



ST ANTHONY'S TURNS 50 THIS YEAR

2016 is the 50th Anniversary of St Anthony's Education Centre. This is a tremendous milestone for the Centre which has faced many challenges since it started in 1966.

With the vision, dedication, faith and hard work of its founder, Father Stan Brennan, St Anthony's became the world class education and training centre it is today. It has grown from a one-roomed building with no running water and electricity into a thriving multi million rand campus.

In 1976 the apartheid government threatened to close St Anthony's down because the education of blacks and coloureds in the coloured area of Reiger Park was illegal. This was in contravention of the Bantu Education Act and the Group Areas Act. Father Stan immediately garnered the support of the American, British, French and German consuls, the local community as well as the Catholic Church. The Government promptly withdrew its order of closure.

In 1988 the Boksburg Town Council, led by the Conservative Party decided to reintroduce petty apartheid to the town by declaring Boksburg Lake, parks, pools, tennis courts and other municipal communities for the use of "white only". In November 1988 Father Stan led a consumer protest march from St Anthony's through the centre of Boksburg. The buying power of the people of Reiger Park and Vosloorus represented 80% of the towns business. The consumer boycott had an immediate impact with a drop in sales ranging from 15% to 90%. Hastily handwritten signs suddenly started appearing in shop windows: "All races welcome".

Despite the many challenges the Centre faced in its 50 year history, it is a beacon of hope to thousands of people who have passed through its gates. It is a legacy of a giant of a man who made a difference to the lives of those who felt disempowered. The dedicated staff of the Centre continues to keep his memory and dreams alive by giving offering the best quality education and skills training they can to those who denied access to education during the apartheid era. The Centre's mission of "Changing the Lives of those we serve" will ensure the Centre continues to grow from strength to strength. This is only possible through our loyal donors who have supported us over the last 50 years.