

Archbishop Romero Trust

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First Annual Report - Year Ending April 2005

Mr Julian Filochowski, Ms Clare Dixon, Sister Pamela Hussey SHCJ, Rt. Rev. Michael Evans, Bishop of East Anglia and Rev. Frank Turner SJ came together in 2004 to establish an association under the name of 'The Archbishop Romero Trust'. These five founding members formed the Board of Management and met three times during the course of the year on 17th August & 5th October 2004 and 10th January 2005. Julian Filochowski was elected as Chair, Clare Dixon as Secretary and Pamela Hussey as Treasurer - each for a three year term. A Community Direct Plus bank account was opened at the Cooperative Bank plc with a start-up grant of £1000 from the Society of Jesus.

The objects of the association were quickly drawn up and registration was sought with the Charity Commission on 6th September 2004. The wording of the objects was set down as follows:

1. 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;
2. to advance religion by promoting the celebration liturgically of the life of Oscar Romero and the cause for his beatification and canonization; and
3. the relief of poverty and the promotion of human rights and social justice in Latin America in memory of Oscar Romero.

Since March 24th 2005 marked the 25th anniversary of Oscar Romero's assassination, the association contacted Catholic and Anglican Church leaders and Christian justice and peace organisations in Britain to offer advice and assistance for liturgical celebrations of the jubilee of Archbishop Romero's martyrdom and to promote other events linked to the anniversary. At the same time modest financial support from a number of Catholic dioceses in England and Wales was sought and received for the ongoing work of the Archbishop Romero Trust.

The Archbishop Romero Trust was approached by the Carmelite Sisters who run the cancer hospital in San Salvador, where Archbishop Romero had lived, for help in the renovation of his little house which had become a place of pilgrimage every year for thousands of local people and also many international visitors. The Archbishop Romero Trust secured funds from the British Province of the Carmelite Friars and others for a project to install air-conditioning, and window blinds and to repair the roof and redecorate the inside of Romero's home which had had very little work at all done on it over

the 25 years since his death. This was completed in time for the special week of Romero celebrations arranged in San Salvador for the jubilee. The association also arranged with the Office of Canonisation of the Archdiocese of San Salvador to print an exhibition pack of extraordinary photographs taken in the Chapel of the cancer hospital in the immediate aftermath of Archbishop Romero's shooting at the altar there. These were distributed widely to primary and secondary schools and parishes throughout El Salvador with finance arranged through the Archbishop Romero Trust.

The association made formal contact with the Promoter of the Cause for the Beatification of Oscar Romero, Msgr Vincenzo Paglia, Bishop of Terni, in Italy and agreed to cooperate in whatever way would assist him and the Cause in Rome.

The association had no salaried staff members and relied on the voluntary work of members of the Board and other benefactors. The receipts of the association totalled £7,995.00 and the payments £3,968.00 for the year ending April 2005.

Julian Filochowski
Chair
Archbishop Romero Trust

June 2005