



Fiesta® San Antonio Commission, Inc.
THE ORDER OF THE CASCARON
 2018 Nomination Form

NOMINEE INFORMATION

Name of Nominee: Fr. David Garcia
 Address: 807 Mission Rd. City: San Antonio State: Texas Zip: 78210
 Phone #: (210) Cell #: (210) 410-7190 Work #: (210) 534-1540
 E-mail: _____
 Affiliated PMO's (if any) _____

NOMINATOR INFORMATION

Name of Person Making Nomination: Louis Sanchez + Eloise Lopez-Lara
 Address: 231 W. Commerce City: San Antonio State: Texas Zip: 78205
 Phone #: (210) 416-0371 Cell #: (210) 273-3529 Work #: (210) 827-1297 x129
 E-mail: lsanchez@sfcathedral.org *

On a separate sheet:

In **400 words or less**, please describe the contributions that your nominee has made to Fiesta®.
 Please include:

- 1) Detailed information on the volunteer role that your nominee has played in the Fiesta® celebration. Give specific details on how your nominee's efforts have had an impact on the Fiesta® celebration in a positive and long lasting way. Elaborate on specific volunteer duties and responsibilities nominee has undertaken.
- 2) The length of time that your nominee has been involved in these activities. Give specific years nominee was active in these activities.
- 3) If your nominee served in a specific leadership role during Fiesta®, i.e., Fiesta® royalty, president of a Fiesta® organization, chairman of a Fiesta® event, etc., indicate how their volunteer involvement has gone beyond the normal responsibilities of that role.

Please submit your Nomination form and essay by 5:00 pm on January 31, 2018 via fax or email to:

Fiesta® San Antonio Commission Inc.
 2611 Broadway, San Antonio, Texas 78215
 Fax: 210-227-1139
 E-mail: Amy@fiesta-sa.org

Fr. David Garcia is a special man. Not just a dedicated, spiritual man of God but a man with a big heart. He is also a man of vision. Big visions. A man on a mission!

Fr. David was assigned to his first parish, Immaculate Concepcion, in 1970. It was there that he first learned how and what he need to do to get things moving and getting the community involved.

When he was assigned to San Fernando Cathedral back in 1995, the Cathedral was in desperate need of repair and quick. He needed to raise money and lots of it.

He found a way to raise over \$21 million dollars for this project. Never did he think he was going to be known for receiving money for this project from so many generous people from all walks of life. He worked with city officials and politicians to remind them of the importance of restoring this historic place of worship. He solicited and received donations from folks in the business community who are not even Catholic! This speaks to Fr. David's power of persuasion and his finesse.

While at the Cathedral, Fr. David also learned about a little thing called "fiesta". San Fernando Cathedral has been hosting an annual fiesta event for over 30 years.

Fr. David relied heavily on this yearly fundraiser to generate income for the projects he needed to complete.

In 1988, the event at San Fernando became an official Fiesta San Antonio event but Fr. David wanted to make it bigger. He soon found out that he enjoyed all that fiesta had to offer; gathering of all people in a big party, family-oriented fashion for a purpose: to raise money. And that's what Fr. David intended to do! The name of the event soon changed from "Fiesta en la Villa de San Fernando" to "Fiesta San Fernando" which clearly defined what Dr. David wanted to portray - that our Cathedral in the center of the city was to have a grand fiesta!

In 1996, Fiesta San Fernando's sales doubled and its crowds continued to grow. Fr. David in the role of PMO President and his event chairperson soon had sponsors knocking on the door to get a part of this fiesta event. In addition, Fr. David wanted this event to be about family and still keep it a free, open to the public event. Vendors lined up to rent booth space for this wonderful event. Folks placed lawn chairs early in the day to assure a space for the great music line-up.

Fr. David's smile radiated such happiness and cheer as he proudly walked through the plaza of this fiesta, his sash full of fiesta medals from many different events, jingling as loud as his persona. Waving to the crowds and welcoming everyone to join in the celebration! He was always proud of the newest San Fernando medal and proudly gave them to fiesta kings, queens and other visitors of San Fernando.

Fr. Garcia also took pride in celebrating the annual Fiesta Mass that San Fernando Cathedral hosts each year. This mass is televised throughout the country and other parts of the world. Fr.

David wanted to make sure all involved in this 10-day city-wide event were blessed as they worked tirelessly to raise money for their different causes. At the same time remembering all we should be thankful for.

Fr. David enjoys but also deserves all the attention he receives. He is the people's priest and by far cares about each and every one of us. Fr. David's charm and personality is what draws people to him. As he left San Fernando behind in 2008 to take on other endeavors, he still works vigorously to ensure all that we treasure in San Antonio is preserved for other generations to come.

Fr. David's next assignment, and where he is today, is that of Director of the Old Spanish Missions and the Parish administrator of Mission Concepcion. There, Fr. David also took to fundraising once again in order to restore the city's 4 historic Spanish Colonial Missions. He raised \$15.5 million dollars for this project. Thanks to all his accomplishments there, the missions are now designated as World Heritage Sites!

This does not even begin to touch the surface of what Fr. David Garcia has accomplished in his priesthood. But because of his many, many efforts and contributions, not only to San Fernando Cathedral, Fiesta San Fernando and fiesta, but for our entire community.

He is truly what the Order of the Cascaron defines. To recognize and honor those among us who has gone above and beyond his "call of duty".
