



February 10, 2025

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

As the largest provider of social services in the state, Catholic Charities is a demonstration of Christ's love every day. Their selfless team is on the front lines - housing the homeless, welcoming the stranger, fighting the fentanyl epidemic, supporting veterans, caring for the sick and much more.

Now directly serving more than 100,000 people each year, Catholic Charities is thriving under the leadership of President and CEO Michael Reichert. As a strong believer in the dignity of all people, he has built a culture at Catholic Charities that embraces this truth. He has expanded services, built strong relationships, developed innovative programs and has remained on the forefront of issues impacting our brothers and sisters on the margins of society. After more than 45 years of service, Michael has announced his plans to embrace a well-deserved retirement.

The grace of the Holy Spirit was at work as we began to search for his replacement. It was truly providential that we were introduced to Jilma Meneses, who was the secretary for the Washington State Department of Social and Health Services. Prior to this role, she was the chief executive officer at Catholic Charities of San Francisco, Marin and San Mateo.

It is with immense gratitude and joy that I share Jilma Meneses will be the new President and CEO of Catholic Charities effective March 1st. At this time, Michael will become President Emeritus and will continue supporting Jilma and the team through the transition before he takes on special projects.

Jilma will oversee this charitable arm of the Catholic Church by leading three distinct nonprofit organizations: Catholic Community Services of Western Washington (CCS), the Archdiocesan Housing Authority (AHA) and the Catholic Charities Foundation. Her professional work within the health care, government and charity sectors, along with her expertise leading strategy and operations for large organizations, makes her a strong fit for this complex and mission-critical role.

I'm incredibly grateful that Jilma is living out her faith and putting her professional talents to use by serving the marginalized and those experiencing poverty on behalf of the Catholic Church. Please join me in welcoming her to the organization in March. May the grace of God continue to bless this organization and everyone it serves. As always, I remain,

In The Heart of Christ,

Most Rev. Paul D. Etienne, DD, STL
Archbishop of Seattle