

The Knights of Columbus Gaudium et Spes Award

Named for the landmark 1965 document that was released as part of Second Vatican Council, the Gaudium et Spes Award is the highest honor bestowed by the Knights of Columbus, the world's largest Catholic Fraternal Organization with nearly 1.7 million members.

The Gaudium et Spes Award is awarded only in special circumstances and only to individuals of exceptional merit. The award was first given in 1992, when the late Mother Theresa of Calcutta was named as the first recipient.

Since then, four more individuals have been honored with this award: the late Cardinal John O'Connor, former Archbishop of New York; the late Cardinal James Hickey, former Archbishop of Washington DC; Cardinal William Baum, former Archbishop of Washington, D.C. and Major Penitentiary of the Vatican; and Archbishop Michael Sabbah, Latin Patriarch of Jerusalem.

The award recognizes individuals for their exemplary contributions to the realization of the message of faith and service in the spirit of Christ as articulated in the document for which it is named. The Gaudium et Spes Award comes with an honorarium of \$100,000.

