

Life and Work of Professor Father Michael Kelly S.J.

In Memoriam

1929 - 2021



PROFESSOR FATHER MICHAEL J. KELLY

Timeline



REV. FRs. ROBERT, JOSEPH and MICHAEL KELLY, S.J.

Father Kelly studied at University College Dublin and was awarded a first class honours B.A. in Maths and Mathematical Physics, in 1952. He went on to receive a licentiate in philosophy (maximum cum laude) in 1955 and was ordained in 1961.

He completed his PhD studies in the area of child and educational psychology in 1974 and subsequently became a senior lecturer and Dean of the School of Education in the University of Zambia (UNZA), in 1975. He served as pro-vice chancellor and deputy vice chancellor. In 1987, he became Professor of Education.



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Fr Michael Kelly SJ with Kenneth Kaunda, first President of Zambia

It's a measure of Father Kelly's standing in Zambia and his commitment to the country that he became a Zambian citizen in April 1968.

Throughout his period at the University of Zambia, Father Kelly was closely involved with the development of education in Zambia, participating in the educational reform movement in the 1970's, the production of the 1991 policy report Focus on Learning, and the development, in 1996, of the current education policy Educating Our Future.

He has written and acted vigorously on behalf of better educational opportunities for girls.



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From the late 1980's, as Zambia was in the throes of dealing with the devastating impact of the AIDS pandemic, Fr Michael redirected his attention to addressing HIV and AIDS. Zambia is one of the worst affected countries in sub-Saharan Africa and together with Michael's own personal experience of seeing many men, women and children being lost to the disease, he was moved to action.

Through his research and writing about AIDS his work has become known to many throughout Africa and internationally. Father Kelly's long list of publications includes some fifteen books, numerous articles in professional journals, and several teaching modules relating to educational management and planning in a world with HIV and AIDS. One of his many books on this subject has been described as a seminal and definitive text on our tasks and challenges in fighting AIDS. He has contributed to the work of the World Bank, UNESCO, UNAIDS, UNICEF, Oxfam and a range of other AIDS related organisations.



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2012 World AIDS Day Lecture Series

He has worked very closely with the Irish Government in informing their policy on HIV and AIDS. In recognition of Fr Michael's work in this area the Irish Government established an **annual lecture series on HIV and AIDS** in his name – the Professor Michael Kelly Lecture on HIV and AIDS and a **Father Michael Kelly Bursary** to enable Zambian students undertake higher studies relating to education and HIV/AIDS.



PROFESSOR FATHER MICHAEL J. KELLY

Honours

- **2004** – University of the West Indies (UWI) conferred him with the honorary degree of D.Sc
- **2006** – the Forum for Women Educationists in Africa (Zambia Chapter) awarded him the first ever **Kabunda Kayongo Award** for “immense contribution through research on girls’ education”
- **2006** – Fr. Kelly received an **honorary degree Doctor of Laws from UCD**
- **2010** – the First Lady of South Africa, Madame Thobeka Zuma, presented him with a **Humanitarian Award for commitment to health and HIV and AIDS** in the southern African region
- **2012** – he received an **honorary degree from the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland**
- **2012** – Prof Kelly was awarded one of the first **Presidential Awards for Irish Abroad** for his contributions to Peace, Reconciliation and Development, from the Irish Government.
- **2018** – Professor Kelly received the **Order of Distinguished Service** from President Edgar Lungu.
- **2020** – he appeared on an **Irish postage stamp**, as part of series honouring "The Irish Abroad."



THE IRISH AID PROFESSOR FATHER MICHAEL J. KELLY ANNUAL LECTURE SERIES ON HIV and AIDS

2006 – Stigma and Discrimination

2007 – HIV and Children

2008 – Food Security and HIV

2009 – Universal Access to HIV Prevention: Making it Happen for Women

2010 – Accomplishments and Enduring Challenges

2011 – The Global Health Workforce

2012 – Education Responding to HIV and AIDS

2013 – Gender, Sexuality, and HIV

2014 – Stigma, Prejudice, and Legal Responses to HIV and AIDS

2015 – Keeping HIV on the Agenda: Women's Unequal Equality

2016 – Hands Up for #HIVprevention: Leaving No-One Behind

2017 – Young People and HIV

2018 – Leaving No-One Behind

2019 – HIV and Women: Sexual Reproductive Health and Rights

2020 – Solidarity in the Face of HIV at a Time of Global Crisis

To view past events: <http://fathermichaelkellyzambia.org>

