

Margaret Rice

AWARD FOR



Presence

Living the Vision

AWARD SCHEME

Br Peter Faulkner

2011 Award Recipient

***Alive to the wonder of all creation
opening us to intimacy with the Mystery of God.***

This award is named after Edmund's mother. Margaret Rice's deep-rooted faith, and her warmth and sensitivity created a home of security and support. Margaret fostered great faith and dedication to prayer in the family home, all of which were instrumental in laying the foundations for Edmund's spiritual journey and interiority; similarly, presence is the foundation stone for authentically living the vision of the Edmund Rice Charism (Spirit).

In living the vision, the recipient of the Margaret Rice Award for Presence strives to live a heart centred spirituality and supports others in mission. The recipient displays the following:

- ☞ honour the presence of the sacred in all creation;*
- ☞ demonstrate respect for the uniqueness and preciousness of all life;*
- ☞ foster hospitable and inclusive relationships embracing mutually enlivening connections with other cultural groups and faith traditions;*
- ☞ values reflective practice and support others in their spiritual journey.*

For many years, Peter has been both an advocate and an educator promoting respect for the Earth and an awareness of Creation Spirituality. Peter puts great energy into inviting others into this conversation, always willing to share his knowledge, passions and wisdom in gentle and inclusive dialogue.

Peter offers his gifts to many groups, far beyond the reaches of the Edmund Rice Network, engaging with people of different faiths, traditions, cultures and settings. A great listener, Peter is also always open to learning from others.

Never disheartened, Peter has long been committed to the challenging the Catholic Church and Congregation of Christian Brothers to be involved in the environment and sustainability debate.

A very practical man, Peter 'walks the talk' by living simply and in doing so seeks to provide others with "understanding through experience". Always searching to create opportunities for people to walk a journey of self-discovery and awareness, Peter has led many many retreats and spiritual experiences gently raising issues and encouraging dialogue.

Always affirming in celebrating others achievements, and committed to creating space for others to grow, Peter works with great passion and energy to facilitate experiences that participants have been as the "most spiritually awakening experience of my life".

Peter is a most worthy recipient of the Margaret Rice Award for Presence.



Br Michael Coughlin

2011 Award Recipient

*Opening our hearts to and standing in solidarity
with the suffering world.*

Nano Nagle was the founder of the Presentation Sisters. She was arguably Edmund's greatest inspiration – her words sank deeply into his heart and brought about change in his life. Having heard the call to open his heart in compassion for those in need, he committed himself, as Nano Nagle had done, to 'spend himself for the poor'.

In living the vision, the recipient of the Nano Nagle Award for Compassion strives to build healthy compassionate relationships and opens their hearts to the cry of the poor and the earth. The recipient displays the following:

- ☞ through action and advocacy, stand in solidarity with the cry of the poor and the earth;*
- ☞ demonstrate prophetic leadership;*
- ☞ demonstrate active and effective relationships with marginalised and vulnerable individuals and communities;*

Michael's passion for justice is built on the foundational belief that every young person deserves a fair go in life. He aims to give them the opportunity to grow in self confidence by achieving in school or in out of school activities.

The trust, openness and the willingness of young people to share with him is testament to his passion for justice and wellbeing for those who come into contact with him.

The initiator of Edmund Rice Camps in South Australia, Michael has worked tirelessly to create opportunities for young people, not only to grow and achieve themselves, but to help others grow and achieve along with them. Edmund Rice Camps which are today doing such great work and have expanded beyond belief would not exist in this form were it not for his taking the initiative to gather around him a group of young people who in turn gathered inspiration from him – and to whom he eventually handed on the mantle.

Michael's work has reached far beyond Edmund Rice Camps – great support for the students at St Pauls College and Rostrevor College has seen him continue to empower vulnerable young people to achieve and believe in themselves. The thousands of hours Michael has spent with 'his cherubs' helping them to turn their lives around and feel good about themselves has reached further than many of us can ever imagine – the number of lives that have been changed by the work of this generous, wise and respected man are immeasurable. Indeed he is a man of compassion.

Ambrose Treacy

A W A R D F O R



Liberation

Living the Vision

A W A R D S C H E M E

Helena Sweeney

2011 Award Recipient

*Freeing and enlivening a world
groaning under the weight of injustice.*

This award is named after the Christian Brother who established the first permanent Brothers' community in Australia. Ambrose Treacy was an educationalist undaunted by the many obstacles in establishing catholic secondary schooling in Australia. His initiative and dedication shaped the pattern of education and the school environment for teachers and students regardless of social or financial standing. It is in his honour that the Liberation award is so named.

In living the vision, the recipient of the Ambrose Treacy Award for Liberation strives to be moved to prophetic action through works of justice. The recipient displays the following:

- ☞ offer a life giving and transformative presence to others;*
- ☞ moves beyond their own comfort zones in participating in mutually enlivening justice works;*
- ☞ is committed to works of transformation, for themselves and the whole earth community;*

From her earliest associations with the Christian Brothers and Edmund Rice Network back in Whyalla, Helena has always been one to “roll her sleeves up” and get involved. Helena would never expect or ask others to do that which she is not prepared to do (or already doing!) herself. She lives the talk.

Helena sees beyond a person's circumstances and looks to the heart of their humanity as can be seen in her tireless work at the former Baxter Detention Centre and with the Aboriginal Students at Rostrevor College. Helena is a passionate advocate for respecting the rights of others and is a person of immediate action. Never dissuaded by her own hardships, Helena searches for motivation and inspiration through her own personal spirituality. Dedicated to the importance of time for reflection, Helena is never afraid to share her faith and her journey with others.

Helena is never afraid to put her faith and trust in young people, she is never constrained by what they might not be able to do, but rather focuses on what they can do.

Greatly gifted, Helena has allowed the experiences and people in her life to help her grow just as she has sought to help others. Helena's diversity of experiences has taught her that she doesn't need to have all the answers – in the tradition of Edmund Rice, understands that simply being present to others in need can sometimes be the most powerful action.

Helena is never one to ‘rest easy’. She is routinely searching for new experiences and new opportunities to engage with others, support those less fortunate than herself, and allow them to transform her own heart.