

Fr. Hernan Astudillo is recognized by the City of Toronto

On May 25th, 2009, Fr. Hernan Astudillo, founder of the San Lorenzo Church and Community Centre, Radio Voces Latinas 1610AM and the Caravan of Hope, received an award from Mayor Miller on behalf of the City of Toronto in recognition of the Caravan of Hope and his contribution to the city of Toronto.

After Councillor Mihevc introduced Fr. Hernan and his journey to Canada and upon arriving in the country 11 years ago, Fr. Hernan was invited to say a few words. He humbly accepted this award and addressed the Chamber:

“Mayor David Miller, Councillors Joe Mihevc, Adam Vaughan, Howard Moscoe, dear Councillors and members of the community present here today. In the name of the poor and most excluded people I want to say thank you very much for this special gift. Please, receive a drop of love and hope from all in the Hispanic community of Toronto and especially from the persecuted women whom we call "Las Mamas", who put their hearts in every humanitarian activity in which they participate making the most delicious pupusas in order to collect the hope for our sisters and brothers in need...

I do not have words to pay you for this special gift. With all my heart, where I keep everybody that is in need, I want to say thank you very much and God will pay you, for everything”.

After the ceremony, a proud Janet Rodriguez, member of the San Lorenzo community who was present in the chambers as this honour was bestowed upon Fr. Astudillo shared her sentiments: "Witnessing this ceremony and the standing ovation Fr. Hernan received prior to his heartfelt speech, was truly an emotional moment for me and many others, not only because this was recognition of Fr. Hernan's devotion and accomplishments, but also because it was a testimony to the tremendous commitment and efforts of the members of the San Lorenzo community and the greater Latino community of Toronto".



Mayor David Miller, Fr. Hernan Astudillo, Councillor Joe Mihevc



Fr. Hernan Astudillo addressing the Chamber