



Renewing Our Church Together

SEPTEMBER 2021

I am writing to you with joyous news. This September we begin the celebration of a 250-year Jubilee, the anniversary of the Mission San Gabriel, the first church in the Archdiocese of Los Angeles. This celebration is proof of God's enduring love for us and a reminder that God is always working for the good of those who love him. There are no exceptions.

As we emerge from isolation and look forward in celebration of the Jubilee, there is no better time to recommit ourselves to renewing our Church.

Beginning in October, we will relaunch the *Called to Renew* campaign. Although the effort is significant, we are blessed to have raised already more than 70 percent of the \$500 million goal. I am inspired by the sense of responsibility for the mission and future of the Church that has brought us this far. Thank you for being a part of that success!

When we paused the *Called to Renew* campaign in the spring of 2020, I did not know what to expect. At the time, I believed it could be a matter of months until we resumed our efforts. As you know, it has been more than a year. I firmly believe pausing the campaign was the right thing to do. Our Archdiocese focused on the enormous needs created by the pandemic in our community. We were learning to serve the People of God in new ways, and our focus shifted.

Although our nation and our world have not fully come out of the coronavirus pandemic, we have begun to make significant progress in the Archdiocese. I am so grateful to say that today we are allowed to come together in our parish communities in celebration of the Eucharist. The return to in-person Mass also signifies a return to our ministries and all the responsibilities of parish life, responsibilities that we all share. Thank you again for your commitment!

Know that I am praying for you, and I ask you to please pray for me in my ministry.

May Jesus, through the intercession of our blessed mother Mary, Queen of Angels bless us with good health, peace and joy,

Father Brian Nunes
Moderator of the Curia and Vicar General



Visit calledtorenew.org
to learn more.

Overall Statistics of the Campaign

SINCE MARCH 2020



TOTAL
AMOUNT
RAISED

\$369,891,536

AVERAGE
GIFT

\$11,481



NUMBER OF
PARISHES
LEFT TO
CAMPAIGN

186



NUMBER OF
DONORS

32,219

PERCENT OF
GOAL

74%



RENEWED AGAIN:

San Gabriel Mission's triumphant Jubilee

The purpose of the *Called to Renew* campaign is to 'renew' the Church in the Archdiocese of Los Angeles. When we reference renewal, we seek to improve our buildings and strengthen our faith. The Mission San Gabriel Archangel is a perfect example of this dual renewal.

The Mission is an enduring reminder of the strong history our Church has had in Southern California. All of the renovations were in anticipation of the upcoming 250th anniversary. Parishioners were excited to build upon this history and add their legacy to the beauty of the Mission. On July 10, 2020, they were thrilled to install new pews and kneelers, one of their final *Called to Renew* projects. A day later, on the morning of July 11, a catastrophe ensued.

An arsonist set fire to Mission San Gabriel's Church. The fire was devastating. In addition to the pews and kneelers, fire engulfed the roof, and much of the old Church was ruined. The smoke and fire undid much of the parishioners' hard work. Thankfully, the historic paintings, the Stations of the Cross, and other artifacts were removed from the sanctuary as part of the renovations to prepare for the 250th celebration.

Staff, parishioners, friends of the Mission, and the local community of San Gabriel were devastated. However, they did not waste time and an effort to rebuild began. Now, thirteen months after the fire, and after much hardwork and sacrifice, Mission San Gabriel is rebuilt, stronger than ever.

Although Archbishop Gomez originally planned to hold the opening Mass for the Jubilee at the San Gabriel Mission, this will not be possible. Instead, a prayer service will be live-streamed from the Mission on September 8 in front of the Chapel, and the closing of the Jubilee will be hosted there in 2022.

The consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic on parishes, like the mission fire, have been devastating. The image of the Church under reconstruction following this disaster is illustrative of what we are going through as an Archdiocese, but like San Gabriel, now is the time to rebuild.

We are being *called to renew*!

To learn more about the history of the San Gabriel Mission and this year's 250th Jubilee, please visit forwardinmission.com.