



DOCEMUS AWARDS 2015 CITATION

CATEGORY: LIFE LONG CONTRIBUTION

RECOMMENDATION: Fr Frank Gordon

CITATION:

It is a great pleasure to announce that the winner of the Docemus Award in the Lifelong contribution category for 2015 is **Fr Frank Gordon** from St Francis Xavier Parish.

In 1949 Bishop Cahill came to the Diocese of Cairns. At that time there was only one student preparing for the diocesan priesthood for this diocese. He was John Joseph Mullins of Brisbane, who had volunteered for the new Diocese. In the early fifties Bishop Cahill had no access to any other diocesan priests so he approached Archbishop Duhig of Brisbane and asked if he could seek volunteers from the many Brisbane students then training for the priesthood at Pius XII Seminary, Brisbane. Among those who volunteered was Frank Gordon.

Fr Frank Gordon's contribution to the Diocese goes back over 55 Years. Fr Frank was ordained in Brisbane on the 30th of June 1958. By 1959 Fr Frank was Administrator of Saint Monica's Cathedral Parish. He served this Parish until 1974 when he was appointed as Parish Priest of Gordonvale Parish where he served for 10 years. In 1984 he moved as Parish Priest to West Cairns where he remained until 1993. For the next 18 years Fr Frank served the Innisfail Parish community. In 2011 Fr Frank returned to the Parish of West Cairns where he continues as Parish Priest today. His arrival back in West Cairns followed the passing of the much loved Fr Peter Vandeleur.

Since arriving back in West Cairns, Fr Frank has worked tirelessly connecting the many parish entities and groups. He has also been keen to foster a very close connection and relationship with Saint Francis Xavier School. He has also been a regular visitor to the homes of many school families who may not be directly connected to the families.

In recent years Fr Frank has responded to the financial and capital challenges that have existed for the Parish. Fr Frank had a vision for a new Parish centre and went about challenging the community to come together and support this project. Through hard work and bringing a committed team together, his dream came to reality just after Easter this year with the completion of the Xavier Centre.

Fr Frank's passion for his people is not limited to constructing buildings, his wise counsel and timely presence is something that many people comment on as being a gift of his. He is genuinely present for people, often in difficult times. He is a true gentleman and a passionate man of Christ who walks very humbly in his role. Fr Frank Gordon is truly worthy of recognition given his life of service.

Please join me in congratulating Fr Frank Gordon as he is presented with the Docemus Award in the Lifelong contribution category.