



'God's timing is perfect'

Every day in the Diocese of Austin, Catholic Charities of Central Texas helps us answer our call as Catholics to care for those living on the margins of our communities.

"The greatest thing about Catholic Charities is that it exudes and bubbles out our Catholic social and moral teachings," said Executive Director Sara Ramirez. "It's for the greater good of the community. We're reaching across all denominations. Even for people who don't have faith, we get to show them what His love looks like."

Since 1999, Catholic Charities has provided protection and care to children, help to families and a new beginning for refugees and immigrants, and restored dignity to the elderly. The direct service arm of the Diocese of Austin also supports parishes' spiritual work by meeting their clients' material and social needs to break the cycle of generational poverty.

But even though the number of families Catholic Charities serves annually has more than tripled over the last 10 years and is expected to rise to 100,000 a year by 2028, being physically present in only the Austin and Bryan/College Station areas has limited its reach in the 25-county service region.

"Demand for our service is out there," Sara said. "It's just that we are not in those communities, and we don't necessarily have the resources to provide services to everyone who comes to us."

Encountering Christ will change that, with \$5 million directed to Catholic Charities to renovate a diocesan building in Waco, which, according to analysis, will have the greatest immediate effect and help provide additional services to historically underserved communities.

“We’ve always been a part of Waco, but now we will have a physical presence there,” Sara said.

Campaign funds will also be used to reconfigure the current facilities in Bryan/College Station and the Austin offices to accommodate additional staff and volunteers so more clients can be welcomed.

When it comes to *Encountering Christ*, “God’s timing is perfect,” Sara said, adding that for donors, the campaign is an opportunity to “live out their values, to leave a legacy. I always say, ‘The legacy you leave, is the legacy that you lived today.’ What do you want to be remembered for?”

For an in depth look at the work of Catholic Charities, visit encounteringchristcampaign.org/videos and watch the “Catholic Charities of Central Texas” video.