

Archbishop Romero Trust

8 Dean's Mews, London W1G 9EE

romerotrust@btinternet.com

Ninth Trustees' Annual Report - Year Ending April 2013

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), Rev. Frank Turner SJ, Rev. Tony Lester O.Carm., Rev Richard Carter, Ms Judith Rees (deceased October 2012), Ms Jan Graffius, Mr David Skidmore (from October 2012), and Rt. Rev. John Rawsthorne. Mr Stephen Lloyd is the Trust's Honorary Treasurer, Ms Madge Rondo is the Trust's Honorary Membership Secretary and Ms Sarah Smith-Pearse is the editor of 'Romero News', the Trust's twice-yearly newsletter.

The Trust is honoured to have Sister Pamela Hussey SHCJ, Archbishop Diarmuid Martin, Cardinal Keith O'Brien, Cardinal Cormac Murphy O'Connor, Archbishop John Sentamu, and Archbishop Rowan Williams as its Patrons. The Trust has no offices of its own but the registered address is 8 Dean's Mews, London W1G 9EE.

The trustees met on 19th July, 22nd October 2012 and 18th February 2013 to approve budgets and project grants and to oversee the Trust's annual programme of activities. CAFOD generously provided hospitality for these Trust meetings. In making decisions and exercising their powers

the trustees have had due regard to the Charity Commission's public benefit guidance.

During the year there was intense activity surrounding the proposed Romero Space with its Romero Cross in St George's Cathedral, Southwark, including meetings with Fernando Llort, the artist, in his studio in San Salvador. Drawings for the faces of the three-dimensional Cross, under the title Cruz Inglaterra, were dispatched to Jonathan Louth, the Cathedral architect in London. The designs, with minor modifications, were agreed by the trustees following approval from the Historic Churches Committee, the Cathedral authorities and the various heritage and architecture advisors. Target installation dates were set for mid-year 2013. With a budget in excess of £30,000 for the design, execution, transportation and installation of the Cross together with the preparation of the Cathedral chapel area designated for the Cross, plans for fundraising were put in place. This has been an important project in the Trust's portfolio of activities and the trustees and their collaborators consider the establishment of the Romero Space is a major contribution to the public good.

During the course of the year the original cassette tapes with the recordings of Archbishop Romero dictating his diary, published in Spanish in 1990 and subsequently in English under the title 'A Shepherd's Diary', came to light. The Trust secured a small grant from the Archbishop of Canterbury's Charitable Trust to digitise the recordings in order to upload them onto our website. The quality of the recordings was very variable and furthermore some of the cassette tapes had become degraded over the intervening 25 years. Advice and generous assistance was offered by City University's Allen Hirson, to upgrade and standardise the recordings. At the same time the full Spanish and English texts of the diary were placed on the website alongside the recordings - having obtained permission from the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, which holds the copyright on the English translation. The Trust is pleased to make this unique resource freely accessible to any visitor to the Trust's website. It will be an asset not only to pastoral workers and schoolteachers but to all who study and research the life and ministry of Archbishop Romero; it contributes directly to the Trust's charitable objectives.

With the assistance of the Carmelite Friars in Britain, the Trust once again made a grant (US\$6000) to assist the Divine Providence cancer hospital where Archbishop Romero had lived and to whose work he was

utterly dedicated. Additionally the Trust made a small grant of £621 to the Fé y Alegria school in La Chacra, one of the poorest sectors of San Salvador, and US\$1000 was sent once more to the Canonisation Office of the Archdiocese of San Salvador to enable it to continue to operate and maintain the website with its important record of Archbishop Romero's life and martyrdom. All these contributed directly to the public good.

As the year progressed, the Trust's promotional activities and publicity once again emphasised 'Romero Week' (16-24 March 2013) as the umbrella under which the different local, national, diocesan and ecumenical events could be seen as a single celebration of Archbishop Romero's life and martyrdom. Marie Dennis, US-based Co-President of Pax Christi International, was the invited guest of the Trust. She spoke at meetings in Nottingham, Birmingham, Coventry, Wrexham and Oxford and gave the address at the national ecumenical service at St Martin-in-the-Fields in London. She preached a powerful sermon entitled 'Romero: A Prophet of Peace for Our Times'. These events were directly in furtherance of the Trust's charitable objectives and happily received wide publicity.

The Trust has worked throughout the year with Convivium Press to get underway the publication in English of the complete six volumes of the 193 homilies Romero gave as archbishop. The six volume set will be dedicated to the memory of the late Dean Brackley SJ who gave enormous encouragement to the Trust to pursue this challenging project. US Jesuit Joe Owens has taken on the responsibility for producing a consistent and faithful translation and Tom and Doris Strieter have accepted the task of copy editing the volumes. The publication will require financial subsidy as it is not commercially viable and the Trust has already designated surplus funds from the book-selling operation for this 'Homilies Project' - which the Trust expects to be an important resource for pastoral work and educational studies.

The 2012 Archbishop Romero Memorial Lecture was given by one of the trustees, Ms Jan Graffius, Curator at Stonyhurst College. With the title 'Blood and Sweat: the Witness of Romero's Relics' she delivered the lecture in Edinburgh, York and London to great acclaim.

The Trust has no salaried staff members and relies 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 2013 total income came to £21,818.93. Leaving aside restricted income earmarked for the Homilies Project and other specific programmes, the unrestricted income of the Trust totalled £9,778.82. This was matched by expenditure of

£6,236.67 giving a surplus for the year in unrestricted funds of £3,542.15 to be carried forward to 2013/14.

The balance sheet shows an apparently healthy figure for total funds held of £33,900.83 but a good deal of this is restricted, and designated for the Southwark Cathedral project, the Homilies Project and for the Divine Providence cancer hospital. As the Southwark Cathedral Project comes to fruition in the coming year it is anticipated that it will be necessary to draw on the accumulated unrestricted funds held. At the present time the Trust has no written reserves policy and has established no specific reserve funds from general funds besides those consisting of restricted monies received. The relevant financial information was lodged with the Charity Commission.

Julian Filochowski
Chair, Archbishop Romero Trust

May 2013