



Strengthening Our Parishes

JUNE 2020



Perseverance and Gratitude

As most of us stay at home and are unable to actively participate in our parishes, it can be a challenge to feel connected to our communities. Our faith asks us to persevere in times of trial and cultivate hearts full of gratitude and trust that despite the difficulty, beautiful things are still happening. The examples are all around us!

Consider, Our Lady of Guadalupe in Oxnard. In the midst of the stay-at-home order, they are undergoing transformation and renewal, thanks to the ongoing generosity of the community. The parish has completed one of their *Called to Renew* projects: the parking lot has been repaved and repainted, and more handicapped spaces have been added for accessibility. The grounds, too, have been made more attractive and welcoming, with new roses growing abundantly throughout the campus.

Recalling last year when the parish goal once seemed unattainable, members of the Campaign Executive Committee respond with gratitude at the overwhelming generosity of the parish community, encouraging them to be steadfast in their reliance on God. Parishioner, Elia Alfaro writes, "During this situation, so especially challenging, we invite you not to allow anything to rob you of your peace, your trust in our Lord Jesus. We cannot waiver in our faith. Let us receive this trial with confidence in the faithfulness and divine providence of our Lord. Cheers, my brothers and sisters!" Margaret Herrera, another parishioner, echoes Elia's sentiments with a message of encouragement saying, "I am the Church, we are the Church; I am so eager to return to praise God with the community as one! Once a Guadalupana, always a Guadalupana!"

When parishioners return to Our Lady of Guadalupe, they will find it better than it ever was. Our Lady of Guadalupe is a beautiful reminder that the Lord is always at work in our communities, but more importantly now, in the hearts of His faithful. More than ever before, we are *Called to Renew*; let us continue to labor for the Kingdom. We can still pray for the most vulnerable and respond to their needs, and we can still care for our Church. We are so thankful to have our Lady of Guadalupe as a reminder of the power of faith and generosity.

AN UPDATE ON OUR CAMPAIGN

Goal:	\$500,000,000
Raised to Date:	\$367,135,743
Percent of Goal:	73%
Number of Gifts:	32,244

Thank you for your generous support!

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