



Department of Communication

Archdiocese of San Antonio

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Archbishop announces new Vice President of Finance and Administration of Catholic Charities.

Today, Archbishop José H. Gomez announced the appointment of David Castilleja as the new Vice President of Finance and Administration for Catholic Charities, the largest agency of the Archdiocese of San Antonio. Mr. Castilleja will assume his new responsibilities on March 1, 2007.

In making the announcement, Archbishop Gomez said, “We are pleased that David has accepted this new challenge. He will bring to it, stability, professional stature and a keen understanding of the many ministries of the archdiocese. I am grateful that we will continue to benefit from his considerable skill and faithfulness.”

Mr. Castilleja will apply his twenty-one years of archdiocesan experience and financial knowledge to this rapidly growing ministry. Steve Saldana, Executive Director of Catholic Charities said, “We welcome Mr. Castilleja to his important role at Catholic Charities. His knowledge of Archdiocesan financial and insurance systems and his depth of experience as a Chief Financial Officer, will lead us to operate more efficiently in a challenging and complex financial environment”.

Mr. Castilleja began his twenty-one years of service as Finance Director in 1985. In 1994 he was named Chief Financial Officer of the Archdiocese of San Antonio. Upon accepting his new position Mr. Castilleja said, “I am excited about this new challenge. Catholic Charities has grown tremendously and is doing great things for the community.”

Catholic Charities operates twenty-one programs in the Archdiocese of San Antonio, with an operating budget of \$7,000,000. Mr. Saldana, commenting on the impact that Mr. Castilleja will have on Catholic Charities stated, “We welcome David’s leadership skills to our financial team and believe that he will challenge us to perform to even higher accounting standards and to be better stewards of our resources’.

Archbishop Gomez, while pointing to Mr. Castilleja’s many significant accomplishments, said, “In his 21 years of distinguished and loyal leadership, David was

the architect of the modern and professional financial structure that the archdiocese will continue to build on for years to come”.

The many highlights of Mr. Castilleja’s distinguished career include:

- Mr. Castilleja had inherited a Parish Accounting System that consisted of a collection of handwritten journals from all parishes and schools. He brought that paper process in-house and eventually replaced the written journals with a computerized system.
- In 2002, he launched the pilot program that provided standardized accounting software that today is used by 100 locations.
- When Msgr. Lawrence J. Stuebben, Vicar General and former Moderator of the Curia started the Archdiocese Endowment Fund, he and David worked together in building this important financial resource. The principal started with \$10,000 in 1992 and has grown to more than \$4,000,000. The endowment has benefited many parishes, schools, and agencies throughout the years.
- David showed great patience and perseverance as he tamed the archdiocese’s rapidly accelerating hospitalization costs. In a process that spanned several years, he made many tough decisions that stopped the spiraling costs, while providing improved benefits.

David is quick to point out that, “None of these were accomplished alone, but by a committed team of professionals throughout the years.”

David Castilleja is one of the most respected diocesan financial officers in the country, serving on the Board and also as President of The Fiscal and Financial Conference, and other prestigious national boards and committees. He was elected to the Board of Trustees of Catholic Umbrella Pool which is a group of 35 dioceses. The Board manages the pooled assets of approximately \$25 million and set policies and procedures for member diocese to follow to help manage their risk.

In praising Mr. Castilleja, Archbishop Gomez pointed to his reliance on him as a trusted colleague, “In my relatively short time as Archbishop, I have come to value his counsel and trust his wisdom as he assisted me in making the many important financial decisions that confront us every day. David is a unique example of an executive who believes in leadership through service. He carries both successes and challenges with grace and dignity”.

The Archbishop also announced that the current Controller of the Archdiocesan Business Office, Dellia Thomas, will act as the interim Finance Officer for the Archdiocese and work with Mr. Castilleja in the weeks to come to insure a smooth transition. Ms. Thomas received her BBA from University of Texas at San Antonio. She began her career at the archdiocese in 1994 as an accountant and served as Director of Accounting until 1999. Ms. Thomas worked as Financial Analyst for the archdiocesan Designated Schools program from 2002 to 2005 and was named Controller in 2005. She has been married for 19 years and has two daughters who attend Holy Spirit School.