



# Renewing Our Church Together

DECEMBER 2022

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

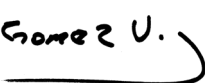
Advent is a special season of preparation anticipating the nativity of our savior, Jesus Christ—the greatest, most generous gift we will ever receive.

The Advent season is also a time of gratitude. In that spirit, I want to thank you for being faithful stewards of the many gifts God has bestowed upon you and entrusting them to the Archdiocese of Los Angeles through *Called to Renew*.

Because of the generosity of so many, we have now raised over \$445 million in cash and pledges toward our \$500 million goal.

Support for our campaign has come from parishioners, parish leaders, volunteers, clergy, religious men and women. Together we are looking to a future that will bring us all vibrant parish communities and ministries. This will benefit the communities we live in and worship in, strengthening the mission and ministries of our Church for generations to come.

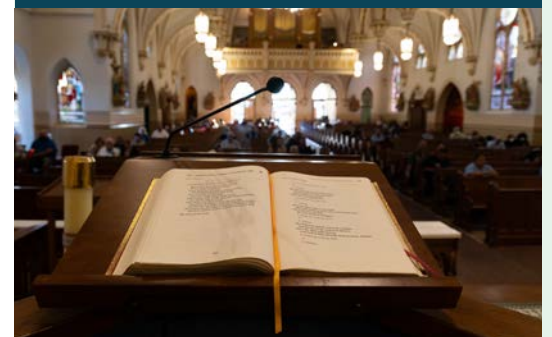
May Jesus, through the intercession of Mary, grant you peace and joy this Advent season,

+ José H. Gomez U.   
Most Reverend José H. Gomez  
Archbishop of Los Angeles



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## Support *Called to Renew* and save on your taxes

Legal name:

The Roman Catholic Archbishop of  
Los Angeles

\*Please note: **Called to Renew** is  
part of The Roman Catholic  
Archbishop of Los Angeles

Federal tax ID number:

95-1642382

Make checks payable to:

*Called to Renew* Campaign

\*Please note: On the memo/subject  
line of the check, please include  
your parish name.

Processing center mailing address:

*Called to Renew*

Archdiocese of Los Angeles

P.O. Box 486

Kensington, CT 06037-0486

## YEAR-END GIVING CONSIDERATIONS

As 2022 comes to a close, now is the time to reflect on year-end gifts to provide further support to *Called to Renew*, the Archdiocese of Los Angeles, your parish or other ministries and organizations.

There are many ways to make the most of charitable giving. While some people prefer a simple gift of cash, others choose to give appreciated stock or make a distribution directly from an IRA.

Gifts of securities, real estate, or other assets that have increased in value can have significant tax advantages. If you itemize tax deductions, you may receive an income tax deduction up to the full market value of the securities you gift to the campaign as well as avoid capital gains tax on the appreciation. You save on both income tax and capital gains tax.

A year-end distribution from your IRA can also be a tax-advantageous gift. If you are 70½ or older, the IRS requires you to take required minimum distributions (RMDs) each year from your tax-deferred retirement accounts. Amounts distributed as a qualified charitable distribution (QCD) can be counted toward satisfying your RMD for the year, up to \$100,000, and can also be excluded from your taxable income.

- For your gift to be eligible for a tax deduction for 2022, it must be postmarked by December 31, 2022, when mailed to the Archdiocese of Los Angeles.
- The Archdiocese must receive credit card donations, stock transfers, and gifts of securities by 11:59 p.m. PST on December 31, 2022.
- RMDs must be deposited into the Archdiocese bank account by December 31, 2022. Due to the Christmas holiday, the Archdiocese requests receipt of your RMD by December 16, 2022 to ensure timely processing.

For more information about year-end giving, please contact Advancement Services at 213-637-7341 or [advancementservices@la-archdiocese.org](mailto:advancementservices@la-archdiocese.org).

*This information is not intended to be legal or tax advice. You should always consult with your legal, tax, and financial advisors for specific advice on these matters.*





## Parish Spotlight

## St. Francis Xavier, Burbank

Father Sebastian Vettickal approached *Called to Renew* like he does everything else in life — with a positive spirit.

Instead of thinking only about the money he would need to raise, the pastor of St. Francis Xavier Parish in Burbank chose instead to focus on “the renewal of the Church, renewal of my parish.”

He approached the campaign as he does every challenge that comes his way — as an opportunity. “Only challenges and opportunities will help me to bring what’s best in me, and also to do what’s best for the community,” he said.

Father Vettickal decided to host listening sessions with every parish group and committee, and asked members what the parish was doing well and their dreams for the community. “During COVID, everything was in a dormant stage,” he said. “This was an opportunity to bring them back to life. That’s where we renew the parish.”

Knowing *Called to Renew* was not something he could, or should, do alone, Father Vettickal created a leadership team from the group and committee members with whom he met. Together, they also decided on an enhanced goal of \$900,00 to try and achieve the dream projects the groups and committees came up with: expanding and modernizing the parish hall, adding a modern science lab to the school, planning for maintenance projects, and building an outdoor activity facility for Masses, school activities, and parish events.

Father Vettickal embraced the opportunity to meet with parishioners, and enlisted the help of leadership to create a video specifically for their campaign. St. Francis Xavier has now raised \$1.05 million and will receive \$757,500 once pledges are fulfilled.

“Once people are excited, it is easy to talk about money — because if you’ve got dreams, then how do we make it happen?” he said. “Money comes second. Renewal comes first.”

*“My focus was not money — I focused on faith and renewal. Money will come if people’s faith is ignited.”*

**Fr. Sebastian Vettickal**  
Pastor

<b>Parish Goal</b>		\$900,000
<b>Total Raised</b>		\$1,069,000
<b>Percent of Goal</b>		119%
<b>Average Gift</b>		\$13,363



## Focus: Supporting Priestly Vocations

*Called to Renew* gives us an opportunity to show gratitude to the holy men who give so much to us by supporting their discernment, education, and continuing formation.

Our Archdiocese is blessed to have an influx of men responding to the call to discern a vocation to the priesthood. Although a shortage of priests remains, the strong response and increasing numbers year-over-year are encouraging and inspiring. We must ensure our seminaries can meet the needs of this growth in vocations.

We must also support the spiritual renewal of our current priests through retreats and fellowship. An endowment will ensure the vitality of the Cardinal Manning House of Prayer for Priests for years to come.

### What this will do

*Called to Renew* will help the Archdiocese accommodate the increasing number of men discerning a vocation through seminary formation, endow programs at the Cardinal Manning House of Prayer for Priests, and create an endowment for the Queen of Angels Center for Priestly Formation.

### Why this is important

Our priests are our shepherds, counselors, and teachers. Our families and parishes are strengthened by these men and their lives of service and sacrifice.



## 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)