



# Renewing Our Church Together

AUGUST 2022

Dear Friends,

When we began *Called to Renew*, we knew we were embarking on something special and monumental for the Archdiocese of Los Angeles. And as we shared in our newsletter last month, that is exactly what has happened!

Thanks to each and every one of you, we have raised \$415,011,283 — 83% of our \$500 million goal. This would be a remarkable achievement on its own, without adding in a global pandemic or the fact that this is Archdiocese's first capital campaign. I cannot stress how grateful we are for your generosity and dedication to both the Church and this campaign.

What is truly exciting is the long-term effects these immediate results will have throughout our Archdiocese. Each improvement parishes make, whether it be their facilities or ministries, ensures that they are prepared to serve the needs of parishioners and community members for years to come.

The same can be said for the shared ministries *Called to Renew* is supporting. Because of your generosity, we will walk with the sick and dying and the victims and perpetrators of crimes, along with their families; bolster vocations and the formation of our seminarians and clergy; and invest in our Catholic schools, religious education, and faith formation programs.

Thank you for answering Archbishop José H. Gomez's call to renew our Church!

Gratefully,

*Judy Brookes*

Judy Brooks

Executive Director, *Called to Renew*



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### Be Prepared

August is National Make-A-Will Month, an annual reminder to make or review your last will and testament.

Only a third of Americans have in place, which means they are putting the blessings God has entrusted to them at risk. Many believe that only the wealthy need a will, but every Christian steward should have an estate plan to ensure their intentions are honored.

For example, a will allows you to:

- Name a guardian for your children.
- Direct how you would like to distribute your property.
- Leave a legacy gift, such as to your parish, the Archdiocese of Los Angeles, or *Called to Renew*.

If you already have a will, you should review it every year and make changes as your life changes. You may also simply decide to update a plan you put in place years ago.

The Archdiocese of Los Angeles offers a free service, Wills Planner, to help you. To access Wills Planner, or to explore other options for leaving a legacy, go to [adlalegacy.org](http://adlalegacy.org) or contact Karen Dunphy, director of Planned Giving, at [kdunphy@la-archdiocese.org](mailto:kdunphy@la-archdiocese.org).

### Wave 3 parishes collectively exceed goal

Wave 3 of *Called to Renew* is now at 125% of goal, collectively raising \$34.2 million from 6,609 gifts as of July 1.

"It's such a blessing to have so many parishioners committed to not only strengthening their parish communities, but also the ministries of the Archdiocese of Los Angeles that benefit us all," said Catherine V. Fraser, chief development officer.

Archbishop José H. Gomez launched *Called to Renew* in 2018 to give every Catholic in our Archdiocese an opportunity to respond to a call to renew our Church. His goal in undertaking this historic \$500 million effort is to ensure our parishes, schools, and ministries have the resources to continue to grow and serve us for generations to come.

The 43 parishes in Wave 3 began preparing for their campaigns in January before inviting parishioners to participate in March. More than 75% of these parishes have exceeded their individual goals, but all are continuing to accept gifts to *Called to Renew*. Parishes receive 50% of the gifts they receive up to their goals, as well as 100% of the amount they raise over their goals, once pledge commitments are fulfilled.

Wave 3 is the second wave of parishes to participate in *Called to Renew* since the campaign relaunched after pausing for the pandemic. To restart the effort, a second pilot wave began engaging parishioners last October. All 16 parishes exceeded their goals, collectively raising \$24.2 million in pledges and gifts on the wave's \$12.7 million goal.

"The time spent away from in-person worship only proved to strengthen the need for vibrant parishes in our communities," Catherine said.

Many of the 102 parishes that participated in *Called to Renew* before the pandemic are already benefiting from fulfilled pledges and are working toward completing the facility and ministry improvements they identified in their campaign case statements.

With the funds it has received, the Archdiocese of Los Angeles has directed support to shared ministries that serve the most vulnerable among us, support priestly vocations, and invest in faith formation for future generations through Catholic schools, religious education, and campus ministry.



## Parish Spotlight

## St. Gregory the Great, Whittier

When St. Gregory the Great launched its *Called to Renew* campaign, the parish immediately gained an enthusiastic supporter in the school principal.

Paulette Clagon has rallied school families to support the effort, whether or not they're members of the parish because she sees the campaign as an opportunity to unite the community. "The school isn't just a building on the grounds — we're a whole parish," she said. "Every part of our parish is one; we're together in all our endeavors."

One project detailed in the parish case statement was of special interest to parents, faculty, and staff: upgrading the campus' perimeter fencing. "The biggest thing was safety and doing the fencing so we could feel more comfortable with our kids outside as well as inside," she said.

But in Paulette's eyes, every project St. Gregory the Great plans to tackle with its share of gifts to *Called to Renew* is of benefit to the school — such as upgrading the parish hall and church and renovating the faith formation center — because the school utilizes every building on the parish campus.

"I stressed to our parents that there's not one building we don't use and that everything they do affects us," she said. "We're not closed off to anything. Everything they do, we have access to."

For example, the school has Mass in the church at least once a week and leads a school family Mass one Sunday a month, where students wear their uniforms, serve as lectors and in other liturgical roles, and sing in the choir.

"The parish is part of the school, and the school is part of the parish," Paulette said. "The future of the community is in the future of all of our young people. To be able to sustain and take care of our church, our school, all of our buildings — that's the most important thing. As a community, we're all committed to that, invested in it. This our Church."

*"The school isn't just a building on the grounds — we're a whole parish. Every part of our parish is one; we're together in all our endeavors."*

### Paulette Clagon

Principal  
St. Gregory the Great Catholic School



**Enhanced Goal:** \$1,000,000

**Amount Raised:** \$993,989

**Number of Gifts:** 124

**Average Gift:** \$8,016

**Percent of Goal:** 99%



## Ministering to the sick and dying

When we minister to those who are suffering, we renew families and communities and demonstrate the transformative power of the Gospel.

In Christ, true healing is possible. But during moments of great need, many patients and families are challenged to hold onto this hope. While God is certainly with them as they face an illness or the loss of a loved one, the healing presence of a priest, chaplain, or lay minister can bring hope, mercy, and comfort.

*Called to Renew* will provide the Archdiocese of Los Angeles with additional resources for this critical ministry that serves a need each one of us will one day experience with our loved ones.

### What this will do

*Called to Renew* will provide \$30 million to ensure the Ministry to the Sick and Dying is able to fully serve our Archdiocese. Funds will be directed to preparing lay leaders to spend time with patients and families, listen deeply, and help sort through emotional stress; and to hiring additional chaplains and expanding to a greater number of hospitals in Southern California.

### Why this is important

The Gospel has the power to transform lives, we can spread hope through the Sacrament of Reconciliation, the Anointing of the Sick, and Holy Communion.

## An Update on Our Campaign

Thank you for your generous support!

### Overall Campaign Goal

\$500 Million

Raised to Date: \$415,011,283

Percent of Goal: 83%

Number of Gifts: 41,027

### Lead Gift Goal

\$250 Million

Raised to Date: \$214,200,612

Percent of Goal: 86%

Number of Gifts: 64

### Parish Campaign Goal

\$250 Million

Raised to Date: \$200,810,671

Percent of Goal: 80%

Number of Gifts: 40,963



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