



Renewing Our Church Together

MAY 2022



AN UPDATE ON OUR CAMPAIGN

Goal: \$500,000,000
Raised to Date: \$393,516,691
Percent of Goal: 79%
Number of Gifts: 34,184

Thank you for your generous support!

Manhattan Beach parish successfully resumes campaign post-pandemic

Called to Renew has been a special time for Deacon Bob Mescher, as the campaign has allowed him to connect more with the parishioners he serves at American Martyrs in Manhattan Beach.

"It was definitely an opportunity to get to know others," said Deacon Mescher, who was ordained to the permanent diaconate in June 2021. "They'll introduce themselves to me again at Mass, and that's really nice. It helps to bond us together."

Prior to the pandemic, Deacon Mescher had volunteered to contact parishioners about *Called to Renew* and ask them to consider making a gift to the campaign. He and his wife had recently returned to the parish after more than a decade living in Northern California, where he had started formation to become a deacon.

American Martyrs was only a month into the "public" phase of the campaign when it paused due to COVID-19. But given that the "silent" phase had secured \$6 million in pledge commitments toward the parish's \$10 million "stretch" goal, leadership decided to move ahead with the church renovations detailed in the parish case statement while the church was closed.

"Msgr. John Barry had confidence in our parishioners, that they would contribute," Deacon Mescher said.

When Masses resumed, parishioners returned to a beautifully renovated church. Deacon Mescher resumed meeting with parishioners, both in person and on the phone, depending on their comfort level. He shared what encouraged him to support *Called to Renew*, like the shared ministries of the Archdiocese of Los Angeles that benefit religious education, seminarians, and the incarcerated.

American Martyrs has now exceeded its \$10 million goal and as promised, 25% of gifts raised going forward will be directed to the parish's outreach ministry to the poor.

"It really shows the generosity of our parishioners," Deacon Mescher said. "It seems to be almost endless and limitless."

Visit calledtorenew.org to learn more.