



Investing in Future Generations

JUNE 2019

'We want our parish to be around for the next generation'

When Father John Schiavone invited Mike and Susie Miller to help with St. Maria Goretti's *Called to Renew* campaign, Mike admitted to having reservations about the initiative.

Active with the Knights of Columbus and several non-profits, he was familiar with fundraising and accustomed to giving campaigns a critical eye before offering support. At his pastor's encouragement, he attended the first meeting with a list of questions about the \$500 million initiative to strengthen parishes and ministries throughout the Archdiocese of Los Angeles.

"I had all of my questions written down, and I checked them off one after another," he said. "They answered all of my reservations, including about the abuse scandal."

Mike and Susie have been members of the Long Beach Parish since 1965 and are invested in its future. They raised their family there, and Susie is a frequent volunteer in the office. "We want our parish to be around for the next generation," Susie said.

The couple discerned their own gift before working as a team to approach fellow parishioners about supporting *Called to Renew*. During these one-on-one meetings, they encouraged prayers as well as contributions and developed deeper friendships in their longtime parish.

They also brought fresh ideas to the committee, such as suggesting campaign ambassadors wear nametags to Mass. "If somebody had questions, they knew who to ask," Mike said.

St. Maria Goretti has currently raised 153% of its \$470,000 goal, thanks to the generosity of 170 parish families. The parish plans to direct its share of funds to renovating the church, replacing the organ, and installing a new HVAC system and windows.

In addition, the parish is receiving *Called to Renew* funds directly from the Archdiocese to meet pressing facility needs identified during preparation for the campaign. A section of the parking lot will be regraded and re-slurried, and the air conditioning unit in the rectory will be replaced.



AN UPDATE

ON OUR CAMPAIGN

Goal: \$500,000,000

Raised to Date: \$261,360,800

Percent of Goal: 52%

Number of Gifts: 9,583

Thank you for your generous support!

Want to learn more about *Called to Renew*? Visit calledtorenew.org