



# Renewing Our Church Together

APRIL 2019

## Renewing our Faith at Easter

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Each Lent, we prepare our hearts for our Risen Lord at Easter. Our fasting, prayer, and sacrifices also serve to renew and strengthen our faith so we may go forth and spread the Good News throughout the year as His missionary disciples.

This Lenten season is particularly special, as we are in the process of renewing our Archdiocese through *Called to Renew*. This campaign unites us all, as we work together to ensure future generations of missionary disciples too may know the joy that can only be found in the Resurrected Christ.

The generosity of so many so early in our effort is inspiring — not only to me, but to those who will take up this campaign in their parishes over the next two years. Please know how much I appreciate your help in renewing our Church through your sacrificial gifts and pledges.

I wish you all the joy of Easter and entrust you to the care of our Blessed Mother, the Queen of Angels.

May God grant you peace,

+ José H. Gomez U.

Most Reverend José H. Gomez  
Archbishop of Los Angeles



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## Early Success of Wave 1

The 29 parishes participating in Wave 1 of *Called to Renew* are off to a strong start, having collectively raised 48% of the wave's overall goal of \$15.9 million.

These parishes launched their campaigns in January, with more than 850 parish leaders and volunteers attending three kickoff meetings. They will continue their efforts through the end of Wave 1 in June.

Congratulations to the following Wave 1 parishes that are already over goal:

**St. Kevin**  
Los Angeles

**Precious Blood**  
Los Angeles

**Mission San Buenaventura**  
Ventura

**St. Bernadette**  
Los Angeles

The Pilot Phase's 19 parishes have now raised 134% of their collective goal of \$14.505 million and continue to collect gifts toward their campaigns. Because of the generosity of faithful who have responded positively to these Pilot campaigns, as well as to Archbishop Gomez's requests for leadership gifts, the average gift amount is currently \$39,047.

More than 6,000 gifts have now been received, including 108 from priests.

**Thank You for Your Support!**

## VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

### *Called to Renew* is 'going to help everybody'

Clarence Dixon's involvement in St. Bernadette's *Called to Renew* campaign seemed a natural fit. Not only is he the parish bookkeeper, he has been a member of the Los Angeles parish for 48 years and knows his fellow parishioners well.

St. Bernadette has now raised 116% its assigned goal, and 77% of the enhanced goal it set to meet greater parish needs.

"It confirms what I've always believed about the parish — that we are very generous people," he said. "I'm kind of overwhelmed at the fact that we've reached the goal so quickly.

For the campaign, St. Bernadette outlined four vital projects that it has not been in the financial position to undertake: repaving the parking lot, replacing the pews and kneelers, installing a new heating and air conditioning system in the church, and renovating the convent.

"The campaign is going to be very important for our parish," Clarence said, noting that much of this maintenance is long overdue on the 60-year-old buildings.

Before pledging their own gift, Clarence and his wife took the advice they gave often during their years in ministry to engaged couples preparing for the sacrament of marriage. "One of the primary things before decisions are made is prayer," he noted. "Having a commitment over a five-year period is something that we needed to pray about, and to come up with a figure that would make us feel good, and also allow us to be comfortable with what we're giving."

Knowing that *Called to Renew* will benefit other inner city parishes like St. Bernadette, as well as many ministries of the Archdiocese, helped the Dixons reach their decision.

"One of the things I like about the campaign is that it's going to help everybody," Clarence said. "To have a program where everybody contributes and everybody benefits is certainly something that I appreciate very much."





## Parish Spotlight

## St. Joseph, Long Beach

Msgr. Kevin Kostelnik's enthusiasm for *Called to Renew* was surpassed only by that of his parishioners, who have now pledged more than \$2.9 million — 311% of goal — to St. Joseph's campaign.

"This was an opportunity to not only support various ministries of the Archdiocese, but also to make sure that we're moving forward with facilities that help meet the spiritual needs of the people here," said Msgr. Kostelnik, pastor.

The Long Beach parish will use its share of campaign funds to replace the church pews and chairs and the doors and windows in the priests' residence, remodel the parish hall, update church and school restrooms, and create a fund for future maintenance projects. Endowments will also be established for adult faith formation and Movement for a Better World, a parish outreach program for the community's most vulnerable members.

This "campaign of Jesus Christ" became the centerpiece of parish life for six months and was "a wonderful way to renew the spiritual life of the parish," Msgr. Kostelnik said. He began homilies with a *Called to Renew* update and invited families to share why they loved St. Joseph and why they supported the campaign. Following Communion, parishioners prayed the campaign prayer, which he rewrote for the parish school and religious education students.

Integral to St. Joseph's success were the 42 "ambassadors" who met weekly to share successes and failures from meetings with their fellow parishioners. Msgr. Kostelnik also cleared his schedule to free his evenings for more than 40 private dinners, during which he shared the campaign one on one.

While St. Joseph now moves forward toward fulfilling the promises in its case statement, parishioners will continue praying the campaign prayer for other parishes in the Archdiocese, "so that they might be successful," Msgr. Kostelnik said.

*"Called to Renew is a wonderful way to renew the spiritual life of your parish."*

**Msgr. Kostelnik, Pastor**  
St. Joseph Parish

<b>Parish Goal</b>		\$935,000
<b>Total Raised</b>		\$2,907,634
<b>Percent of Goal</b>		311%
<b>Number of Donors</b>		504
<b>Average Gift</b>		\$5,769





## Focus: Endowing Programs at the House of Prayer

Continuous support of our priests is a powerful way to answer a call for renewal in our parishes and communities. Our Archdiocese is blessed to have a facility dedicated to the spiritual renewal of these holy men through retreats and fellowship. *Called to Renew* will create an endowment to ensure this ministry's vitality for years to come.

### What this will do

Ensure greater financial stability of the Cardinal Manning House of Prayer for Priests by investing in future maintenance and enhanced programmatic experiences for clergy seeking spiritual direction and time for reflection.

### Why this is important

Providing our priests with opportunities for spiritual renewal allows them to renew their zeal to ministry — impacting our families, our parishes, and our communities.

## An Update on Our Campaign

Thank you for your generous support!

### Overall Campaign Goal

\$500 Million

Raised to Date: \$248,066,729

Percent of Goal: 49%

Number of Gifts: 6,353

### Lead Gift Goal

\$250 Million

Raised to Date: \$205,789,537

Percent of Goal: 82%

Number of Gifts: 42

### Parish Campaign Goal

\$250 Million

Raised to Date: \$42,277,192

Percent of Goal: 17%

Number of Gifts: 6,311



Want to learn more? Visit [CalledToRenew.org](https://www.CalledToRenew.org)