

## **Tribute from Co-Secretaries of the SACBC J and P Commission 1978-1987**

We knew Paddy as a member of the Catholic Bishops' Justice and Peace Commission that met regularly at the SACBC headquarters in Pretoria during the height of the SA Liberation Struggle in the 1980s. Paddy represented the J and P Commission of the Archdiocese of Durban, that Archbishop Hurley established shortly after Vatican 2.

During the J and P meetings in Pretoria there were always politically-sensitive issues that Diocesan Commission representatives from around SA and Namibia brought forward. It was the Commission's task to take these urgent matters to the Bishops and suggest appropriate actions. Paddy was passionate about a number of issues: the illegitimate SA occupation of Namibia by the Apartheid Regime, and the need to support those young men who conscientiously objected to fighting in that Unjust War; the need for economic sanctions to put pressure on the Apartheid Regime, and the land question.

Paddy initiated the resolution that the bishops adopted to examine the large tracts of church-owned land for possible redistribution to the dispossessed as a matter of justice. Paddy pinpointed the land issue more than 30 years before it became a matter of national urgency.

When we resigned from the Commission in 1987, Paddy wrote to congratulate us on a job well done. We would like to return the compliment threefold.

On the many occasions since then when either of us has met with Paddy such encounters have been an opportunity to renew our commitment to the task of transformation of ourselves and our society, and mutual encouragement for this task.

Congratulations Paddy on **many** jobs excellently done.

Enjoy a well-earned rest in the Lord. Hamba kahle! Tsamaya hantle!

Our condolences to Jack and Brian and to the Extended Kearney Family, to Cardinal Wilfred and the Archdiocese of Durban, to Raymond, the Denis Hurley Board and Staff and to Nomabelu and the staff of Diakonia Council of Churches.

Your loss is our loss.

**Sr Brigid Rose Tiernan (SND) and Mary-lyn Aitken (The Grail)  
Co-Secretaries of the SACBC J and P Commission 1978-1987**