

SOWETO DAY 1985 APPEAL BY CARDINAL

We ask the people of South Africa to observe June 16, the Sunday of the Feast of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, as a day of prayer and mourning for all killed in the unrest that is endemic in our society and recall the tragic events of Sharpeville, Soweto and Uitenhage.

We must become conscious of the deep hurt and sense of anger that the sufferings and deaths of these days in particular, but others in general have engendered in the hearts of black people, so that out of agony, peace, based on justice and love, may arise.

We mourn the death and suffering of people of all population groups. Human life is most sacred – it is given by God Himself. It must be safeguarded by all, and especially by those entrusted with the observance of law and order by the community.

Revenge for the wrongs done, which results in other deaths, cannot be condoned.

We appeal for love and forgiveness; for forbearance and dialogue and ask all to base their lives on the spirit of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

OWEN CARDINAL McCANN
Archbishop Emeritus Cape Town