

**RESOLUTION IN HONOR OF SISTER NORMA PIMENTEL**

**WHEREAS**, Sister Norma Pimentel, M.J., executive director of Catholic Charities of the Rio Grande Valley, received the University of Notre Dame’s 2018 Laetare Medal on May 20th; and

**WHEREAS**, the Laetare Medal is the oldest and most prestigious honor given to American Catholics. Established at Notre Dame in 1883, the Laetare Medal was conceived as an American counterpart of the Golden Rose, a papal honor that antedates the 11th century. The medal has been awarded annually at Notre Dame to a Catholic “whose genius has ennobled the arts and sciences, illustrated the ideals of the Church and enriched the heritage of humanity”; and

**WHEREAS**, Sister Pimentel has overseen the charitable arm of the Diocese of Brownsville since 2008, providing a range of services that includes emergency food and shelter, housing assistance, clinical counseling and pregnancy care to all four counties in the Rio Grande Valley; and

**WHEREAS**, previous recipients of the Laetare Medal include Civil War Gen. William Rosecrans, operatic tenor John McCormack, President John F. Kennedy, Catholic Worker founder Dorothy Day, novelist Walker Percy, Vice President Joe Biden, Speaker of the House John Boehner, Cardinal Joseph Bernardin, labor activist Monsignor George G. Higgins, jazz composer Dave Brubeck, singer Aaron Neville, and actor Martin Sheen; and

**WHEREAS**, Pope Francis personally recognized and thanked Sister Pimentel for her work with immigrants in a virtual town hall meeting that was featured on ABC’s “20/20” in 2015.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Hidalgo County Commissioners Court hereby honors Sister Norma Pimentel, for her dedication to the Rio Grande Valley and her longtime advocacy for immigrants and refugees.

**Dated this 19<sup>th</sup> day of June 2018.**

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**RAMON GARCIA**  
County Judge

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**DAVID L. FUENTES**  
County Commissioner, Pct. 1

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**EDUARDO “EDDIE” CANTU**  
County Commissioner, Pct. 2

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**JOE M. FLORES**  
County Commissioner, Pct. 3

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**JOSEPH PALACIOS**  
County Commissioner, Pct. 4

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**Attest: ARTURO GUAJARDO, JR.**  
County Clerk