

**PASTORAL LETTER OF THE ARCHDIOCESE OF DURBAN TO LAUNCH
THE PASTORAL PLAN
(PENTECOST 1989)**

We write this letter to invite you to share the joy, hope and excitement that fill our hearts. One of us, the Archbishop, has been a priest for nearly 50 years and a bishop for 42. Caution and calm should be associated with his years and experience, but he can honestly say that he is excited now as he was on the eve of his priestly ordination in July 1939.

The cause of this excitement is Renew, the way chosen in the Archdiocese of Durban to fulfil the Pastoral Plan of the Catholic Church in South Africa.

We have spent more than four years preparing it and now we launch it with the publication of what is called *The Vision Document*, which describes what is meant by Community Serving Humanity, the motto of the Pastoral Plan.

The community we speak of is the Church. The Church is the followers of Jesus, united to Him, living His life, the life He took up from the grave after His crucifixion, life filled with the Holy Spirit.

As followers of Jesus we have been entrusted with continuing His work on earth. "As the father sent me," we read in today's gospel, "so am I sending you". (John 20:21).

Jesus also told us that He came not to be served but to serve. Like him we too must serve. We must serve the Father and Jesus himself and their Holy Spirit. We must serve them in the community of the Church and wherever the world and the human family need our service. We must serve by sharing what God gives us, His spiritual and material gifts: His word and sacraments; the love He lavishes on us, which we must show to others, especially those who suffer: the poor, the sick, the hungry, the people hurt in their freedom, their dignity, their God-given human rights.

In this way we shall be a Community Serving Humanity.

Much of this we are doing already. Now we want to live it all more fully, more joyfully, more lovingly.

We want to live it all in our beloved country, so torn by divisions and conflicts. We want to bring to our country a breath of new life: Breath of the Spirit, life of the Risen Christ.

We have chosen Renew with its great emphasis on prayer and organisation to be our way of working with Jesus and with one another.

We look forward to a time of much prayer: Private prayer and public worship.

We look forward to a vigorous organisation of Renew at diocesan level, deanery level, parish level.

We look forward to the participation of a great number of leaders and helpers.

We look forward to parishes being intensely involved in the building up of their small communities with much prayer and commitment: Loving one another; encouraging one another; meeting one another across the old unhappy and unchristian barriers that separate people in south Africa; finding in one another true expression of the presence of Jesus working in us for the salvation of the world.

That is our dream. That is our hope. That is the reason for the excitement of an Archbishop and of a bishop, both now old in years but renewing their youth as The Archdiocese of Durban renews itself in prayer and worship; in faith, hope and love; in community spirit and Christian service.

Share with us the joy and hope and excitement of what lies ahead of us.

This letter comes to you with a large and loving blessing and the assurance of our affectionate union with you in Christ Jesus our Lord and His Holy Spirit and with Mary our Immaculate Mother, the Patroness of our Arch diocese.

Signed:

+ DENIS HURLEY OMI, Archbishop of Durban

+ DOMONIC J KHUMALO OMI, Auxiliary Bishop