



Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Atlanta, Inc.

Providing Help. Creating Hope.

680 W. Peachtree St. NW, Atlanta, GA. 30308, Phone: (404) 881-6571. Fax: (404) 888-7816

www.catholiccharitiesatlanta.org

Press Release

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Phone: (404) 885-7238

for more information please contact:

Jutta M. Hansen

PR-Coordinator

jhansen@archatl.com

Pope Names Catholic Charities USA President to Pontifical Council Cor Unum; Rev. Snyder to also Serve as President of Caritas North America

Rome, Italy.... June 1, 2007. Pope Benedict XVI this week named Rev. Larry Snyder, president of Catholic Charities USA, to the Pontifical Council Cor Unum, the dicastery which oversees the Church's charitable activities around the world. Established in 1971, Cor Unum serves in the name of the Pope "for humanitarian initiatives in cases of disaster or in an integral promotion of humanity."

"I am honored to have been invited to serve the Church and Catholic Charities in this way. I look forward to the opportunity to learn more about the wide range of the Church's charitable work in the world but also to share more broadly the incredible work being undertaken by Catholic Charities agencies all over this country," said Father Snyder.

As head of Catholic Charities USA—the national membership association of more than 1,500 local Catholic Charities agencies and institutions that serve more than 7.4 million people a year—Father Snyder is responsible for the overall direction of the Catholic Charities movement and the administration of Catholic Charities USA located in Alexandria, VA. He also serves as chief spokesperson for the organization and maintains key relationships with Catholic and other national and governmental groups.

In June, Father Snyder will assume the presidency of Caritas North America. Caritas North America, a regional body of Caritas Internationalis, is comprised of four member organizations—Catholic Charities USA, Catholic Relief Services, the Catholic Campaign for Human Development, and Development and Peace in Canada.

Father Snyder is currently in Rome, joining Caritas Internationalis members from around the world for the 18th General Assembly of Caritas Internationalis that is being held June 3-9. Caritas Internationalis is a confederation of 162 Catholic relief, development, and social service organizations working to build a better world, especially for the poor and oppressed, in over 200 countries and territories.

"This is a great honor for Father Larry Snyder and for the Catholic Charities network in the USA. It affirms Pope Benedict's dedication to the humanitarian and charitable works of the church worldwide. As a member agency of the Catholic Charities network, the local Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Atlanta provides services that reach across cultural, ethnic and socio-economic boundaries as we serve all persons in need..." says Joe Krygiel, CEO of Catholic Charities Atlanta.

“In his first encyclical Pope Benedict XVI reminds us, **“The Church cannot neglect the service of charity any more than she can neglect the Sacraments and the Word” — Deus Caritas est., #22.**

And in this spirit of service to the poor, in January 2007, Catholic Charities USA’s national office in Alexandria, VA. launched a new multi-year initiative called **The Campaign to Reduce Poverty in America**, which has as its goal to cut the rate of poverty in half in the United States by the year 2020. We join this effort in Atlanta by urging our federal and state congress and administration to give a much higher priority to the needs of the poor in budget and policy decisions, on issues such as health care, housing, nutrition, and economic security....” comments Joe Krygiel further.

Catholic Charities (formerly called Catholic Social Services, Inc.) is the social service agency of the Archdiocese of Atlanta and North Georgia. In September 2003, the agency celebrated 50 years of service to over one million people, serving all clients regardless of religion or background, especially those most in need and most vulnerable. The service programs include Pregnancy, Parenting and Adoption; Family and Children Counseling Services; Housing Counseling; Prison Ministry; Senior Ministry Information & Referral Services, Legal & Immigration Services; Refugee Resettlement; Emergency Services; and Parish & Social Justice Ministry. Community Outreach Centers include five locations in Gainesville, Athens, Dalton, Marietta, and Fulton-Dekalb Counties.

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