

**Archbishop's Prayer Breakfast
May 22, 2017**

There is an old saying: "No one is an island." This is a great piece of human wisdom, one that is certainly relevant here this morning, as we celebrate the solidarity in love that drives the work of Catholic Charities. But this phrase takes on a great new meaning in the Gospel of Jesus Christ. His words and his works have taught us the power and the *necessity* of unity.

Our Catholic Catechism reminds us that, "The life of each of God's children is joined in Christ and through Christ in a wonderful way to the life of all... in the supernatural unity of the Mystical Body of Christ, as in a single mystical person." Not only is no one an island, but our true identity is always tied to our neighbor. We are one body. This is the very meaning of our lives. This is why we drive ourselves so hard to care for each member of our body who is in need. The Catechism continues: "The unity of the human family, embracing people who enjoy equal natural dignity, implies a universal common good." The only good worth doing is that which aids the common good of the body of Christ, the human family.

Pope Francis spoke to this in his 2015 audience with Catholic Charities: "We know that Jesus wanted to show solidarity with every person. He wanted everyone to experience his companionship, his help and his love. He identified with all those who suffer, who weep, who suffer any kind of injustice. He tells us this clearly: 'I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink; I was a stranger and you welcomed me.'"

I thank you all for your support of Catholic Charities, but I also present that same challenge of the Holy Father, that same challenge of Jesus himself. Your support of Catholic Charities helps those in need. In a special way, it helps immigrants and it helps the homeless in our midst. We thank you so much for that support, but the challenge stands. Love and the common good demand more than giving of our things. They demand giving all of ourselves, they demand unity and solidarity. I challenge you to stand in unity with the immigrant person, to stand in unity with the homeless person, to stand in unity with any person who is denied their due dignity. We are the body of Christ. It is more than what we do. It is who we are.