

- **SACBC Secretariat statement regarding the Pastoral Letter on the occasion of the centenary of the first Papal Encyclical on Social Justice, *Rerum Novarum*, and its implications for negotiations in South Africa (8/2/91)**

The bishops of the Southern African Catholic Bishops' Conference are issuing the accompanying letter to Catholics within the Conference area.

The letter will be released on Ash Wednesday, 13 February 1991. It is therefore embargoed until then.

This year is the centenary of the first letter issued by a modern Pope to deal exclusively with a social justice issue. Because of this the bishops of southern Africa are promoting a programme during the course of 1991 that will take up local issues of social justice.

The pastoral letter deals with a centenary of Catholic social teaching, the matter of negotiations and the role of the Church in the negotiation process.