

In September of 2017 our Holy Father Pope Francis said, concerning the life and work of charity in Catholic life, that ““Charity is at the heart of the Church, it is the reason for its action, the soul of its mission.” Previously, our Pope Emeritus, Benedict XVI, had said, in the encyclical Caritas in Veritate: “Charity is the main path of the Church’s social doctrine. Every responsibility and commitment outlined by this doctrine is attuned to charity which, according to Jesus’ teaching, is the synthesis of all the Law,” he said.

My dear friends, inspired by the words of our recent Pontiffs I welcome you to the Board of Catholic Charities of San Antonio. We serve anyone and everyone who needs our help. We make no distinction between Christians or non-Christians, poor, healthy or unhealthy, citizen or migrant. If you are a human being, and you are in need, we will help you, just as Christ would. Catholic Charities reflects the soul of the Church’s mission in the world, and it is the living representation of the hands of Christ, Himself, alive and at work in our world today. Our commitment to everyone and anyone can sometimes be source of controversy. You must know this, and not be surprised by it. We do not ask if someone “deserves,” or does not “deserve” our help. We make no distinctions about politics, and we are not the government. We are the Church. And we will perform the mission of the Church as Christ has commended it to us. You must have this in your heart in order to help fulfill the mission of Catholic Charities.

Catholic Charities is the largest private provider of human assistance in San Antonio, second only to the Bexar County

government, itself. We often work in partnership with other aid organizations, and we are proud and happy to do so. However, Catholic Charities is often the lead organization because of our size and reach. We are happy to collaborate with government programs, but we are not a branch of the government and we do not feel constricted by the priorities of government institutions. For us, every person is a child of God. Period.

I am delighted to work with each and every one of you! You bring unique talents, skills, and experience to this great enterprise. Working together with your fellow board members, and in concert with our leader and CEO, Mr. Antonio Fernandez, I know that great things are about to happen! I know that charity, the soul of the Church, is in good hands with you! Catholic Charities works best when we share our talents, skills, and various perspectives with one another. Spirited conversations make for better policies and better decisions, so I want you be forthright and direct in sharing what you think! This is not the place to be timid, but the place to be the most bold about bringing the works of the Gospel of Jesus Christ to the where the rubber meets the road in human life.

May Our Lord bless you, strengthen you, and keep you in His loving care as you embark upon this great work of the Gospel and Christ's Church. I look forward to a very fruitful relationship with you all!

Please rise and join me by reciting the pledge you received in your folders today."

(proceed to the pledge)

