

**SACBC SECRETARIAT STATEMENT ON THE LAUNCH OF THE  
BISHOPS' PASTORAL LETTER: TOWARDS A DEMOCRATIC FUTURE  
(14/4/93)**

You are cordially invited to a press conference which will be held at Cathedral place 9 (next to Christ the King Catholic Cathedral) in Saratoga avenue, Berea, Johannesburg, on Friday 16 April, at 08h30 for the launch of the Southern African Catholic Bishops' Conference latest pastoral Letter entitled, Towards a Democratic Future. The Pastoral Letter is embargoed until its official release on Sunday 18 April 1993.

The Pastoral Letter is being released simultaneously in all the major languages of the country. Archbishop Wilfrid Napier and Bishop Reginald Orsmond will address the conference.

The Pastoral Letter comes at a critical time in the history of our country and deals with the current situation in the light of the Gospel. The opening words link it immediately to their previous pastoral letter, A Call to Build a New South Africa. The theme of democracy is dealt with in terms of faith, love, justice and hope. It recognises that our country is in a deplorable state and that there is little to inspire hope. However, it is a very helpful, hopeful and down-to-earth document, providing moral guidelines for the coming elections and the post election era, in a language all can easily understand. It also draws on the wisdom of other African Catholic Bishops' Conferences, which have faced similar situations. The Pastoral Letter concludes with a call to a change of heart.

The document will be available at the press Conference.