

Archbishop Speaking Points:

Thank you, Bret.

Good afternoon and welcome to your new role as Catholic Charities' Board members! Today the Lord is doing something new and you are who He has chosen to carry out this work. Thank you for your yes to Him. Each of you are irreplaceable in His plan and come with your own unique gifts that are completely specific to you. The world needs you; Catholic Charities needs you. If each of us come to the Lord humbly and willingly, we begin to move as one Body and God's love becomes tangible among us.

In imitation of Christ, Pope Francis said, the path of the church always must be the path toward those the world considers last.

"It is from them that we start, from the most fragile and defenseless. From them. If you do not start with them, you do not understand anything," Pope Francis said. "Charity is the mercy that goes in search of the weakest, that goes to the most difficult frontiers to free people from the slavery that oppresses them and make them protagonists of their own lives."

Christians need to look into the eyes of the poor and learn to see the world through their eyes. "That is where you learn," he said. "If we are not able to look into the eyes of the poor, to look them in the eye, to touch them with a hug, with a hand, we will not do anything."

Seeing the world through their eyes, “we look at reality in a different way from what is our mentality. History is not seen from the perspective of the winners, who make it appear beautiful and perfect, but from the perspective of the poor, because it is the perspective of Jesus,” he said. “It is the poor who put their finger on the wound of our contradictions and disturb our conscience in a healthy way, inviting us to change.”

If one’s heart and conscience do not become restless seeing the world from their perspective, “we should stop because something is not working,” the Pope said.