

The Good News • For a Change

14 September 2011

The Catholic Church in Southern Africa celebrates the granting of a licence to Radio Veritas.

Since the Millennium Jubilee year 2000, Radio Veritas has been working untiringly for a radio broadcast license. This has finally come to fruition.

The Catholic Bishops of Southern Africa received the good news last night that Radio Veritas had been granted both a licence to broadcast and a frequency on which to broadcast. Archbishop Buti Tlhagale, Archbishop of Johannesburg and President of the Southern African Catholic Bishops' Conference, thanked ICASA for finalising the many requests to broadcast. He expressed his joy - 'Radio Veritas will be broadcasting in the greater Johannesburg Metropolitan area – our Archdiocese. At last.'

Father Emil Blaser, the Dominican priest who has spearheaded this project for the last 11 years, spoke of his great joy and enormous relief at the granting of this permanent licence.

'We have waited so long and tried every means possible to get on air – from broadcasting for periods on shortwave, medium wave, special event broadcast licences, engaging in public hearings, doing market research, knocking on government and international doors, to streaming on the Internet and on DSTV's Audio channel 170. To have been granted this licence is indeed Good News from ICASA for a change – and Good News for the Catholic Community in the Greater Johannesburg Metropolitan area. The news of being granted this license has filled us with an indescribable joy and messages of congratulations have not stopped streaming in.'

Radio Veritas has been granted the 576kHz medium wave frequency, known to many as the former Medium Wave frequency of Metro FM.

The official launch will be announced as soon as all technical issues have been worked out.

*- Father Chris Townsend
Information Officer, Southern African Catholic Bishops' Conference*