



Renewing Our Church Together

DECEMBER 2021

Dear Friends,

Advent is always such a special season. But this year, as we continue to emerge from the coronavirus pandemic and gather together in person with those we love and cherish, our preparations for Christmas are even more meaningful.

After all, Christmas is about family — and that includes your parish family. Like a shepherd tending to his flock, our pastors are eager to count their sheep! If you have not done so already, I encourage you to return to your spiritual home to celebrate the birth of our Savior.

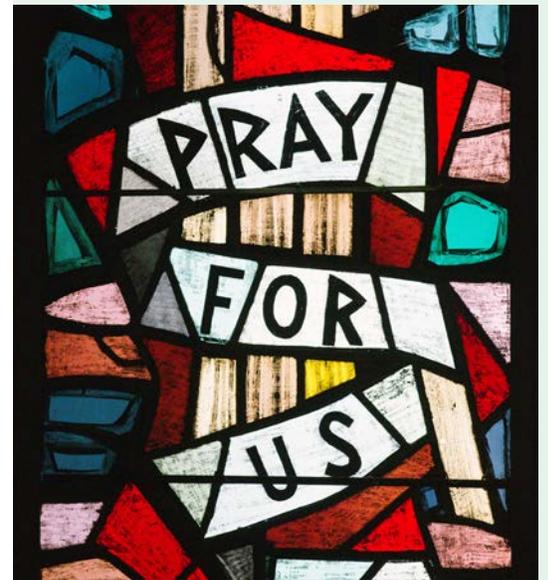
The Archdiocese of Los Angeles is so blessed to have celebrated 250 Christmases, in both good and challenging times, as a family of faith. I am so excited to start my role as the new chief development officer during our Jubilee Year, *Forward in Mission*, and to be able to help ready our Church for another 250 joy- and Christ-filled celebrations.

Called to Renew is huge part of this effort. Because of your generosity, we are already strengthening archdiocesan services, ministries, and programs. Many parishes that participated in the campaign before the pandemic have directed funds to ensuring parishioners are safe and comfortable in the pews, now and in the future.

From my family to yours, Merry Christmas!

Peace,

Catherine V. Fraser
Chief Development Officer



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Year-end giving considerations

The end of the year is the perfect time to share God's many blessings with the Archdiocese through *Called to Renew*.

Many people choose to gift assets that have increased in value for the tax advantages. If you itemize tax deductions, you may receive an income tax deduction up to the full market value as well as avoid capital gains tax on the appreciation.

A year-end distribution from your IRA can also be tax-advantageous. If you are 70½ or older, the IRS requires required minimum distributions (RMDs) from tax-deferred retirement accounts. A qualified charitable distribution (QCD) can satisfy your RMD for the year, up to \$100,000, excluded from your taxable income.

- Gifts must be postmarked by December 31 to be eligible for a tax deduction.
- Credit card donations, stock transfers, and gifts of securities must be received by 11:59 p.m. PST on December 31.
- The Archdiocese requests receipt of RMDs by December 16 to ensure timely processing.

For more information, contact Advancement Services at 213-637-7341 or advancementservices@la-archdiocese.org.

Tax ID #95-1642382

This information is not intended to be legal or tax advice. Please consult with your legal, tax, and financial advisors for specific advice on these matters.

STAFF SPOTLIGHT: JUDY BROOKS

A Q&A with *Called to Renew's* new executive director

What excites you most about *Called to Renew*?

I love that *Called to Renew* was crafted for the benefit of our parishes, and that it will allow them to make serious improvements to their buildings and grounds. This plays into my favorite expression: "Parishioners are the beneficiaries of their own generosity!"

Why do you feel like this campaign is important for the Archdiocese of Los Angeles and our parishes?

We have never had a capital campaign and the immediate results will have a long-term impact on so many areas.

What archdiocesan case element speaks to you most?

I am a big fan of Catholic education! *Called to Renew* will create a Catholic School Scholarship Endowment, which will provide an additional \$2 million in tuition assistance each year, giving more than 1,000 additional students the opportunity to grow in their faith and continue to lead lives in Christ. Over a generation, tens of thousands of children and their families will be the beneficiaries of our generosity.

How is your faith central to your role as executive director?

Just when I was asking God what was coming next for me professionally — and hoping for an immediate answer, I got a call out of the clear blue from a grand nun, Sr. Mary Jean Meier, RSM, who was seeking a person to do special events, primarily the Cardinal's Awards Dinner. An annual gathering of Catholics honors laypeople who have done wonderful things for the marginalized and needy, this unique fundraiser has raised many millions during the last 30 years. That is how it all began, and it has mushroomed greatly: Archbishop Gomez invited me to work closely with him primarily on lead gifts and major donors for the balance of the *Called to Renew* campaign. God answered my prayers; He always does!



Parish Spotlight

St. Philip the Apostle, Pasadena

Earlier this year, St. Philip the Apostle Parish celebrated a centennial of living and sharing the Gospel of Christ in Pasadena. Now, through *Called to Renew*, the parish is reflecting on the legacy it hopes to leave to future generations.

“We’ve benefited so much from all the people before us who built this thriving community, so how do we make sure that we are keeping it prepared for the next 100 years?” asked Greg Van Dyke, chair of the parish’s campaign committee.

St. Philip the Apostle has set four strategic goals for its *Called to Renew* campaign: to expand opportunities to worship, to enhance parishioners’ in-Mass experience, to refocus the liturgy, and to continue to develop the parish school.

To increase the comfort of parishioners so they can better engage during Mass, the parish will replace the circa 1950s pews and kneelers, upgrade the sound system, and overhaul the HVAC system to improve the heating and cooling.

The campaign will also help refocus parishioners’ attention on the Eucharist. A priority for Father Tony Gomez, pastor, and his advisory committee was to build a new 24-hour Adoration Chapel to expand access to the Blessed Sacrament for people who work during the day, as well as reposition the tabernacle and place it on a worthy pedestal.

“Our church’s original design had the tabernacle centered right in the middle of the altar, and it got moved,” Greg said. “At the end of the day, the Mass is all about the Eucharist, so we want to put that back up on the altar.”

The parish’s largest ministry, St. Philip the Apostle School, will also be refreshed for the first time in 15 years. And at the other end of the student spectrum, the parish will improve its Newman Center in an effort to connect with young adults in junior college and engage them in the Church during a critical period in their lives.

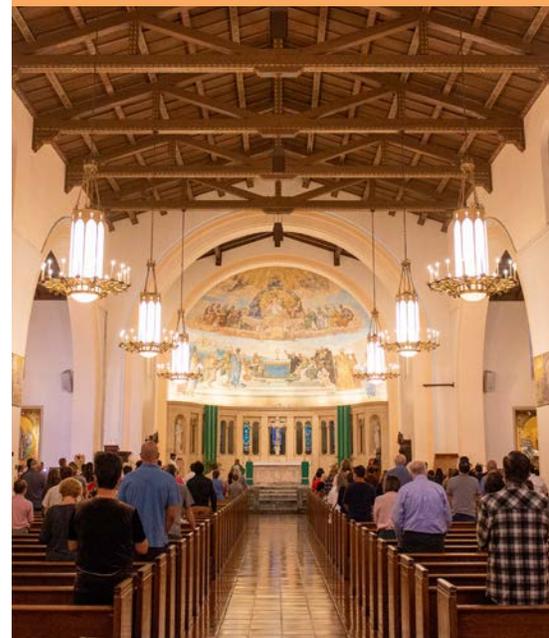
“We love our parish,” Greg said, “but it’s time for us to refresh it.”

“We just celebrated our 100th anniversary, and now we’re planning for the next 100 years of St. Philip the Apostle as a parish.”

Greg Van Dyke

Parishioner and Campaign Committee Chair

Parish Goal	\$1,420,000
Enhanced Goal	\$2,200,000
Total Raised	\$456,000
Percent of Goal	32% & 21%
Average Gift	\$76,000



Focus: Supporting Priestly Vocations

The number of men who answer the Lord's call to serve our families and the least among us as His shepherds not only strengthens the future of the Archdiocese of Los Angeles, but also our Church.

Currently, 13 seminarians live in community at the Queen of Angels Center for Priestly Formation (formerly the Juan Diego House of Formation) while studying at Marymount California University. This program strives to be a source of encouragement and formation as these college-age men live out the convictions and challenges of pursuing the possibility of a vocation to priestly service in the Church.

"Here, at the seminary, we focus on four pillars of formation: pastoral, intellectual, spiritual, and human," said George Gomez, a seminarian. He and the other men at the Queen of Angels Center for Priestly Formation keep these pillars in balance through their studies, interactions with fellow students as they assist with campus ministry, and prayer.

Through *Called to Renew*, the Queen of Angels Center for Priestly Formation will form seminarians who know themselves better, have a deeper understanding of what it means to be a priest and to serve God and their neighbors, and are prepared to complete their studies and formation for the priesthood at St. John's Seminary in Camarillo.

What this will do

Called to Renew will create a \$10 million endowment for the Queen of Angels Center for Priestly Formation.

Why this is important

Undergraduate men who are discerning the priesthood will be able to earn their degrees without significant financial stress.

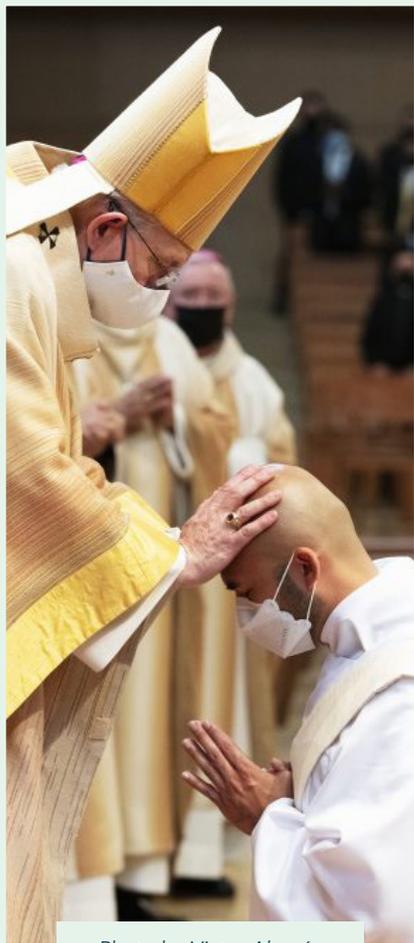


Photo by Victor Alemán

An Update on Our Campaign

Thank you for your generous support!

Overall Campaign Goal

\$500 Million

Raised to Date: \$372,959,562

Percent of Goal: 75%

Number of Gifts: 32,631

Lead Gift Goal

\$250 Million

Raised to Date: \$213,875,387

Percent of Goal: 86%

Number of Gifts: 59

Parish Campaign Goal

\$250 Million

Raised to Date: \$159,084,175

Percent of Goal: 64%

Number of Gifts: 32,572



Want to learn more? Visit [CalledToRenew.org](https://www.CalledToRenew.org)