



Strengthening Our Parishes

NOVEMBER 2021



AN UPDATE ON OUR CAMPAIGN

Goal: \$500,000,000
Raised to Date: \$371,578,207
Percent of Goal: 74%
Number of Gifts: 32,593

Thank you for your generous support!

Campaign gifts help engage students on college campuses

Each academic year, the population Our Lady of Lourdes Parish serves increases by 38,000, and Father David Loftus estimates that 10,000 of these Cal State Northridge students are Catholic young adults his parish has longed to better engage at this critical time in their lives.

The college years are “an optimal time to engage someone, to listen to their questions, to share their concerns and to support them as they discern,” said Father Loftus, pastor.

As part of *Called to Renew's* \$10 million investment in campus ministry, the Northridge parish will soon have the assistance of three FOCUS missionaries to minister to students. FOCUS, a Catholic collegiate outreach, trains its missionaries in Church teaching, prayer, Scripture, and discipleship so they may encounter students and invite them into a personal relationship with Christ.

Although the Archdiocese of Los Angeles has a presence at USC, UCLA, and UCSB, tens of thousands of students at other colleges and universities are looking to achieve a more Christ-centered life. The Catholicism for Collegians Initiative will help establish a physical presence on many more college campuses throughout the Archdiocese and develop new and vibrant Catholic leaders with a commitment to Christian evangelization and service after college.

Thirteen seminarians completing their undergraduate studies while discerning the priesthood at Queen of Angels Center for Priestly Formation are also assisting with campus ministry at Marymount California University in Rancho Palos Verdes. George Gomez sees their community-building work on campus as essential, especially given the impact of COVID-19, and are hoping to increase engagement with their fellow students through service projects.

“This pandemic really has affected us deeply, hiding behind our walls or behind a screen,” he said. “We want to give students a chance to participate in the community, especially with the poor, to give them that good feeling that God gives them.”

Visit calledtorenew.org to learn more.