



# Investing in Future Generations

FEBRUARY 2020



## Volunteer Spotlight: Tom and Ellen Celaya

Finding a new spiritual home was a priority when Tom and Ellen Celaya moved to Granada Hills 38 years ago. While visiting St. John Baptist de la Salle, the associate pastor spotted them standing in the back of the church and immediately welcomed them to the parish.

"We were so impressed that it's been our community ever since," Ellen says.

Throughout the years, Tom and Ellen became more involved with parish ministries and their two sons attended religious education and received the sacraments. When their pastor, Father Ramon Valera, asked them to attend a kick-off meeting for *Called to Renew*, they agreed — even though asking for money was "out of their comfort zone."

"I believe in my faith and my Church," Tom says. "I have received a lot from the Church and *Called to Renew* is a chance to give back to my parish and the Archdiocese."

Although both Ellen and Tom serve as ushers and regularly greet their fellow parishioners, serving as ambassadors gave them the opportunity to move past "hello."

"The best part for me was talking to people in the parish and hearing why our parish was important to them," Ellen says. "Another bonus was I felt closer to Father Ramon because he relied on us and we were helping him."

The Celayas are grateful that St. John Baptist de la Salle, having raised 111% of its \$1.19 million goal, can now move forward with a second school building to house the junior high and after school care. Even though their sons attended public school, they realize how important the parish school is to the community, and to the next generation of parishioners.

"The way I look at it, when we moved to the parish, we were just a young couple just starting our family," Ellen says. "Older people, like we are now, gave to the parish and helped pave the way for us to be included. So, we figure it's our turn."

## AN UPDATE ON OUR CAMPAIGN

Goal:	\$500,000,000
Raised to Date:	\$345,506,759
Percent of Goal:	69%
Number of Gifts:	29,880

**Thank you for your generous support!**

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