

**ADDRESS OF POPE FRANCIS TO THE BISHOPS OF THE EPISCOPAL
CONFERENCE OF SOUTH AFRICA ON THEIR "AD LIMINA" VISIT**

25 April 2014

[Link](#)

[...] I have also noted the concern which you expressed about the breakdown of Christian morals, including a growing temptation to collude with dishonesty. This is an issue which you prophetically addressed in your pastoral statement on corruption. As you pointed out, "corruption is theft from the poor... hurts the most vulnerable... harms the whole community... destroys our trust". The Christian community is called to be consistent in its witness to the virtues of honesty and integrity, so that we may stand before the Lord, and our neighbours, with clean hands and a pure heart (cf. Ps 24:4) as a leaven of the Gospel in the life of society. With this moral imperative in mind, I know that you will continue to address this and other grave social concerns, such as the plight of refugees and migrants. May these men and women always be welcomed by our Catholic communities, finding in them open hearts and homes as they seek to begin a new life. [...]