



# Strengthening Our Parishes

MARCH 2021



## AN UPDATE ON OUR CAMPAIGN

More than \$20 million has been allocated for parish projects since *Called to Renew* was launched in 2018.

**Thank you for your generosity!**

### Mission Basilica San Buenaventura installs new lighting

Just in time for Lent, the Old Mission Basilica San Buenaventura recently completed an extensive new lighting upgrade that highlights the sacred art and liturgical appointments for parishioners, pilgrims, and tourists. The state-of-the-art lighting system replaces a 1980s era system with LED energy-efficient theatrical enhancements that create a spirituality uplifting appreciation of the sacred paintings, statues, and tapestry, some of which predate the completion of the 1809 church. Each appointment is separately illuminated with sufficient congregational lighting.

The lighting project was envisioned five years ago and funded by parishioners participating in *Called to Renew*. The first campaign project remodeled restrooms in the garden utilized by parishioners and guests visiting the historic downtown Mission.

In June 2020, Pope Francis elevated Mission San Buenaventura to a minor basilica in the Catholic church, becoming the seventh Minor Basilica in California. An active faith community, the Mission Basilica contains oil paintings of the Via Crucis (Way of the Cross) painted in New Spain approximately forty years before completing the present church. Statues of patron San Buenaventura, St. Mary, and St. Joseph behind the main altar are strikingly visible, as is the tabernacle, altar, and ambo (pulpit), among several other statues and a painting of Our Lady of Guadalupe. Many of the eighteenth-century statues have been restored in the past decade by the South Coast Fine Arts Conservancy funded by the California Missions Foundation and the Nicholas and Margaret Carlozzi Charitable Foundation and private donors.

The seven-week lighting installation project was engineered by John Maloney, P.E., designed by Mar-Vista Lighting and Chauvet Professional, and installed by Taft Electric. The public is invited to an open house to view the new lighting on Sunday, February 28, 2021, from 1:00 P.M. to 4:00 P. M. observing COVID health safety regulations.

Visit [calledtorenew.org](https://calledtorenew.org) to learn more.