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MICHAEL BELL MEMORIAL AWARDS

The recipients of the 2009 Michael Bell Memorial Award are as follows:

Individual Category

**REV. FATHER STAN BRENNAN OFM.
SOUTH AFRICA**

Fr Stan has dedicated his life to the upliftment and encouragement of the poor and has sought to provide them with life skills as well as the means to earn a living - to give people dignity and hope. 1966 **Adult Basic Education**, 1967 a **Day Care Centre for the Aged**, 1986 the **Matric Project** which assists over 700 students every year, 1988 the **House of Mercy** which rehabilitates alcohol and drug abusers, 1994 **St Anthony's Skills Development** which teaches the disadvantaged and unemployed skills with which to earn a living, for example shoe repairs, welding, knitting, bricklaying, building, etc.,

In 1992 following his experiences as a Priest whilst visiting sick and dying patients in the area, many of whom were neglected, shunned and often facing lonely deaths in poverty-stricken circumstances, Fr. Stan felt moved to open a hospice, **St. Francis Care Centre**, for people dying of AIDS related illnesses, which now has 2 Free Clinics and 4 teams of Home-based Careworkers serving their own communities as well as a children's home for 30+ children and Nursery School.

Finally in 2006 **Mercy Haven**, a shelter for abused women and children was formed by Fr. Stan. Active networking between all these organisations means that - a woman fleeing an abusive relationship at Mercy Haven but needing HIV/AIDS treatment comes to St Francis Clinic, or a patient at the rehabilitation centre may need skills training at St Anthony's.

Fr Stan at eighty years old still remains the Founder and Director and takes an active interest in the management of them, he's also the guiding and steadying hand on the helm to ensure that they all abide by the duty of loving care that all these programmes were founded for. They are all now autonomous, stand-alone registered NPO's and perform their own Fund raising duties.

Organisation Category

FAMILY LIFE INTERNATIONAL NEW ZEALAND

This organization while called Family Life International is really the vision and visible face of pro – life work in New Zealand. Family Life International (NZ) Inc. has the following Mission Statement: “To proclaim the Gospel of Life and build the culture of Life.”

We commit ourselves to fulfilling this mission through:

Prayer: Commitment to personal prayer and the advancement of communal prayer.

Education: Building respect for the sanctity of life, faith and family in the context of Catholic morality by educating on all life issues from natural conception to natural death, and by maintaining a presence in the media by providing public comment on issues relating to life, faith and laity.

Action: Serving pregnant women in crisis and those affected by abortion.

The organisation was founded by Colleen Bayer, who has a husband Terry, a Knight in the Auckland branch of the Knights of the Southern Cross, New Zealand and a son with Down’ syndrome.

Arrangements will be made in the coming weeks for the presentations which will be made by the Supreme Knights of the nominating Orders on behalf of the Alliance.

We congratulate both recipients.

Niall M. Kennedy KCSG

Secretary General