgh, Newcastle, Salford and also in London where his address formed part of the national ecumenical service in St Martin-in-the-Fields. His theme was 'Romero and the Social Gospel: the Challenge for Us Today'. The Jesuit Fund for Social Justice contributed £2000 towards the cost of the 2011 lecture. The texts of both the 2010 and 2011 lectures have been placed on the Trust's website alongside the lectures from previous years.

Six months after the 2010 ecumenical service in Westminster Abbey to mark the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Archbishop Romero's assassination, Pope Benedict XVI was welcomed to a Service of Evening Prayer in the Abbey by the Dean, Very Rev John Hall. Having himself hosted that Romero Service and having overseen the laying of the wreath below Archbishop Romero's statue, the Dean fulfilled his promise to draw the attention of

the Pope, as he entered the Abbey, to the Romero statue over the West Door, at the very centre of the gallery of martyrs of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

In 2011, as in previous years, the Trust encouraged dioceses to organise local liturgical celebrations and other events to mark the anniversary of Archbishop Romero's martyrdom. 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.

Perhaps the most interesting and arguably the most audacious event of the year was the pilgrimage to El Salvador organised by the Trust in conjunction with Anthony Coles and Millennium Tours and led by Clare Dixon and Julian Filochowski. Thirty people travelled to visit the 'holy places' of this 'land of martyrs' on a ten day pilgrimage in November 2010 that coincided with the 21<sup>st</sup> anniversary of the killing of the six Jesuits and their co-workers in the UCA university. Besides the place of Archbishop Romero's martyrdom, the house he lived in, his birthplace and the Cathedral where he delivered his famous homilies, the group visited the site of the El Mozote massacre of peasants in Morazán, the places where the horrific killings took place of Fr Rutilio Grande SJ, Fr Cosme Spesotto OFM, the Maryknoll and Ursuline Sisters from the US, and the six Jesuits and their housekeeper and her daughter. It was a moving and prayerful pilgrimage and the itinerary included visits to social projects in the slums of San Salvador and to the CAFOD programme in Puentecitos in the countryside far from the capital.

The 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the killings of the four American women missionaries was marked in London by a special Mass at Warwick Street Church in London. Michael Campbell Johnston SJ presided and Ms Therese Osborne, who had worked closely with the four in the 1970s, flew from Dublin as the guest of the Trust to deliver the address. It was subsequently posted on the Trust website.

The sixth, seventh and eighth issues of Romero News, the Trust's principal organ of communication, edited by Sarah Smith-Pearse, were produced and distributed to some five hundred 'Friends of Romero' in May and December 2010 and February 2011.

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 2011 the income of the Trust totalled £23,050.25, with expenditure of £15,981.24. £7,069.01 was carried forward to 2011/12 which included monies earmarked for the Divine Providence cancer hospital project and for the 'Southwark space'. The Trust has no reserves policy and has established no reserve funds. The relevant financial information was lodged with the Charity Commission.

Julian Filochowski  
Chair  
Archbishop Romero Trust

June 2011