Mrs Clare Ann Kalkwarf D.M.

R.I.P.



Mandeni, 13 April 2006

Dear family, friends and acquaintances of Clare Kalkwarf,
the Brotherhood of Blessed Gérard and Blessed Gérard's Care Centre,

It is with great pain and grief that we have to inform you, that our Vice-President

Clare Kalkwarf was brutally murdered on 6 April 2006.

Thursday (6 April 2006) night about 19:00 hrs, Clare Kalkwarfs husband Geoff came home and when he opened the house door four armed men forced their entrance to their house in 8 Kudu Road in Mandeni. Geoff was tied with ropes and covered with a sheet and they started taking whatever they considered valuable. Clare was at a Dedicated Members Meeting of the Brotherhood of Blessed Gérard and when she returned home she walked into the inferno, shouted for help and tried to run outside. She was caught there by others, stabbed twice and pushed back into the house where a gunshot made an abrupt end to her earthly life. Thank God Geoff is bodily unharmed, but only he knows what psychological ordeal he had to endure.

The funeral took place on Tuesday, 18 April 2006,
at Blessed Gérard's Church, 61 Anderson Road, Mandeni

Clare Kalkwarf had stated in a codicil to her last will and testament:
"I ask that this occasion (her funeral service) be a happy one with light and happy music and no black is to be worn, except as part of a uniform - as this is a celebration of a new beginning and not an end." Her funeral on Easter Tuesday was a real Easter celebration and as happy as humanly possible under the given circumstances. It was an enormous honour that the chairman of the South African Catholic Bishops' Conference, Wilfrid Cardinal Napier came personally and said the final commendation and thanked Clare for her outstanding role in the health care of the Catholic Church locally, on Diocesan level and nationwide.

Clare Kalkwarf further stated in the same codicil: "If it is at all possible, I would like to be buried in the grounds of Blessed Gérard's Care Centre & Hospice, 61 Anderson Road, Mandini."

Through the kind permission of the administrator of the Diocese of Eshowe and èNdondakusuka Municipality her last will could be granted and she is now laid at rest behind Blessed Gérard's Church.

In depth information about Clare Kalkwarf, her life, her last day on earth, her funeral etc. is available at her Homepage
http://bbg.org.za/members/Kalkwarf/index.htm

Brotherhood
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Sr. Nokuthula M Thabethe
Director of Charity

The Brotherhood of Blessed Gérard is a "Public Benefit Organisation operated not for profit" (Reference 18/11/13/2769), an Association of the Roman Catholic Church and the Relief Organisation of the Order of Malta in South Africa.



Blessed Gérard is the founder of the Order of Malta

Clare Kalkwarf was the most dedicated and faithful person one could ever have the privilege to meet and I had the great privilege to work closely with her since 1991.

She was a co-founder of the Brotherhood of Blessed Gérard and if it was not for her, the Brotherhood would never have come into existence and would never have developed to the organisation it is now.
It is not just her unparalleled efficiency and determination to do whatever is possible to alleviate the sufferings of the sick, the poor and the destitute, but is was her very motherly way, which won the hearts.
Although coming from an administrative and business background, she would well deserve an honorary degree in nursing, social work and pastoral care.
When I sometimes was downcast about things not happening or problems which we had to face it was her who always had the stronger faith and absolute trust in God's help.
Her maybe dearest place in the world was the chapel at Blessed Gérard's Care Centre in Mandeni.
It was there where the Dedicated Members of the Brotherhood of Blessed Gérard had Holy Mass together and only two hours later after a joint supper with the Dedicated Members she went home and was shot dead.
I am convinced that she is now looking down from heaven onto us and knowing her organisational talents I am sure that she found out about all the red tape in heaven and is already organising heavenly support for the people, who were entrusted into her care.
Without being presumptuous I just want to quote what several people already told me: "She is one of those unrecognised saints"
I agree with them and I am proud that I could share in her life for such a blessed time.

Father Gérard

On the initiative of Clare Kalkwarf's brother Graham Sprake and with the unanimous consent and support of Clare's closest family Blessed Gérard's Care Centre will establish a

Clare Kalkwarf Memorial Fund

to help finance the continuation of Clare Kalkwarf's life work: Blessed Gérard's Care Centre.

Donations to the fund are tax deductible and may be made out to and addressed to Blessed Gérard's Care Centre
"in memory of Clare Kalkwarf"

Donations may be made directly into our banking account. Our banking details are as follows:

Name of Account: Blessed Gérard's Care Centre
Type of account: Current Account
Bank: First National Bank
Account number: 529 4004 0349
Branch: Mandini
Branch code: 220-429
Swift Code: FIRNZAJJ

Please ensure that you put your personal details on the deposit or send the information directly to us, so that we can acknowledge and assign your donation properly.

More than anything else we ask you for your fervent prayers for Clare Kalkwarf, her family and for us!

Yours most sincerely



Father Gérard T. Lagleder O.S.B.
President