



Southern African Catholic Bishops' Conference

WELCOME MESSAGE FROM
THE MOST REV STEPHEN BRISLIN
PRESIDENT: THE SOUTHERN AFRICAN CATHOLIC BISHOPS' CONFERENCE and
ARCHBISHOP OF CAPE TOWN

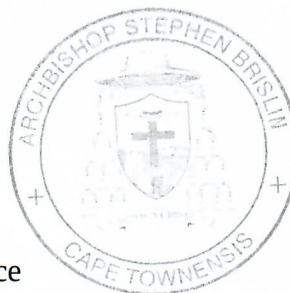
It is with great anticipation that I look forward to welcoming the Catholic journalists of UCAP to their annual Congress of 2018 which, this year, is being held in Cape Town, South Africa.

At a time when we hear so frequently of “fake news” and, indeed, when many of us find it difficult to trust what is being presented as “objective facts”, it is of paramount importance that Catholic journalists root their professional lives in their faith. Jesus proclaimed “*I am the Way, the Truth and Life*”, and the essence of every disciple’s life is to seek and abide by the Truth. The Scriptures also teach us that the Truth will set us free and it is that Truth and deep freedom that we long for in the innermost parts of our being. There are many today who are bound by the chains of fear, poverty, discrimination, abuse, modern day slavery (human trafficking), substance abuse – the list is endless! In Christ we find our true freedom and liberation from everything that binds us and makes us less than human.

I pray that the UCAP Congress of 2018 will bring forth all the fruits of the Holy Spirit for those who participate in it, and that it will be an occasion of joy and encouragement. Many journalists, especially if they are committed to fearlessly seeking the truth, find themselves at risk in the course of their duty – may the Congress give them the courage to persevere in their mission and be an expression of our solidarity with them.

I welcome you all to Cape Town and I look forward to meeting you at the opening. May God bless the Congress of 2018!

+Stephen Brislin
President
Southern African Catholic Bishops' Conference



31 August 2018