



Renewing Our Church Together

APRIL 2022

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Easter blessings to you and your families!

After forty days of Lenten fasting, almsgiving, and prayerful reflection, we celebrate that Jesus Christ is risen again, and this Good News fills our hearts with great joy. We cannot help but join in the great, ancient song of praise: Alleluia!

Our churches are our spiritual homes, and it is in that spirit that we gather each year as a spiritual family to celebrate not only the Resurrection but also the tragedy and sorrow of our Savior's crucifixion. These great mysteries fill us with hope and gratitude, and when we gather to celebrate them as a community of faith, we are strengthened and renewed in body, mind, and spirit.

As disciples of Christ, we are likewise called to renew our Church through our historic capital campaign. Together, we are ensuring that generations to come will encounter Christ in our parishes and through essential programs and ministries of the Archdiocese of Los Angeles.

Called to Renew is our opportunity to leave a legacy. After distancing ourselves for so long from our brothers and sisters in Christ during the pandemic, we all know deep down in our souls how much this beautiful gift will inspire others, now and in the future.

May you and your loved ones know the joy of the Risen Lord this Easter and every day of the year!

Father Brian Nunes
Moderator of the Curia and Vicar General



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Support *Called to Renew* and save on your taxes

Paying off your *Called to Renew* pledge could save you additional money at tax time.

Many donors choose to donate appreciated stock, which yields double tax savings. Not only are you able to deduct the full market value of the donation, thereby reducing your taxable income, but it also allows you to avoid paying capital gains tax.

Another option is a qualified charitable distribution. If you are over age 70 ½, you can donate up to \$100,000 to a charity directly from your individual retirement account (IRA), and you may use the distribution to satisfy all or part of your annual required minimum distribution (RMD). This is significant, as your RMD is used to calculate things like Medicare premium costs, the taxability of Social Security income, and itemized deduction phase-outs.

To learn more about either of these tax-saving strategies, please contact Mayra Sanchez at mssanchez@la-archdiocese.org.

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT:

William Davidson

Even though William Davidson was a new parishioner at St. Bartholomew when the Long Beach parish launched its *Called to Renew* campaign two years ago, he immediately offered to help.

"You have to pick what your talents are in giving back to God for all He's given you," he said.

William is the first to admit that he cannot sing or play a musical instrument and is not a good cook. But he can recognize the wonderful bounty that he has in his life and help others see why they need to share their bounty with their fellow parishioners, their community, and the world.

St. Bartholomew has a goal of \$1,060,000 for the *Called to Renew* campaign and plans to direct its share of campaign funds toward facility repairs, including replacing the church and hall roofs, upgrading the HVAC and electrical systems, painting the interior of the church, and renovating the hall kitchen.

William found *Called to Renew* easy to support, as both a donor and a volunteer, because he believes in the scope of the projects the parish has chosen as well as the elements in the archdiocesan case statement. As he meets with other parishioners, he considers himself "an instrument of the Lord."

"I try and describe the various components and show that it really is for the purpose of keeping that light shining on top of the mountain of the Lord in a society where church attendance, both Catholic and otherwise, is going down around the world," he said. "And it's our opportunity to strengthen the Catholic faith, and the Catholic institution, and the ability to reach out to people in need."

The campaign elements surrounding Catholic education especially appealed to William, as his eight grandchildren are enrolled in Catholic schools. "It's the only place today that you can get the moral, ethical, and spiritual foundation that a child needs to be a successful person and follower of God in today's troubled world."

He was also drawn to how the campaign will support campus ministry to college students, who are away from home for the first time and vulnerable to influences often contrary to the Catholic faith.

Throughout his time as a volunteer for *Called to Renew*, William has met parishioners he might not have otherwise, as well as reconnected unexpectedly with people from his past, including a man whose son played soccer with his own son 40 years ago.

"I think people really want to do what's being asked of them to the extent they can," he said. "My role is to help them find a way in their hearts to make this sacrificial gift for this effort."



Parish Spotlight

Our Lady of Malibu, Malibu

When Father Matt Murphy first arrived at Our Lady of Malibu, he noticed a line item on the school's financial report for a "Msgr. John Sheridan Scholarship" — only there were no funds in the account.

Father Matt set his heart on bringing the endowment named for his predecessor to fruition — and through the *Called to Renew* campaign, was able to "honor his legacy through an ongoing gift that will never go away," he said.

With the full support of the parish community, the Malibu parish is directing a portion of its share of campaign funds toward the creation of the Msgr. Sheridan Scholarship Endowment, which will help ensure no child is denied a Catholic education because of financial hardship. The fund will prioritize providing tuition assistance to children of parish families to help build a bridge between the church and the school, Father Matt said.

Another element of Our Lady of Malibu's *Called to Renew* case statement is the creation of a memorial garden and columbarium, pending approval from the Archdiocese of Los Angeles and the city of Malibu. Given that the nearest Catholic cemetery is 45 minutes away, parishioners quickly embraced this campaign component, according to Father Matt.

"What we want to do is create a beautiful memorial garden where people can just sit and pray," he said. "God willing, it will be a final resting place for those who love their Malibu community and could potentially serve as a place of ministerial encounter for those visiting their loved ones."

Our Lady of Malibu has exceeded its \$1,270,000 campaign goal, which will also allow the parish to renovate a former convent on the property to provide its priests with living quarters separate from the parish offices as well as create a gathering space for social events and a chapel.

Overall, Father Matt said that he has "had a blast" with *Called to Renew* because the campaign has allowed him to leave behind the isolation of the pandemic and spend more time with his parishioners. His meetings with parish families have often lasted hours.

"I just love spending time with our parishioners and getting to know them beyond a handshake after Mass," he said.

"It's nice to get out and be with people. I've had some wonderful, wonderful conversations with our parishioners because of Called to Renew. So, I'm really thankful for that."

Father Matt Murphy
Pastor

Parish Goal | \$1,270,000
Total Raised | \$1,332,634
Percent of Goal | 105%
Average Gift | \$19,313



Focus: Supporting parishes

An integral element of *Called to Renew* is strengthening parishes.

Gifts to *Called to Renew* are already assisting parishes that have completed their *Called to Renew* campaigns. As pledges are fulfilled, these parishes have been able to complete the projects they identified in their local case statements.

In total, \$375 million in campaign gifts will be dedicated to meeting the needs of the spiritual homes in the Archdiocese of Los Angeles. That amount includes a general investment fund to assist parishes lacking the financial resources to address crucial projects.

In addition, as every parish in the archdiocese participates in *Called to Renew*, they will retain 50% of the funds they raise during their parish campaigns up to their goal, as well 100% of the gifts they collect over that amount. Parishes are able to use their share of campaign funds at their discretion. Many will direct these funds to bolstering ministries and making facility repairs.

What this will do

Called to Renew will help address local needs at parishes across the Archdiocese, including urgent, strategic improvements at parishes that would otherwise lack the financial means.

Why this is important

Renewing our parishes will ensure they are able to fulfill God's mission to serve and love our neighbors and build God's Kingdom for the next generation.



An Update on Our Campaign

Thank you for your generous support!

Overall Campaign Goal

\$500 Million

Raised to Date: \$387,528,195

Percent of Goal: 78%

Number of Gifts: 33,343

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: \$173,652,808

Percent of Goal: 69%

Number of Gifts: 33,284



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