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CONTACT: Lauren Dugger, ldugger@sunwestpr.com or Kristen Carter, kcarter@sunwestpr.com, 214/373-1601

Entrepreneur Raul Estrada Named the 2019 Catholic Foundation Award Honoree

Estrada to be honored during Feb. 16 dinner for his generosity and positive impact on Dallas community



DALLAS –Raul Estrada, a successful Dallas-based entrepreneur, has been named the 37th Catholic Foundation Award honoree in recognition of his Christian example and inspiration, as well as his outstanding abilities to make positive changes throughout the local Catholic community.

Estrada will be honored during The Catholic Foundation Award Dinner on Saturday, Feb. 16, 2019, at the Hilton Anatole Hotel. Alfredo and Irma Duarte are serving as the 2019 Dinner Chairs. The Catholic Foundation Award spotlights an individual’s distinguished service and support to further the religious, charitable and educational needs within the Catholic Diocese of Dallas.

“With his exceptional entrepreneurial expertise and generosity, Raul Estrada has made profound impacts in our Catholic community by connecting and motivating people to good works. The Foundation is humbled and honored to recognize a man of his faith with The Catholic Foundation Award,” said Matt Kramer, president and CEO of The Catholic Foundation. “Raul hits the ground running and makes things happen, whether he is opening another restaurant or starting the second phase of construction on Cristo Rey Dallas College Preparatory School. Our community is a better one because of Raul.”

Raul and his parents immigrated to Dallas from Mexico when he was a young child, and his grateful spirit and amazing work ethic was apparent even in elementary school. With tuition assistance, he was able to attend St. Anne’s Catholic School, Holy Trinity Catholic School, St. Mary of Carmel Catholic School and Bishop Lynch High School.

Before he turned 16, Raul had worked 9 different jobs in the Dallas area. With dedicated mentors and Raul’s great attitude, he was working for himself as an entrepreneur by the age of 26 and has been ever since. There are now multiple locations of his restaurants, Las Ranitas and Los Sapitos. He began his construction business by building and finishing out new restaurants as well as building and financing homes for his employees.

A restaurateur, construction business owner and real estate developer, Raul utilizes all his skills and connections to help those in need. He has saved the Diocese millions of dollars by participating and managing construction projects at St Mary of Carmel, Our Lady of Perpetual Help School, Saint James Parish, Cristo Rey High School, Catholic Charities Dallas, St Jude Center and more. Whether new construction or restoration projects, his team provides excellent work efficiently and effectively. Their talent can be seen throughout the Dallas area.

In addition to his commitments to parishes and local Catholic schools, he is a founding board member of Cristo Rey Dallas and served as a trustee of The Catholic Foundation for six years. He currently serves as a board member of Catholic Charities and is a founding board member of #BeGolden, a social awareness campaign that seeks to deliver a message of unity, civility and empathy for our immigrant community by following the Golden Rule.

Raul lives in Dallas with his wife Carmen. They have four children –Mariela, Raul Jr., Alejandro and Jimena. They are parishioners at The Cathedral Shrine of The Virgin of Guadalupe and also attend St. Mary of Carmel from time to time.

“I feel honored to have even been considered for The Catholic Foundation Award. I’m a very small part of an extraordinary group of people that I have the privilege of working with on these projects. I would like to accept this award on behalf of those who have always collaborated with me,” said Estrada.

Table and individual reservations for the 2019 Catholic Foundation Award Dinner can be made at The Catholic Foundation. Visit www.catholicfoundation.com, call 972.661.9792 or email lscheets@catholicfoundation.com for more information.

The Catholic Foundation is a trusted giving vehicle for the Catholic community. Chartered in 1955, the Foundation was founded by a group of dedicated Catholic laymen with a vision that extended far beyond the charitable needs of the moment. The Foundation has spent decades building a strong community, helping donors fulfill their charitable goals, and preserving the founders’ vision and philanthropic legacy. Over the past 56 years, the Foundation has provided more than \$148 million in grants to religious, charitable and educational organizations. Today, it manages approximately \$225 million in assets and houses more than 430 charitable funds and trusts.
