



Citation

Knight of the Pontifical Equestrian Order of Saint Gregory the Great

Karl Gerard Schmude

The awarding of a Knighthood in the Pontifical Equestrian Order of Saint Gregory the Great recognises a life of service to the Church, of unusual labours, of support of the Holy See, and a good example set in an individual's community and country. It is fitting that Karl Gerard Schmude has been bestowed this honour by Pope Francis.

After attending Christian Brothers' College Rose Bay and Waverley College, Karl completed a Bachelor of Arts Degree at the University of Sydney and a Diploma in Librarianship at the University of New South Wales. His career as a librarian saw him in roles at the State Library of NSW, the NSW Department of Education and, for thirty years, the University of New England. The Karl Schmude Special Collections Room in Dixon Library at UNE recognises his outstanding contribution to the University.

Karl's contributions and involvement in academic, literary and spiritual pursuits in the Catholic liberal arts tradition began with his father, Alfred's, membership of the Campion Society. It was here Karl was introduced to the Catholic intellectual renaissance of the 20th century – in particular to the writings of GK Chesterton and Christopher Dawson.

From this introduction Karl has made significant contributions to:

- Fostering an appreciation of GK Chesterton's writings and the value of his thought in Australia and internationally through the Australian and International Chesterton Societies. He is editor of *The Defendat* and a regular contributor to it and *The Chesterton Review*.
- He has written prolifically in these publications, has written a biographical booklet on Chesterton and writes regularly in the *Catholic Weekly* and other journals.
- Through the *Christopher Dawson Centre for Cultural Studies* and in general articles and publications on Christopher Dawson he has contributed to the intellectual discourse into the religious nature of human culture
- He was instrumental in establishing Campion College, a liberal arts tertiary college based on the vision and mission of Saint Edmund Campion SJ. He was the Executive Director, is on the Board of Trustees and has established philanthropic support for the College and built up a library of approximately 50,000 books.
- In the Diocese of Armidale, Karl responded to the request of his Bishop to become the chairman of Saint Albert's College Board in 2014. He has been a key figure in the transformation of the College in the areas of governance, management, strategic direction and risk management. He stepped down from this role in December 2017.

Karl is indeed most worthy to be a
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