

## INTERNATIONAL ALLIANCE OF CATHOLIC KNIGHTS



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#### MICHAEL BELL MEMORIAL AWARD 2009

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#### *“INITIATIVES FOR LIFE”*

I write in relation to the Michael Bell Award. This is the only award which the Alliance confers. In the past year problems have arisen which resulted in no invitations to nominate being sent out. It would be very sad if this Award was allowed to become meaningless.

I would, therefore, respectfully ask all our member Orders to give serious consideration to nominating a person or persons for a Michael Bell Award “Initiatives for Life” 2009 . This can be a Knight of your Order or a member of your Catholic community. Please read the information below which gives all the details.

Submissions are made by the Supreme Knights of each Order which should be no more than 1500 words and should be sent to me by August 31<sup>st</sup>. 2010. Letters are being sent to all SK’s requesting nominations

The adjudication will be made by a judging panel appointed by the International President.

Please support this Life initiative.

#### *Description*

*The International Alliance of Catholic Knights brings together fifteen Orders of Catholic men, working in twenty-six countries throughout the world. All share the same commitment to the service of Christ and their fellow men, all are deeply committed to promoting the principle of the right to life of every human being from the moment of conception until natural death.*

*It was in pursuance of this commitment that in 1992 the Alliance decided to seek out and recognise outstanding initiatives in defence of the Right to Life being taken by organisations and individuals throughout the world by instituting an international award, “Initiatives for Life”.*

*The awards were named “The Michael Bell memorial Award” in honour of a man who gave heroic service to the Right to Life movement during his lifetime and whose influence and example spread to many parts of the world.*

*Michael Bell lived in Bournemouth, England. He was a lawyer and devoted himself to the protection of human life by prayer and action. He was a member of the secular Franciscan Order, founder of the International Association of Lawyers in defence of the Unborn, founder and chairman of the Life Care and Housing Trust, founder of Dorset Family Concern Association and chairman of Bournemouth Life group.*

*Michael Bell was fearless in defence of moral principles and appeared frequently on television and radio, and made regular contributions to the press. He was also a man of prayer and would often be seen kneeling on the pavement outside an abortion clinic quietly reciting the Rosary. For several years he held national office in the Knights of St. Columba. In all things he gave example and guidance to all who knew him.*

*It was the great number of outstanding initiatives for life that Michael undertook during his lifetime which inspired the International Alliance to institute this award to identify and recognise new initiatives constantly being taken in defence of human life.*

*The awards are in two categories. Category one is for initiatives taken by an individual. Category two is for initiatives taken by an organisation. Awards for the year 2005 have been made to recipients in South Africa and Ireland and 2006 to recipients in England and Nigeria.*

*Niall M. Kennedy* KCSG Secretary General