

SACBC SECRETARIAT STATEMENT

REGARDING

ARCHBISHOP MARCEL LEFEBVRE (AUGUST 1981)

The General secretariat of the Southern African Catholic Bishops' Conference advised Catholics on the reported visit of Archbishop Marcel Lefebvre to South Africa and that:

“Any Catholic who supports (Archbishop Lefebvre) in any way and in particular by participating in the liturgical services he conducts is guilty of grave disobedience to Church authority... It must also be noted that Archbishop Lefebvre cannot validly celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation, that is, he has no power to impart sacramental absolution in confession. Priests associated with him also lack this power unless expressly authorised by the local bishops.

“Archbishop Lefebvre causes confusion and disruption wherever his influence extends. He is now coming to trouble us in South Africa ... we invite all to pray that Archbishop Lefebvre and those that follow him may see the error of their ways...