

St John Southworth Caritas Fund Annual Report 2015-2016

The St John Southworth Fund is not an independent charity but consists of several restricted funds held by the Roman Catholic Diocese of Westminster (*registered charity No. 233699*). It was created in 2007 by the amalgamation of a much larger number of legacies and trusts held within the Diocese, many of them over a long period of time, to assist people in poverty or hardship.

Between 2007 and 2013 the St John Southworth Fund made over 640 awards to projects, organisations and individuals throughout Westminster Diocese and Greater London, to a value of over £2.4million. In 2012 the Diocese set up Caritas Westminster as its new social action agency, with a brief to identify and address poverty and social exclusion in our communities. The St John Southworth Fund was renamed the St John Southworth Caritas Fund and integrated into Caritas Westminster. During 2014, while these changes were taking place, grant giving was suspended. Grant giving recommenced in 2015 and its processes and criteria revised to work through Caritas and focus on its priorities.

Project Grants are now available to parishes, associated groups or local joint projects based in Westminster Diocese, to help seed fund or develop local social action initiatives to alleviate poverty or social deprivation. A growing number of parishes are running social outreach projects such as homeless shelters, food banks, clubs to alleviate isolation and loneliness or debt and money management projects, and a relatively modest grant can be invaluable to help with the costs. To be eligible, applications must fall within Caritas Westminster's strategic priorities, which are currently:

- Food poverty and debt
- Social isolation of vulnerable groups
- Intellectual disability
- Homelessness
- Human trafficking
- The Catholic deaf community
- Youth isolation

The application process has been revised to deal with all funding requests coming to Caritas Westminster. Wherever possible grants awarded are taken from the St John Southworth Funds, but if this is not possible a grant may be available from other Caritas sources. In the future it is hoped to integrate the two systems more completely.

Hardship grants for individuals re-started around Easter 2015, initially to meet crisis needs through Catholic parishes in our East London deaneries. The area covered was extended in early 2016 to offer crisis grants to parishes in Hackney, Tower Hamlets, Islington, Haringey, Brent, Lea Valley and Stevenage Deaneries. This system is designed specifically to help parishes meet the crisis needs of local families or individuals known to them, where a small sum of money could make a significant difference.

The 2015 Figures

<i>Grants awarded and paid during 2015</i>	Number	Value	Total
To individuals or families (Crisis grants)	3	£1,637	
To organisations (Project grants)	6	£26,270	
Special grants - (Diocesan pilgrimage to Lourdes; Poverty Conference)	2	£8,028	
Total paid in grants 2015			£35,935

<i>Grants paid by constituent fund</i>	£
The Benevolent Society for the Relief of the Aged and Infirm Poor	3,000
The Zimmerman Trust	---
The New Children's Fund	8,298
The London Poor	23,137
The Sister Joseph Harding Trust	---
The Metcalfe Fund for underprivileged or handicapped children	---
The St John Southworth General Fund	1,500
Total	£35,935

<i>Income and expenditure 2015</i>	£	£
Year-end balance 2014		2,203,533
Donation income - general	590	
Legacy - <i>Henry Craig Brown</i>	250,000	
Dividend income	24,576	
Fees and non-grant expenses	(16,838)	
Net other income		258,328
Capital appreciation		21,333
Total paid in grants 2015		(35,935)
Year end fund balance 2015		£2,447,259

<i>Year-end balance by constituent fund</i>	£
The Benevolent Society for the Relief of the Aged and Infirm Poor	387,978
The Zimmerman Trust	54,051
The New Children's Fund	1,376,019
The London Poor	114,603
The Sister Joseph Harding Trust	10,794
The Metcalfe Fund for underprivileged or handicapped children	240,499
The St John Southworth General Fund	263,317
Total	£2,447,259

Donations and Giving

We express our grateful thanks to all donors past and present and especially to the late Henry Craig Brown RIP for his generous legacy. With fewer grants given over the past 2 years, the funds are not currently depleting. However, now that we are back in full operation, and with so many needy people around and the growing involvement of Caritas Westminster with more parishes, the demand is now increasing again substantially. We depend on the help of donors to maintain these funds so they can carry on playing their vital role in helping to alleviate poverty and deprivation across the Diocese.

If you are able to, please [donate here](#).

More information available from The Grants Administrator
St John Southworth Caritas Fund

Diocese of Westminster
Vaughan House
46 Francis Street
London SW1P 1QN

caritasgrants@rcdow.org.uk
020 7798 9063
www.rcdow.org.uk/caritas
www.rcdow.org.uk/stjohnsouthworth

Born in Lancashire in 1592, St John Southworth was ordained priest in Douai, France, in 1618. Returning to England, Fr. Southworth ministered in Westminster, in the area close to where the Cathedral now stands. During the plague of 1636, he tended the sick with outstanding devotion and courage. The casket containing his body lies in the Chapel of St. George & the English Martyrs in Westminster Cathedral, the parish where once he laboured for the Lord.