



**CALLED TO RENEW**

Our Family | Our Parish | Our Community

# Renewing Our Church Together

AUGUST 2019

## Uniting our parishes in faith

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

As we prepare for the launch of our second wave of parishes participating in *Called to Renew*, I cannot help but reflect on the generosity so many have shown to this campaign over the past year. It is heartwarming to see how this effort to strengthen the future of our Archdiocese has united so many in our parishes and across the Archdiocese of Los Angeles.

Also exciting is the work our communities are just beginning to accomplish with their share of campaign funds. Each of these projects, whether facility- or ministry-related, allow us to renew our Church and ensure we can continue to faithfully serve the spiritual needs of so many for generations to come. Together, we are truly leaving a legacy.

Thank you for your sacrificial gift in support of this important initiative for our Archdiocese. If your parish's campaign is now complete, please remember to pray for your brothers and sisters as they undertake *Called to Renew* in their communities. They, and you, will remain in my prayers, which I entrust to 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



### In This Issue

Good News from the Pews	2
Parish Spotlight	3
Case Focus	4
Campaign Update	4





### As Wave 1 successfully concludes, Wave 2 parishes launch their campaigns

The 29 parishes participating in Wave 1 of *Called to Renew* have raised \$24.2 million — 156% of their collective goal — and are now concluding the fundraising efforts they began in January.

All parishes in the Archdiocese of Los Angeles are participating in *Called to Renew* during a series of six waves through June 2021. Nineteen parishes were in the Pilot Phase and 56 Wave 2 parishes are now preparing to launch their campaigns.

*Called to Renew* has now raised more than half of its \$500 million goal, thanks to the generosity of 14,278 faithful across the Archdiocese of Los Angeles.

Three kick-off meetings for Wave 2 parishes are being held with Archbishop José Gomez and Msgr. Albert Bahhuth, vicar general and moderator of the Curia. Wave 2 pastors and their Campaign Executive Committees are invited to attend:

**July 31 (Spanish)**

**August 12 (English)**

Cathedral of Our Lady of the Angels, Los Angeles

**August 13 (bilingual)**

St. Paschal Baylon, Thousand Oaks

## VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT: MARCELLA LEONETTI-TYLER Co-chairing parish *Called to Renew* campaign was 'a special gift'

For 40 years, St. Cyril of Jerusalem Parish has played a prominent role in Marcella Leonetti-Tyler's life, as well as her family's. When her pastor, Father Eben MacDonald, asked her to co-chair the Encino parish's *Called to Renew* effort, the Parish Finance Council member answered with a resounding "yes."

"It has been a privilege to be part of this faith community," Marcella says. "Working on the campaign proved to be a perfect way to express my gratitude for the many years St. Cyril's has been in our lives."

As an experienced advancement and fundraising professional, she knew the capital campaign would provide an opportunity for the local Church and its parishes on many levels.

"*Called to Renew* was a perfect title for the campaign, because it provided people in Los Angeles an opportunity to become aware of the needs of today's and tomorrow's Church as well as the particular and unique needs of each individual parish," she says.

Through reflection, prayer and careful listening, Marcella and her family thoughtfully decided on their own *Called to Renew* pledge. St. Cyril's campaign team often asked potential donors they met with about the campaign to also pray about their giving decisions, she says.

Two elements of the parish case statement spoke to both Marcella and many of her fellow parishioners: the installation of a new air conditioning and heating system and a new roof for the church. "Sitting at Mass on Sundays during the summer months, with an air temperature of 100 degrees outside, often is very uncomfortable," she says.

St. Cyril has now raised 121% of its enhanced goal of \$1 million and parishioners will soon experience the fruits of their efforts.

Co-chairing her parish's *Called to Renew* campaign was "a special gift," Marcella says. "A wonderful side benefit for me, and many of the campaign team members, was the opportunity to meet many parishioners for the first time. We are looking forward to the stewardship phase of our campaign as we cement and nurture these important relationships."



## Parish Spotlight

## Holy Family, Artesia

After Holy Family's *Called to Renew* campaign experienced a slow start, the Artesia parish "plodded forward," says Father John Cordero, MMHC, pastor.

"When the initial results of the campaign came in, we were at the bottom of Wave 1 since we started a little later than the rest of the pack," he says. Conversations with parishioners were less positive than he anticipated, and only a handful of volunteers were attending weekly meetings. Still, he adds, "we took it in stride."

Fast forward only a few months, and Holy Family now leads Wave 1 of the campaign. It has raised \$2,558,795 — 220% of its assigned goal and 171% of its enhanced goal of \$1,500,000.

While Father Cordero credits his parishioners and volunteers for Holy Family's success, he says replacing his initially skeptical outlook with a positive one, and communicating regularly about the campaign from the pulpit and on social media, led to the participation of 649 parish families. Word of *Called to Renew* even reached an area television station, which featured Holy Family in an interview.

As Commitment Weekend approached, the parish was on verge of reaching its enhanced goal. "Instead of resting on our laurels, we intentionally campaigned for more participation instead of any specific amount to be reached," Father Cordero says. "We strove to make sure that a great majority of our active parishioners take ownership of their parish and its future. I think that struck a chord, which blessed us with an outpouring of support."

Expanding the parking lot was the cornerstone of Holy Family's case statement as well as an overall plan to prepare the growing community for the next generation. "We do not intend simply to pave a field but to incorporate it in our plan to create more spaces for parish activities," he says. "It will be a plaza that will beautify our campus and solve our practical problems in parking."

Overall, Father Cordero believes *Called to Renew* is making the faithful aware of the "bigger picture" in terms of needs for both the local Church and parishes. "The campaign has provided a focal point of participation among our parishioners to meaningfully create a legacy for the next generation, a Church ready for their children and their children's children."

"I believe Commitment Weekend, the time when we ask the congregation-at-large to pledge, is the key event of the campaign."

**Father Cordero, Pastor**

<b>Parish Goal:</b>	\$1,165,000
<b>Total Raised:</b>	\$2,558,795
<b>Percent of Goal:</b>	220%
<b>Number of Donors:</b>	649
<b>Average Gift:</b>	\$3,943





## Focus: Serving the Vulnerable

As Catholics, we are called to participate in the renewal of families and our communities by ministering to those whom are suffering.

Many patients and families struggle to hold onto hope in their moments of greatest need. While God is certainly with them during illness or the loss of a loved one, the healing presence of a priest, chaplain, or lay minister has the potential to bring hope, mercy, and comfort.

The sheer size of the Archdiocese of Los Angeles and limited resources for the Ministry to the Sick and Dying have prohibited our ability to train lay leaders and send more chaplains into our communities.

### What this will do

*Called to Renew* will provide \$15 million to spread hope by connecting those who are ill or dying with Christ through the Sacrament of Reconciliation, the Anointing of the Sick, and Holy Communion; to prepare lay leaders to spend time with patients and families, to listen deeply, and to help sort through emotional stress; and to enable the Archdiocese to hire additional chaplains and expand to a greater number of hospitals in Southern California.

### Why this is important

The Gospel has the power to transform lives, and in Christ, true healing is possible. This critical ministry serves a need each of us will one day experience with our loved ones.

## An Update on Our Campaign

Thank you for your generous support!

### Overall Campaign Goal

\$500 Million

Raised to Date: \$273,825,693

Percent of Goal: 55%

Number of Gifts: 14,278

### Lead Gift Goal

\$250 Million

Raised to Date: \$206,835,387

Percent of Goal: 83%

Number of Gifts: 47

### Parish Campaign Goal

\$250 Million

Raised to Date: \$66,990,306

Percent of Goal: 27%

Number of Gifts: 14,231



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