

THE
CATHOLIC
FOUNDATION

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**WINNING ART FROM THE 2017 'A YEAR ON THE PLAZA' ART COMPETITION
NOW ON DISPLAY IN THE DALLAS ARTS DISTRICT**



Created by Adriana Rivera, "The Tree of Life" uses vivid colors to convey the importance of teaching family values and respect to the next generation

DALLAS (Oct. 12, 2017) – The Catholic Foundation has announced Adriana Rivera as the winner of the 2017 'A Year on the Plaza' Art Competition. Her artwork, "The Tree of Life," was unveiled on the 28-by-9-foot public art wall in The Catholic Foundation Plaza during a ceremony on Oct. 11 and will remain on display for one year.

As a child, Rivera was intrigued by paintings of beautiful landscapes and would create her own imitations with flower petals and stones. Her father first taught her how to draw, and now her husband and son serve as her support system in following her passion for art. Her winning piece, "The Tree of Life," conveys her emphasis on teaching family values and respect to the next generation.

"I entered the competition because I thought it would be a good way to demonstrate what I do," said Rivera. "In this case, I realized I had an opportunity to carry a positive message to people through my painting."

Located on the grounds of the Cathedral Shrine of the Virgin of Guadalupe across from the Meyerson Symphony Center, The Catholic Foundation Plaza was dedicated in 2006 as a gift from The Catholic Foundation to the Dallas

community to commemorate the Foundation's 50th anniversary. The 3,900-square-foot public space is an oasis for Dallas citizens and visitors to enjoy at no cost.

"In addition to bringing bright and vivid colors to the Plaza, Adriana Rivera's piece encompasses an important message for us all," said J. Matthew Kramer, President and CEO of The Catholic Foundation. "We congratulate Adriana, as well as all of the artists who entered the competition, for their talent and creativity. We hope visitors of the Dallas Arts District will enjoy her work as much as we do."

Rivera's artwork, along with submissions by other Texas professional artists, was reviewed by a panel of highly respected members of the local arts community before being selected. This year's selection committee included: Reverend Stephen Bierschenk, rector of the Cathedral Shrine of the Virgin of Guadalupe; Cindy M. Gummer, owner of The Enchanted Galleries; Jim Keyes, 2013 'A Year on the Plaza' Art Competition winner; Patricia B. Meadows, Art Connections; Katherine Wagner, CEO of the Business Council for the Arts; and architect Gary Skotnicki. Juan J. Hernandez's "Trinity River Bottoms" and Ron Mabry's "Flora and Crockett, Dallas" were selected as honorable mentions in this year's competition.

Former winners include Marty Ray's "Celebrate Life, Celebrate Art" in 2006, Ann Cushing Gantz's "Trumpeting Angels" in 2007, Pamela Nelson's "Magic Carpet" in 2008; David Zvanut's "Music on Parade" in 2009; J. Lynn Kelly's "Downtown Playground" in 2010; Rebecca Guy's "Dallas in Wonderland" in 2011; Cornelius Brackens Jr. "When the Troops Come Marching Home" in 2012; Jim Keyes' "Homage to The Concertgebouw" in 2013; Barbara Dybala's "The Dallas Arts District Word Search," in 2014; Stuart Hausmann's "Paint the Town" in 2015; and Tanya Joiner Slate's "Trinity River Origami" in 2016.

About The Catholic Foundation

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 60 years, the Foundation has provided more than \$126 million in grants to religious, charitable and educational organizations. Today, it manages more than \$220 million in assets and houses more than 400 charitable funds and trusts.

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