



Renewing Our Church Together

AUGUST 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!

Despite Challenges, Dolores Mission Is Renewed During the Pandemic

Dolores Mission has always been a beacon of hope in Boyle Heights. During the darkest days of the pandemic when the community was hit hard, the impact of the pandemic was felt immediately; people lost their jobs, became ill, and some died from the virus. Many parishioners did not qualify for government assistance. Families and seniors had trouble buying groceries, paying for housing, and keeping their health insurance. Even with these new stressors, the community of Dolores Mission looked to their faith for guidance. They rolled up their sleeves and did what they have always done; they supported each other.

The pandemic was a great opportunity to focus on what is important. For example, younger people would go out and buy groceries for the seniors in the community, and look out for sick people. People embraced the opportunity to dig deep and renew their love for God. They found an invitation from God to not be overwhelmed by fear but thankful to have Him. Fr. Ted Gabrielli, S.J., the Pastor of Dolores Mission, recounted how proud he was of his community and how they came together for one another.

Dolores Mission, too, expanded their help for the community. They provided gift cards for food and offered financial aid through the McIntyre Fund for those with more serious financial needs. In addition, they expanded their homeless shelter.

For over 30 years, the homeless shelter, which Proyecto Pastoral oversees, has helped men and women alike. During the pandemic, they created more living spaces, and they allowed people to stay there without leaving, so they could better adhere to the pandemic safety protocols.

Thanks to the *Called to Renew* campaign, the building that serves as the shelter was repainted and became more welcoming. Other areas of Dolores Mission were repaired during the pandemic, for instance, the bathrooms and various hallways. Perhaps most importantly, brand new pews and kneelers have been installed. The old pews came to Dolores Mission over 40 years ago from other parishes. Now those same pews are in Mexico, in a sister parish that Dolores Mission was able to help.

Fr. Ted is thankful for the *Called to Renew* campaign. The campaign has allowed many parishes, including his, to complete critical projects that would otherwise be beyond the reach of the community.

Visit calledtorenew.org to learn more.