



# Strengthening Our Parishes

AUGUST 2020



## ***Called to Renew* fulfillment efforts are still underway!**

We encourage you to continue making payments on your pledge so that parishes across the Archdiocese of Los Angeles can address campus and ministry improvements. Parishioners have seen air-conditioning units and sound systems installed, newly painted Churches and upgraded roofs, as well additional funding for food banks and faith formation programs. Donors to *Called to Renew* are changing our parish homes and we thank you for your generosity. We continue to move forward together in faith through these unprecedented times.

## **Generosity Continues to Inspire**

These past four months have been extremely difficult for our Church. We have been unable to have students in our schools, in-person Masses have been canceled, and we were forced to reimagine most of the ways that we connect with the faithful. Although it is sad to forgo our usual traditions, we remember that our isolation is a commitment to the well-being of others. It exemplifies the unity and love, which makes us confident we will come back stronger than ever with renewed focus and resilience.

While so many in our communities are facing hardships, there are still parishioners throughout the Archdiocese who continue to express their generosity through acts of kindness, care for family and friends, and gifts of goods, time, and money. For example, despite very little campaign activity in parishes, since March 13th, the *Called to Renew* Campaign has collected over \$7.5 million in pledge payments and raised \$3,635,393 from 416 new gifts. For those parishes that were actively campaigning in March, forty-four percent raised 40% or more of their goal in just seven weeks of fundraising. Seven of those same parishes exceeded their campaign targets.

St. Basil's in Los Angeles is just one inspiring example. The goal for their campaign was \$290,000, and the parish was at 87% of the goal before the pandemic began. The shutdown order did not stop the work of Deacon Thomas Brandlin. Since the pandemic began, he has raised \$72,955 from 21 new gifts. He continues to visit with people and invite them to participate. He credits his success with knowing the parishioners and listening to the needs of the people. The parish is proud to report that they are at 126% of the goal and continue to raise funds for the parish!

In spite of the difficulties, we remember that one day soon, the hardships of the pandemic will be over. We will appreciate our time together and our ability to celebrate occasions large and small, and we will have improved our parish homes so that when we return, we return to a church and campus that is better than ever.

**Want to learn more about *Called to Renew*? Visit [calledtorenew.org](https://calledtorenew.org)**