

By: Márquez

H.R. No. 2716

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Father Harold Rahm is being honored as the inaugural
2 Segundo Barrio Person of the Year by the Sacred Heart Jesuit Parish
3 on the occasion of his return visit to El Paso in May 2015; and

4 WHEREAS, A Tyler native, Father Rahm made an indelible
5 imprint on South El Paso while serving as an assistant pastor at
6 Sacred Heart Church from 1952 to 1964; the area was beset by poverty
7 and gang warfare at the time, but he worked tirelessly to improve
8 conditions and help young people turn away from destructive paths;
9 and

10 WHEREAS, Father Rahm established Our Lady's Youth Center and
11 persuaded gang members to work out their aggression in the boxing
12 ring instead of the streets; the facility also offered other
13 sports, as well as music, bands, theater, and free lunches; in
14 addition, he founded the Guadalupe Employment Office, the Guadalupe
15 Thrift Store, the Guadalupe Way of Life Homes, the Tepeyac Credit
16 Union, and Camp Juan Diego, which provided children with
17 opportunities to swim, play games, and take lessons in arts and
18 crafts; earning the nickname "the Bicycle Padre," Father Rahm rode
19 his bike every morning to deliver breakfast to the homes of the
20 elderly; and

21 WHEREAS, By the time he left for a ministry in Brazil, Father
22 Rahm had created a strong foundation for further progress, and
23 parishioners continued his good works and taught younger
24 generations to follow his example; his legacy lives on through

1 various nonprofit organizations, including the youth center, now
2 known as Las Alas, and Centro de Salud Familiar La Fe, which was
3 started by local mothers as the Father Rahm Information and
4 Referral Services Center; and

5 WHEREAS, Today, a mural on Father Rahm Street depicts this
6 beloved clergyman on his bicycle, and his image is also included in
7 a mural at La Fe Health Clinic; although Father Rahm has been
8 working in Brazil for decades, the impact of his service in El Paso
9 continues to resonate in that community, and this accolade is
10 indeed a fitting tribute to his accomplishments; now, therefore, be
11 it

12 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 84th Texas
13 Legislature hereby congratulate Father Harold Rahm on his selection
14 as the Segundo Barrio Person of the Year for 2015 and recognize him
15 for his enduring contributions to El Paso; and, be it further

16 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
17 prepared for Father Rahm as an expression of high regard by the
18 Texas House of Representatives.