



## **Rev. Dr. Allan Boesak**

**Lectured at Siena on January 16, 1990**

### ***“King’s Legacy: The Defiance Campaign in South Africa Today”***

The third annual lecture was given by the Rev. Dr. Allan Boesak on January 16, 1990. Dr. Boesak, a minister of the Dutch Reformed Mission Church in South Africa, has been in the forefront of the struggle against apartheid. A distinguished preacher and biblical theologian, he is increasingly recognized as a political as well as religious leader among the forces resisting South Africa’s white supremacist policies and practices.

He is one of the major leaders who have inspired activists at Siena College and in the Capital Region, such as Siena’s Student Anti-Apartheid Group and the Capital District Coalition Against Apartheid and Racism. In response to questions raised by students at Siena, the College Board of Trustees accepted the recommendation of its appointed ad hoc committee in 1986 to divest from companies doing business in South Africa.

Since 1982 Dr. Boesak has been president of the Geneva-based World Alliance of Reformed Churches, and he is a member National Executive of the South African Council of Churches. As a co-founder of the multiracial united Democratic Front, he has taken a militant but nonviolent stand in support of full human rights of all South Africans.

His theological studies included work in seminaries in South Africa, the Netherlands and the United States. He received his Doctor of Theology degree from the Theological Academy of Kampen in the Netherlands. His published works include *Coming out of the Wilderness*, *Farewell to Innocence*, *The Finger of God*, *Black and Reformed*, *Walking on Thorns* and *Comfort and Protest*.

Dr. Boesak has eight honorary degrees and numerous awards from organizations in several countries. In the United States his awards have included the Martin Luther King Award granted by the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, the Robert F. Kennedy Award and the Thomas Merton Award.