Fallen heroes

The Order's humanitarian work and emergency relief operations take its members, volunteers and staff into some of the most dangerous places on earth.



Mrs Clare Ann Kalkwarf

It is with the very deepest regret that we record the tragic deaths of the following people during their active service on behalf of the Order:

Mrs Clare Ann Kalkwarf, dame of the Order, was brutally murdered on 6th April 2006 by four armed men who forced their way into her home near the Order's hospice in the South African town of Mandeni.
Clare Kalkwarf was buried on Easter Tuesday in the grounds of the Blessed Gérard's Care Centre and Hospice in Mandeni, of which she was co-founder and Vice President.

Her work with the mothers, infants, young children and their extended families involved with the hospice was utterly selfless and tireless. Writing on the hospice's website (www.bbg.org.za), Father Gérard Lagleder, President of the Brotherhood of Blessed Gérard, described Clare as *"the most dedicated and faithful person one could ever have the privilege to meet."*
He added: *"It was not just her unparalleled efficiency and determination to do whatever possible to alleviate the sufferings of the sick, the poor and the destitute, but it was her very motherly way which won hearts."*

In addition to being a founder member, vice-president and manager of the Brotherhood of Blessed Gérard, Clare was vice director and manager of Blessed Gérard's Care Centre, project member for the Blessed Gérard Hospice HAART (High Activity Anti-Retroviral Therapy) programme and project coordinator of the Blessed Gérard's Children's Home, Community Development Centre, Bursary Fund, Poor Sick Fund and Relief Fund.
She devoted her life and her many talents to a place which has been described as 'a place of light in a dark and miserable area' and where health care existed only because the Care Centre brought it.
In memory of Clare, and in recognition of her tireless work for the Order, Clare was posthumously awarded the Gold Medal of the Order 'Pro Merito Melitensi' by the Sovereign Council on 21st June 2006.

"the most dedicated and faithful person one could ever have the privilege to meet."