



# Strengthening Our Parishes

NOVEMBER 2020



## AN UPDATE ON OUR CAMPAIGN

Total amount received: \$108,503,845

Number of donors: 28,724

Number of parishes receiving funding for deferred maintenance projects: 116

Thank you for your generous support!

## Second oldest Mission in the Archdiocese gets much-needed upgrades with *Called to Renew*

In May 2019, several months after Wave I began, Mission San Buenaventura met its first funding goal in the *Called to Renew* campaign. Subsequently, the garden restrooms were remodeled, and a new sewer was installed.

Completing these much-needed upgrades with *Called to Renew* funds is a blessing the pastor credits to the generosity of his parishioners. "While local needs of Mission San Buenaventura in Ventura identified for its *Called to Renew* campaign are not ones that typically garner enthusiasm — a new sewer line, stucco replacement, electrical wiring, and lighting — parishioners feel a responsibility to preserving this historic and religious site," Father Tom Elewaut said.

"Replacing the 1926 sewer line and modernizing the restrooms were a top priority," according to Father Elewaut. But this was more than a facility issue, "It speaks to hospitality — not only hospitality to parishioners, but to our visitors," he explained. "Being a mission site, we have visitors from all over the United States and even the world every week."

In addition to the restroom renovation, the parish added a Confirmation coordinator to their faith formation staff, painted the exterior of the Parish Center Office, and plans to paint the rectory exterior.

Excitingly, this past June, Pope Francis elevated the Mission to a minor Basilica, the first in the nation's largest Archdiocese. Archbishop José Gomez made the formal announcement at an early morning week-day Mass on July 15, the feast day of St. Bonaventure.

Anticipating a major celebration once COVID-19 restrictions are safely lifted, the Mission is preparing for another major project funded by parishioners: a new lighting system for the Basilica slated to be completed by Christmas of this year. The parish has amassed over \$200,000 in pledge payments to date.

Despite the pandemic, most pledges in support of the Mission's campaign have continued. For its part, the parish has offered daily and Sunday Masses by live stream, indoors, or outside according to health department and Archdiocesan protocols.

Regardless of the situation, the evangelization of the Gospel at Mission Basilica San Buenaventura has continued without fail since 1782!

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