



Strengthening Our Parishes

OCTOBER 2021



AN UPDATE ON OUR CAMPAIGN

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

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Parish plans to build community through campaign

Although community has always been an important aspect of parish life at St. Agatha Parish in Los Angeles, the coronavirus pandemic only increased the desire parishioners have to gather together.

"It means much more to people," said Father Anthony Lee, parish administrator. "People crave gatherings and celebrations."

As the parish prepares to participate in the Pilot 2.0 Phase of *Called to Renew*, it is prioritizing projects that will improve the church hall and create more meeting and gathering space.

For a number of years, the parish has planned to renovate the hall, specifically the kitchen and restrooms, which have proved inadequate for community celebrations. But an outdoor plaza is a dream project that Father Lee believes will be especially beneficial to the parish going forward.

"There is a small and narrow empty dirt lot, which we used as a community garden in the past, next to the office building," he said. "I am imagining that it could be a very nice community gathering space, with an outdoor kitchen, so that they can cook and sit outside if the weather permits."

Father Lee also hopes the outdoor space will help the parish engage the community's youth. "As any other church, our population is growing older," he said. "I think we need to really have a special space and program for our youth, where they can gather and hang out over food."

St. Agatha also plans to improve the lighting in the church to ensure the altar is the focal point, as well as upgrade the audiovisual system. The latter will allow bilingual Masses to be celebrated more efficiently, with the ability to project instead of repeat the second language.

Father Lee credits previous pastors for creating a welcoming environment at the multicultural, multiethnic parish, which will celebrate its centennial in 2023. "Our parish has really been known for its welcoming spirit," he said, and hopes that through *Called to Renew*, he will "continue that spirit of welcoming and building up the community."

Visit calledtorenew.org to learn more.