

# FAITH IN THE FUTURE

Progress Report 2015



## **FAITH IN THE FUTURE**

## A special message from the Most Reverend Peter Smith LLB, JCD, KC\*HS,

Archbishop of Southwark and Vice President of the Catholic Bishops' Conference

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

It is my pleasure to report on another encouraging year for our Faith in the Future Campaign. We have met our key fundraising targets and continued to extend our support to more sponsored projects than ever before, even helping to address global issues, such as migration and modern slavery. I do hope you will gain a useful insight in the challenges we have faced and the positive impact your loyal commitment has made.

Giving at any level is received with genuine gratitude; and we would like to particularly acknowledge our regular donors, in recognition of their annual investment in the work of the Catholic Bishops' Conference. I also extend a very warm welcome to all our new supporters and look forward to seeing our CBCEW donor badge on display at future events!

My hope is that you will be heartened by reading this Progress Report and please share its contents with your peer group, family and friends. It sets forth a multitude of compelling reasons to support the work of the Catholic Bishops' Conference, as it strives for professional excellence on one level, while remaining true to the task of proclaiming the Gospel and promoting what is best for society throughout England and Wales.

As Catholics we should all be attentive to the Pope's message of Mercy throughout his pontificate and the current Extraordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy serves as a very good reminder. Pope Francis has captured the attention of a world longing for an authentic message of hope and his words of love, mercy, and compassion will draw people closer to Christ. Wherever possible our current campaign is underscored by these timeless qualities and they should endure in key aspects of our future work.

Building on the continued success of our fundraising efforts that began in 2006, I am delighted to confirm that we will launch a new Bishops' Project Development Programme in 2017. More information on our revised package of projects will be published soon.

And finally on behalf of all the Bishops and the staff team based here at Eccleston Square, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to you, our valued donor community, for the many benefits and achievements we experienced in 2015. Your contribution made this possible.



# **I**NTRODUCTION

Please enjoy reading our Donor Progress Report for 2015\*, including a welcome endorsement from our fundraising sponsor, the Most Reverend Peter Smith. This report gives a broad summary of the assistance provided to CBCEW and features our major projects funded in part through philanthropy. Throughout our report, you will find a snapshot of the work we do, and the success of our various ministries.

Through its offices, agencies and projects the Catholic Bishops' Conference seeks to uphold the dignity of each person, as made in the image of God. Particular attention is therefore paid to representing the interests of the poor, the dispossessed and the stranger – for instance through our public affairs team advising Catholic legislators on welfare benefit reform and the hugely topical migration policy work. We also collaborate with dioceses and non-Catholic partners to build a compassionate and just society, with CSAN (Catholic Social Action Network) being the main organ for this advocacy work on the domestic front.

Our six internal departments cover all aspects of Catholic life and we help to sustain their impact, through the Faith in the Future Campaign and project programme. As diverse as these responsibilities are, they are united by a vision of sharing the joy and wisdom of the Gospel message and its enduring relevance for today's world. By revealing and elevating the Catholic contribution made to public life in England and Wales, our campaign demonstrates how much is done to serve the common good.

\*Our Donor Progress Report for 2015 can also be downloaded from the CBCEW website.

# OVERVIEW OF FUNDRAISING IN 2015

The total fundraising income obtained in 2015 was £473,599 which was either unrestricted or given specifically to a project within the campaign. The overall aim for the fundraising function is to register annual increases in restricted and unrestricted voluntary income beyond our traditional forms of support. Over the last 12 months the fundraising function has continued to focus on four main income streams:

- major gifts from high net worth individuals;
- awards from charitable trusts;
- corporate and individual sponsorship of the events programme and other social engagements; and
- securing legacies and obtaining new commitments.

During 2015 we saw a further diversification of the donor base with the number of individual gifts received being 81 compared to 63 in 2014. This is hugely significant in terms of moving away from an over-reliance on a small group of loyal supporters.

With increasing pressure on traditional income streams, more and more charities have shifted their focus to major gift fundraising, as an emerging area of opportunity. But while the number of potential donors' increases and 'philanthropy' becomes a better understood concept, major gifts fundraising remains a very challenging area. Despite this CBCEW has maintained a strong presence in this area for over a decade now.

Charitable trusts and other grant providers e.g. other Catholic charities, remain a key interest. In 2015 there has been a modest level of success in this area and new application opportunities will be investigated to increase income in this area. This is a highly competitive aspect of fundraising.

With a predicted increase in legacy giving across the board, charities cannot afford to stagnate in their approach to this source of income. At CBCEW we have supported the *Your Catholic Legacy Campaign*, which aims to change public perceptions around the subject of wills. We have also circulated widely our own promotional brochure titled *Forward in Faith*. A campaign advert was placed in the publication the Solicitor's Journal, albeit it will be difficult to measure its true impact in the short term.

In summary, the objectives to be achieved in the next 12 months are:

- To ensure all pledged income is secured in 2016;
- To elicit gifts and commitments from those who have given in 2014/15; and
- To widen the donor pool through identification, research and cultivation.

### THE PROJECTS

### CATHOLIC COMMUNICATIONS NETWORK (CCN)

The CCN, the media office of the Bishops' Conference of England and Wales, provides a professional news service both to the Church and the world. CCN promotes the Gospel through the media and directly through its digital platforms. Working with journalists and media outlets more widely, CCN promotes the work of the Bishops and uses current issues to develop the public profile of the Church and its teaching through press conferences, media briefings, news releases and a digital strategy, with a particular focus on the visual, including extensive use of social media.

In 2015, CCN produced a series of short film interviews with Bishops focusing on their areas of interest to accompany the points of principle in the Bishops' Conference pamphlet for the General Election, which was disseminated to every parish in England and Wales. Supported by a benefactor, a strategy to engage young people in the election process was also put together, focusing on social media. Favourable coverage of the Catholic Church's approach to the election was gained across the national newspapers and the mainstream media.

The Synod of Bishops' meeting on Marriage and Family Life took place in Rome throughout October. CCN provided media support both to Cardinal Nichols and Bishop Peter Doyle, the two delegates from England and Wales, leading to significant national and international coverage. It also assisted the Holy See press office during the Synod, as requested by the Pope's spokesman, Father Lombardi.

The Santa Marta Group, which brings together the Church and police in combatting human trafficking and is led by the Bishops' Conference of England and Wales, held its annual conference in Madrid. CCN provided technical and media support for this international event opened by Queen Sophia of Spain.

In 2015 the refugee crisis that has engulfed Europe led to significant CCN resource in supporting the Bishops' response. From a media perspective, a significant part of this response was when Cardinal Nichols visited refugees in Iraq. National and international coverage was secured.

CCN's digital platform showcases the activities of the Bishops. Additionally in 2015, further progress has been made on the creation of a digital directory of parishes and dioceses. Plans are in place for additions and improvements to be made to this directory in 2016.

In addition to these work priorities there was a significant commitment by CCN in 2015 to covering:

- the reporting of safeguarding matters;
- the Holy Land Co-ordination;
- Proclaim, the national Evangelisation Conference in Birmingham;
- the Day for Life Campaign;
- the on-going support of the Bishops' work in their Dioceses.

CNN also liaised with the European Bishops' Conferences and the Pontifical Council for Social Communications assisting both organisations as requested. And finally, CCN organised the World Communications Day Lecture 2015, which was delivered by Lord Chris Patten, who had chaired the Holy See's Commission on Communications.

### NATIONAL OFFICE FOR VOCATION (NOV)

NOV's work in developing a culture of vocation received unprecedented levels of public interest, when it published the statistics for 2014. In that year, more women entered religious life than in the previous 25 years. Forty five women joined both enclosed and apostolic communities, the culmination of a steady increase over the last ten years. This was a fitting way to celebrate the Year of



Consecrated Life and the media interest was extraordinary. CCN tracked the number of articles and programmes and concluded that it was the biggest Catholic story in this country since the visit of Pope Benedict.

In total, during 2014, over 100 Catholic men and women, who are UK residents entered seminaries and religious congregations in this country. One of the factors supporting this increase has been the first National Vocations Framework (NVF) which ran from 2012 to 2015. It was reviewed towards the end of the year and a new version for 2016 to 2019 was approved by the Bishops' Conference. The new NVF connects discipleship strongly to evangelisation and aims to help the culture of vocation to grow at parish level. During the coming year resources will be developed to help dioceses to achieve this

This year will also see NOV coordinating English and Welsh participation in World Youth Day in Krakow in July with over 4,000 UK pilgrims expected to meet Pope Francis together with over 2 million others from around the world.



#### **MARRIAGE AND FAMILY LIFE**

Much of the work in 2015 focussed on enabling a period of true spiritual reflection on marriage and family life in preparation for the XIV Ordinary General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops in Rome in October. Early in the year the bishops circulated a leaflet *The Call, The Journey and The Mission* to assist families and parishes in their conversations. A summary of responses was published just before the Synod opened.

There was a positive reaction to a workshop on Family Groups delivered as part of Proclaim '15. The workshop premiered a new film about Family Groups, their impact on family and parish life, evangelisation and family ministry. This is now available to view online at www.catholicfamily.org.uk. A substantial number of requests for assistance in launching Family Groups locally have been received, which are being followed up by a national steering group, supported by the project team.

Funding was made available to support four new diocesan capacity-building projects. Over the next two to three years local teams will further refine and scale up a project to enrich marriage (Salford Diocese), research existing provision for marriage preparation, develop strategy and increase capacity for delivering formal programmes for engaged couples (Middlesbrough & Plymouth Dioceses) and increase access to parenting support groups and further develop an existing network of volunteer parenting group facilitators (Leeds Diocese).

A new resource Walking With Families in Sharing the Good News was published to assist parishes in offering practical support to families for their role in evangelisation, that is, passing on faith in God to the next generation.



This publication builds on the findings of a pilot project Partners in a Shared Task, which highlighted the importance of parents' own faith, their parenting skills, their confidence in praying at home and their family-friendly parish.

These initiatives are very much oriented towards the role of the family in passing on faith, coinciding with the Synod's focus on the vocation and mission of the family in the Church and in the contemporary world. The MFL team is looking forward to the publication of the Exhortation in 2016 and the ways this will inform future work.

#### INTERNATIONAL SOLIDARITY

The Bishops' Conference of England and Wales is committed to supporting poor and vulnerable countries at home and abroad and one important part of that witness is the Holy Land Coordination (HLC). The HLC is an initiative of the Holy See that brings together bishops conferences from around the world, especially from Europe and North America, to help sustain the Christian communities in Gaza, Israel, Palestine, and Jordan.

The HLC is financed and staffed by our bishops' conference as a contribution of English and Welsh Catholics to the Universal Church. The Coordination works by promoting pilgrimages, encouraging prayer and advocating the Holy See's witness for peace and justice with the respective political authorities. Each of those elements is important in encouraging and supporting the Local Church. For example, pilgrimages create better understanding of the challenges Christians face in the Holy Land, as well as helping to support directly those many Christians involved in organising tours, thus maintaining hope and employment.

This year the twelve bishops' conferences of the HLC were present in Gaza, which remains isolated and desperately poor after the 2014 war. The tiny Christian presence there serves the surrounding community through its schools and charities and the HLC bishops saw at first hand the impact their support is having in sustaining that witness.

Work continued with the Latin Patriarch, the Salesian congregation and the people of the Cremisan valley on the West Bank in preventing the annexation of homes and farms by the Israeli Government. The bishops were joined in their witness by members of the diplomatic corps, including the UK Consul General, who recognised the importance of the Church's principled objection to the proposed siting of Israel's security wall, which, if implemented would have a devastating impact on the lives of local residents. So far the international campaign to save the valley has prevented the seizure of land.

Overall, the political crisis afflicting the peoples of the Holy Land remains acute but the witness of the HLC, through its presence and projects remains a significant way of encouraging Christians to remain in their homeland.

## HUMAN TRAFFICKING AND MODERN SLAVERY

The Santa Marta Group brings together law enforcement and police chiefs with bishops in a partnership to combat human slavery. It is an initiative of the bishops' conference and began in 2014 at a meeting in Rome, where twenty-five heads of national and international police forces came together with bishops from those countries to tackle the scourge of human trafficking. Encouraged by Pope Francis who attended this meeting, the members of the Group committed to working together to stop trafficking, improve the pastoral care of those freed and help their reintegration into society.

After a second gathering in London in late 2014, the Santa Marta Group has continued its collaboration and met again in Madrid in October 2015, with the support of the Spanish National Police and in the presence of Queen Sofia. At this conference, which included new members from Southern Africa and Latin America, the Group focussed on building a practical programme and developing best practice, especially in building trust between law enforcement agencies and victims and increasing the rate of investigations and successful prosecutions. The Madrid conference also featured training and awareness-raising schemes to prevent trafficking, especially of young women.

The Group's original projects continued to develop in West Africa – reducing sexual trafficking and in the North Atlantic – combating maritime slavery. In London, the refuge for trafficked female victims, Bakhita House, was opened by Cardinal Nichols, the president of the Santa Marta Group. The Cardinal also signed an agreement with the International Organisation for Migration to enhance the existing partnership on training and reintegration, which has quickly shown its worth here and amongst the broader Santa Marta network.

The creation by the UK Government of the Independent Anti-Slavery Commissioner has been a major boost to fighting trafficking domestically and internationally. The Santa Marta Group has created a close and effective partnership with the new Commissioner. One of the early highlights has been the work conducted by the Group in Argentina, Nigeria and South Africa to support the Commissioner's successful campaign to include the eradication of modern slavery and trafficking, as one of the targets in the UN's new Sustainable Development Goals. This achievement means that countering slavery now becomes a key element within the international community's approach to development, especially in targeting the poverty which still remains one of the main factors that allows organised criminals to exploit vulnerable individuals.

#### **HOME MISSION**

The main focus for evangelisation work in 2015 was the launch of the Proclaim '15 initiative, which aims to support, inspire and encourage new expressions of parish evangelisation. The initiative is designed to affirm the good work already found in our Catholic communities, and to provide resources and events to highlight and develop new expressions of Catholic joy and missionary outreach. This initiative has five component parts:

- Preparation: provided parish small group sessions three evangelisation-themed resources for local usage.
- 2. **Prayer:** encouraged the formation of a network of prayer vigils parishes were invited to host an evening of prayer on 11 July 2015.
- **3. Event:** held a National Catholic Evangelisation Conference on 11 July 2015 in Birmingham involving 850 evangelisation representatives from across England and Wales. This was the first event of its kind in living memory.
- **4. Legacy:** organised local events templates have been provided to enable dioceses, deaneries and parishes to have their own Proclaim gatherings.
- **5. Resources:** produced new evangelisation resources, as a key product of the national conference to help equip parish evangelisation efforts. A selection of free films and downloads have also been made available at: www.catholicnews.org.uk/proclaim

The Proclaim '15 initiative has a practical and 'how to' dimension, because while there is enthusiasm within the Catholic community to share confidently and joyfully our Faith, it can at times be hard to discern where to begin. This initiative aims to address that difficulty and is inspired by Pope Francis' Apostolic Exhortation, *Evangelii Gaudium*, in which he writes:

"I wish to encourage the Christian faithful to embark upon a new chapter of evangelisation marked by this joy, while pointing out new paths for the Church's journey in years to come." (EG, 1)

Alongside the running of the Proclaim initiative, complementary projects have included:

- Crossing the Threshold, which has as its focus resourcing ministry and outreach to non-churchgoing (lapsed) Catholics;
- New research partnerships developed to gain a more comprehensive profile of the Catholic population, particularly in regard to disaffiliation or conversion, and also about those who self-identify as having 'no religion', sometimes known as the "nones" in our society.

#### **SAFEGUARDING**

During 2015 the Catholic Safeguarding Advisory Service (CSAS) has been working with the National Catholic Safeguarding Commission (NCSC) on a proposal to provide or facilitate services across England and Wales for victims and survivors of abuse which aim to achieve justice, healing and reconciliation. The purpose of the service is to enable victims and survivors to be supported to access the most appropriate resource to meet their immediate needs. It is anticipated that such a service will provide benefits to victims and survivors including access to support and being listened to, being able to access support using different routes and receiving support from a Church that is responsive open and welcoming. The service seeks to complement the work already undertaken by safeguarding co-ordinators, who will remain involved in the delivery of pastoral support and implementation of the service.

In June 2015, CSAS launched online safeguarding training provision in partnership with EduCare. This e-learning package is available to every



member of the Catholic community and is aimed at raising awareness of child and adult safeguarding and how to respond to concerns about abuse.

The seminary safeguarding curriculum has been reviewed and CSAS is in the process of recruiting a pool of safeguarding co-ordinator trainers, who will deliver the agreed programme. A process for review and evaluation of the new curriculum will be developed during 2016.

The National Safeguarding Conference was held at Swanwick in November 2015. This was extremely well attended and well received. Inspirational keynote speeches and workshops were given by various organisations, safeguarding co-ordinators and chairs of diocesan and religious commissions.

During December 2015 the NCSC appointed a Chair and panel members to the Survivor Advisory Panel, which will help inform the work of the NCSC and safeguarding policies and practices.

#### KEEPING OUR PROFILE PUBLIC

A small team leads on the Bishops' Conference parliamentary and public affairs work with policy input from the Departments of Christian Responsibility and Citizenship and of International Affairs. Over the last 12 months the team has worked on a series of policy areas set by the Bishops.

It supported the Bishops in producing their General Election 2015 statement. This covered the Church's positions and suggested questions for candidates on issues such as respecting life, alleviating poverty, upholding human rights and caring for the environment. This was made available on the CBCEW website and over 500,000 hard copies were distributed via parishes.

The team supported an amendment to the Serious Crime Bill clarifying the illegality of gender-based abortion. Although this amendment was narrowly defeated, a second amendment requiring the Government to assess the evidence of gender-based abortion and to publish a strategy to address the issue was overwhelming carried by legislators.

On 11 September 2015 the House of Commons voted on assisted suicide for the first time in almost twenty years. Ahead of the debate the team worked extensively to mobilise parliamentary opposition to the Bill. This included a campaign encouraging Catholics throughout England and Wales to contact their local MP: over 3,000 people sent e-mails via our website and even more sent letters or postcards via their parishes. In total over 85% of MPs received correspondence from Catholic constituents. Through actively collating responses we were able to determine the voting/attendance intentions of MPs and target our direct approaches. The Bill was defeated overwhelmingly by 330-118, effectively removing assisted suicide from the parliamentary agenda until at least 2020.

International human rights advocacy work is focussed on four priority areas: the refugee crisis; human rights including the global abolition of the death penalty; the Holy Land including attacks on churches, the separation wall, and the situation in Gaza; and freedom of religion or belief including the rights of Christians in the Middle East, Muslims in Burma, and people who are persecuted for their atheism or secularism. Drawing upon the experience and guidance of Catholic communities in the respective countries, we have ensured these issues are consistently raised both in Parliament and directly with the Government.

The team is working closely with MPs and Ministers to support improvements in the prison system. Advocacy in this area is based upon the experience of Catholic chaplains, who work in every prison throughout England and Wales. The current priority is to increase the time prisoners are able to spend out of their cells and taking part in purposeful activity, such as education, training and accessing chaplaincy services. This will be most effectively achieved by a reduction in the prison population – which the Secretary of State for Justice has recently indicated support for.

In September, the Government announced that 20,000 refugees will be resettled in the UK from camps around Syria, over the course of this Parliament. The Bishops' Conference is urging the Government to expedite this process so that as many people as possible can be accommodated within the first year and the potential of extending the offer of sanctuary to others can be considered. This advocacy is complementing the Church's wider practical response to the refugee crisis.



## PARLIAMENTARY AND PUBLIC LIFE INTERNSHIP SCHEME

Our internship scheme took on another group of eight bright young graduates this year and it has continued to be as fruitful as ever. The interns have flourished in all aspects of the scheme and the feedback from everyone involved has been very positive. The scheme continues to be unique in what it offers from the combination of work placement, academic study, exposure visits and spiritual guidance. As before, this year the interns made two visits abroad, one to the European Parliament and the other to the Holy See.

As Richard Cleary working in the Parliamentary Office of Conor Burns  $\operatorname{MP}$  points out  $\dots$ 

"What is unique about the Catholic Bishops' Conference internship is how faith becomes an integral part of daily life, rather than an additional aspect to it. Living in central London with Catholic students from around the world only increases this exposure to new ideas and cultures, whilst retaining a shared faith tradition. The internship has encouraged me to regard life in politics and public policy as a vocation, and not just a career choice."

The scheme now has a well established reputation within Parliament, with many Members expressing interest in becoming involved. Alongside four placements with MPs, the internships offered this year included two public policy roles at CAFOD and CSAN, one media role in the communications office of the Diocese of Westminster, one parliamentary role at the Bishops' Conference and four placements with MPs in Westminster. The group lived as part of the community at Newman House Catholic Chaplaincy and studied a Postgraduate Certificate in Contemporary Ethics at Heythrop College, University of London.

During the year a new website was created for the scheme to help promote the scheme to more applicants from a wider range of universities and backgrounds. The website can be found at www.faithinpolitics.org.uk.

#### **FAITHS WORKING TOGETHER**

The Bishops' Conference continues to resource the local interfaith work with the Holy See's greetings for festivals of other religions, and some suggested bidding prayers around the times of these festivals, which are increasingly taken up and circulated locally. Active local teams are supported centrally, and notable events include interfaith pilgrimages that explore the spirituality of coming together to pray in places that are relevant to all faiths, which have a reverence for Mary (the shrines at Jesmond, and at Walsingham).

In September the Chief Rabbi Ephraim Mirvis held talks with Pope Francis at the Vatican accompanied by Cardinal Vincent Nichols. The private audience covered issues including Jewish-Catholic relations and the role of faith in the public square. After the visit the Chief Rabbi tweeted "Our shared challenge is

to marry the 'timely' with the 'timeless' to bring Godliness into the world". This was the first meeting between the two faith leaders, and it came ahead of the 50th Anniversary of the Nostra Aetate document, a watershed in Vatican relations with other faiths. It insisted the Jewish community cannot be held responsible for the death of Christ and that the community should not be seen as having been rejected by God.

The Prince of Wales met with Christians from the Middle East at an Advent reception hosted by Cardinal Vincent at Archbishop's House in London. Representatives from the Chaldean Catholic, Syriac Catholic, Maronite Catholic, Coptic Orthodox, Armenian Apostolic and Greek Catholic Melkite Churches were present. The Prince also met guests and representatives from charities including Iraqi Christians in Need, Friends of the Holy Land, Aid to the Church in Need and Jesuit Refugee Service. The event concluded with intercessory prayers for Christians and other minorities suffering persecution in the Middle-East. The Prince of Wales told the gathering of his visits to the region and the testimonies he had heard from those suffering as a result of the violence.

In the wake of the attacks in Paris, Cardinal Vincent condemned the killings and offered his prayers. In his statement he said:

"I wish to express my horror at the events that took place in Paris last night. This random killing of innocent people is utterly despicable and a course of action which must be rejected unequivocally by all. Today I offer my prayers, with those of the entire Catholic Community in England and Wales, for those who have been shot dead as they enjoyed moments of relaxation and entertainment. I pray for the bereaved, for those who have been traumatised. I pray for the City of Paris that it will courageously recover its poise as one of the great cities of the world. I pray for the police and security forces who will continue their frontline fight against this evil madness. I pray, too, for the Muslim communities in France, and here in England, that they may not be victimised because of the actions of these violent and ruthless extremists but strive always for the way of peace and cooperation with the wider society".

There was also a very successful three-day Conference (from 5-7 November 2015) organised jointly by Heythrop College and the Bishops' Conference to mark the 50th anniversary of Vatican II's ground-breaking document *Nostra Aetate* on the relationship of the Catholic Church to other religions with some important speakers, including both a Jewish and a Muslim presenter.

#### **THANK YOU**

Thank you to everyone who has given to the Bishops' Conference this year – your support is invaluable in helping us address some very challenging national issues. It is also clear that our current programme of action matches many of your own hopes and aspirations for the Church.

If you have any ideas or feedback to share with us, or would like to make any suggestions or comments about the utilisation of your gift, please contact us on fundraising@cbcew.org.uk

At our Proclaim'15 event in Birmingham last summer Cardinal Vincent Nichols observed that "We can look at all we are given and see which of these rich gifts helps us to proclaim the mercy of God, not least in response to the cry of the world". In a modest way the Faith in the Future Campaign is a personal and public response to this invocation, as we seek to fulfil our potential as Catholics and as disciples of Christ.

Your help is greatly appreciated, and you are encouraged to help sustain these vital ministries by your generous contributions and your prayers. It would be wonderful if you could commit to giving to the Bishops' Conference again in 2016.



If you wish to know more about any part of the programme or if you have relevant information to share with us, please make contact with fundraising@cbcew.org.uk

