

## Remarks: Catholic Charities Reception-10/13/16

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Good evening, my dear friends in Christ. Thank you for being with us tonight, and for your generous service to the poor and needy in our midst. This year we celebrate Catholic Charities' 75 years of faithful service. Let me express my heartfelt gratitude to Antonio Fernandez for his inspired leadership, the staff and volunteers for your diligent efforts, and the board of directors and all who make our efforts possible in sharing your many gifts and your belief in our mission.

Thanks to each of you, Catholic Charities' 45 different programs continue to serve our communities throughout the Archdiocese of San Antonio and God's love and presence is felt in profound and merciful ways regardless of race, religion, age, sex or socio-economic status.

In 2010 Catholic Charities served 57,584 people in need...by June of this year this number grew to 238,324. This number includes the children served by this year's Back to School Wellness and Resource Fair, Project Cool that provides literally thousands with life-saving relief from the unrelenting heat, and assistance to refugees and immigrants who come to us seeking a new life as they escape oppression and violence.

Through Catholic Charities, those we serve feel God's gentle mercy through the Corporal Works of Mercy; to feed the hungry, give drink to the thirsty, clothe the naked, welcome the stranger, heal the sick, visit the imprisoned and bury the dead.

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As Pope Francis reminds us; “The mercy of God is not an abstract idea, but a concrete reality through which he reveals his love as that of a father or a mother, moved to the very depths out of love for their child. It is hardly an exaggeration to say that this is a “visceral” love. It gushes forth from the depths naturally, full of tenderness and compassion, indulgence and mercy.

Once again, I thank you for all that you do in Jesus Name and guided by the Holy Spirit. God bless you all.