



# Renewing Our Church Together

SEPTEMBER 2022



## AN UPDATE ON OUR CAMPAIGN

Goal: \$500,000,000  
Raised to Date: \$415,843,616  
Percent of Goal: 83%  
Number of Gifts: 41,252

**Thank you for your generous support!**

### Long Beach pastor enthusiastically welcomes *Called to Renew* to his parish

Father Gerard O'Brien has been excited about the *Called to Renew* campaign since he first learned the Archdiocese of Los Angeles was launching the historic effort.

"It's not an easy task for a pastor, asking people to pledge," said Father O'Brien, pastor of Our Lady of Refuge Parish in Long Beach. "It gives me stress. But people are very generous."

Plus, he knows the good it will bring to his parish and certain archdiocesan ministries included in the campaign, like those that support seminarians and Catholic education. "They're big ones, and they're the future of the Church," he said. "We're part of a big, big Archdiocese of 302 parishes, missions and Catholic centers. We all need to help one another. That's what it means to be Catholic."

When Father O'Brien arrived at Our Lady of Refuge four years ago, he could see what improvements were needed to the 60-year-old church. The parish's *Called to Renew* goal is \$790,000, and he is convinced his community will be successful.

Father O'Brien recently began meeting with leadership families, having had made his own commitment to *Called to Renew*. "In the legacy of our early parishioners, I want to make sure that this church looks top class for future generations and the present generation," he said.

Among the projects he and his campaign committee identified for campaign funds: polishing the Terrazzo floor, upgrading the lighting and sound system, and remodeling the restrooms in the church; and redesigning and updating the kitchen that the parish and school share.

He also plans to paint the church interior with campaign funds the Archdiocese is reserving for parishes with extraordinary need.

"People will be happy to see how beautiful our church is," he said.

Visit [calledtorenew.org](https://calledtorenew.org) to learn more.