Denis Hurley dedicated his life to the poor, the marginalised, the abandoned and the downtrodden. He fought tirelessly for an end to apartheid, and for equality among all human beings. He truly lived the words of the Oblate Founder, St Eugene de Mazenod, who called us to lead people to be “human beings first of all, then Christians, then saints.”

Archbishop Denis Hurley had a vision of the church as a “community serving humanity”.

Support the Denis Hurley Association

The Denis Hurley Association is a registered charity based in Britain. Our aim is to keep the vision of Denis Hurley alive and to promote and raise funds for the Denis Hurley Centre in Durban, South Africa.

All money raised by the Denis Hurley Association goes directly to the Denis Hurley Centre. You can become a supporter by donating to the Denis Hurley Association.

Donations can be made by:

Cheque
Please make cheques payable to “Denis Hurley Association”

Bank Transfer
Bank name: The Co-operative Bank
Account Name: Denis Hurley Association
Account Number: 65456699
Sort Code: 08-92-99

Online Donations
https://mydonate.bt.com/charities/denishurleyassociation

Please e-mail info.denishurley@gmail.com if you send an online bank transfer, so we can properly acknowledge your contribution and keep you up to date on the project.

Contact us at:
Denis Hurley Association,
Denis Hurley House, 14 Quex Road,
London NW6 4PL
info.denishurley@gmail.com
www.denishurleyassociation.org.uk
Charity registration number 1146106

Archbishop Denis Hurley OMI
“Guardian of the Light”

Archbishop Denis Hurley had a vision of the church as a “community serving humanity”.

PATRONS
Bishop David Konstant
Cardinal Cormac Murphy-O’Connor
Bishop Maurice Taylor
Fr Ray Warren OMI
Baroness Shirley Williams
At the heart of the city of Durban, South Africa, where half a million people make their way through one of Africa’s busiest transport hubs every day, is Emmanuel Cathedral. Many of these people are hungry, ill or homeless. They are the poor of Durban and refugees from other parts of Africa. They look to the Cathedral for help and support.

The existing parish centre is no longer capable of meeting the needs of all these people, so the Cathedral plans to build a completely new community centre that will transform the quality and range of services that they are able to offer to the poor, the sick and the refugees. The project has strong local and interfaith support.

The new Denis Hurley Centre will provide:

• 24/7 outreach to street people, refugees, people living with HIV/AIDS and others in distress;
• Free food, including a daily hot meal, for anyone in need, together with clothes, showers and toilet facilities;
• Free medical centre providing primary health care, HIV testing, counselling, support and health outreach, including home visiting;
• Refugee Pastoral Care Project helping newly-arrived refugees with legal documents and language lessons;
• Training and help with finding jobs for the unemployed;
• Space for social and community events to break down barriers between people of different origins and background;
• Exhibition space and a resource centre associated with the life and witness of Archbishop Hurley.

All these facilities will witness to “Emmanuel”: a place where people, especially the poor and marginalised can have a tangible experience that “God is with” them, and that their human dignity is respected and honoured, a realisation of Archbishop Hurley’s dream that the Church should be a “community serving humanity”.

The Denis Hurley Centre
Emmanuel Cathedral, Durban

Who Was Archbishop Denis Hurley?

Denis Hurley was a courageous opponent of South Africa’s apartheid regime for 50 years, dubbed “an ecclesiastical Che Guevara” by a South African politician and “guardian of the light” by Alan Paton. He was a champion of the reforms and spirit of Vatican II which he regarded as the highlight of his life.

Born in Cape Town in 1915 of Irish parents, he became at age 31 the youngest Catholic Bishop in the world in 1947 and Archbishop of Durban in 1951. He retired as Archbishop in 1992, becoming Chancellor of the University of Natal from 1993 to 1998. He continued to work as parish priest of Emmanuel Cathedral well into his eighties.

His career as an outspoken opponent of apartheid began in 1951 when, as chair of the Southern African Catholic Bishops’ Conference, he drafted the first of the ground-breaking pastoral letters in which the bishops denounced apartheid as “blasphemy” and “intrinsically evil”. Eventually, along with four other South African church leaders (including Desmond Tutu), he was regarded as one of the South African state’s “most wanted” political opponents.

We in the Denis Hurley Association ask for your help to continue the work of our modern day saint, Archbishop Denis Hurley.

Cover Photograph: ©AP/Wide World Photos

You can help make this vision a reality by supporting the development of the Denis Hurley Centre, located in the heart of Durban city, and providing vital assistance to the hungry, ill and homeless.

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