

*Proclamation Honoring Sister Norma Pimentel  
for being named one of  
Time Magazine's Women of the Year*

*Whereas* Whereas, Sister Norma Pimentel, M.J., executive director of Catholic Charities of the Rio Grande Valley (CCRGV), received the honor of being named one of Time Magazine's 2026 Women of the Year; and

*Whereas* Time Magazine's Women of the Year highlights extraordinary leaders who are working towards making the world a better, more equitable place. This list features 16 phenomenal women such as athletes, actresses, and businesswomen, but beyond that, it features leaders who address the most pressing issues confronting their communities in 2026; and

*Whereas* Sister Pimentel's mission has always been to help those in need. Over the course of her tenure as executive director of the CCRGV, she has helped transform the Humanitarian Respite Center in McAllen, Texas, into a place of refuge that has served more than 100,000 immigrants and provided 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* Last year, with a national crackdown on immigration, the number of asylum seekers entering the center fell to nearly zero. Rather than closing the facility, Sister Pimentel shifted her focus to aiding community members who are elderly, hungry, or experiencing homelessness; according to 2024 U.S. Census data, 1 in 5 McAllen residents lives in poverty; and

*Whereas* In November, the Department of Homeland Security suspended federal funding to CCRGV, but the community rallied behind Sister Pimentel. Faith institutions, nonprofits, and neighbors donated to ensure the organization could continue its mission. Today, the respite center continues to provide up to three meals a day to hundreds of people per week, plus natural disaster and emergency relief, as well as short-term rent and utility assistance; and

*Whereas* "For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me." Matthew 25:35. This scripture represents the Catholic principle of faith and Sister Pimentel's life mission. When the world is cruel, she acts with compassion. She helps the vulnerable with love and open arms. She is a fearless, empathetic leader who we are grateful to have representing the Rio Grande Valley.

*Now, therefore, be it proclaimed* that the Hidalgo County Commissioners Court hereby congratulates Sister Norma Pimentel on this remarkable accolade. We thank her for her three decades of service and advocacy for immigrants and refugees. The way she impacts lives is second to none. Thank you for changing the world with your kindness and humanity.

**Approved this 7<sup>th</sup> day of July 2026.**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**RICHARD F. CORTEZ**  
County Judge

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
**EDUARDO "EDDIE" CANTU**  
County Commissioner, Pct. 2

\_\_\_\_\_  
**EVERARDO "EVER" VILLARREAL**  
County Commissioner, Pct. 3

\_\_\_\_\_  
**ELLIE TORRES**  
County Commissioner, Pct. 4

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