



GRATEFUL FOR OUR PAST, PREPARING FOR OUR FUTURE

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

What is the St. Lawrence Martyr Completion Campaign?

St. Lawrence Martyr's Completion Campaign, *Grateful for Our Past, Preparing for Our Future*, seeks to undertake repairs and renovations in our church that will allow it to better serve its faith community. These necessary renovations are a response to concerns from parishioners, aging facilities and efforts to bring existing structures (steps and railings) up to code. The campaign will focus on critical issues such as accessibility for all worshippers, while creating a safer and inviting environment in which to gather and celebrate the sacraments.

What are the project priorities (in order of importance)?

- Altar - The steps need to be brought up to code.
- Altar - Will be lowered one step and brought closer to the worshippers.
- Ramp and Rails - All ramps and rails at the altar will meet ADA guidelines. Additional rails will be added to the choir loft in order to meet code requirements.
- Lighting – Our remodeled facilities will be energy efficient and LEED compliant.
- Sound - Will be improved so that it better communicates the Gospel of Jesus Christ.
- Pews – Pews were originally built in 1965 and remodeled in 2000. The pews will be refinished and the upholstered “backs” will be removed.
- New interior paint, plus repair of walls and ceilings due to water damage.
- “Communion of Saints” art installation behind the altar.

What is the “Called to Renew” Diocesan Campaign?

Recognizing that our parish is part of a much larger Catholic community, and that there are needs beyond our own parish, we will dedicate a portion of our campaign funds to support the Archdiocesan campaign *Called to Renew*. Through this effort we seek to renew our families, parishes, and community by ensuring that the Church remains vital and active for future generations.

What is the purpose of this Diocesan Campaign?

- **Strengthening Parishes and Schools** - Funds will be used to support parishes and schools with much needed deferred maintenance projects including repairs to roofs, plumbing, heating and cooling, parking lots, and more.
- **Serving the Vulnerable** - Funds will be used to recruit and train additional hospital chaplains and lay ministers for the Ministry to the Sick and Dying, which provides support and healing to patients and suffering families. Additionally, monies will be allocated to the Restorative Justice Ministry serving those who are imprisoned, as well as their families and victims' families.
- **Supporting Priestly Vocations** - Funds will be used to construct an additional dormitory at St. John's Seminary, to create an endowment for the Cardinal Manning House of Prayer for Priests, and to support men in formation at the Queen of Angels Center for Priestly Formation.
- **Investing in the Faith of Future Generations** - Funds will be used to improve parish religious education programs, expand college campus ministry programs, and establish a \$40 million scholarship endowment fund at the Catholic Education Foundation.

What is the actual total cost for these projects?

The goal for the Completion Campaign is \$3.6 million. This includes forms and finishes, construction costs, all soft costs (including permits and a contingency fee of 15%), etc. This total amount also includes our target goal for the diocesan-wide campaign of \$1,070,000.

Why do we need to change the direction of the pews?

We want the focus of the Mass to be the altar. The repositioning of the pews will allow improved visibility for all parishioners and will enhance communal worship.

Why aren't the pews near the choir slanted like the other pews?

That area is too small to reposition the pews.

Will removing the upholstered back cushions on the pews make sitting uncomfortable?

Defining 'what someone finds comfortable' is unique to each of us. As originally built, our pews were designed without upholstery. Additionally, removing the upholstered back cushion will allow for easier ongoing maintenance and will provide a more sanitary environment.

Will parishioners sitting in the back pews be able to see the Celebrant during Mass?

Yes.

This project will result in reducing the number of pews. Are you concerned with the reduced space for Christmas and Easter Masses and "graduation" Masses?

We estimate that we will only lose about 50-75 seats. With the exception of Christmas, Easter, and perhaps Confirmation and funerals, the church is never full to capacity.

Will the upper choir loft be used for overflow seating?

Yes. Overflow seating is usually needed at Christmas, Easter, Confirmation and at large funerals. To continue to accommodate overflow seating, the choir loft was remodeled in early 2018.

Describe the dimensions of the "old" vs. the "new" altar.

Our current altar is **9 feet by 3.5 feet** and our new altar will be **6 feet by 3.5 feet**. The new altar will architecturally conform to the dimensions of the sanctuary.

Where will the Altar Servers sit?

This has not yet been finalized, but chairs will be placed on the altar for our Altar Servers.

What will happen to the Credence Table?

The credence table will be placed behind the Communion of Saints, minimizing any distractions from Altar Servers and/or ministers working at the table.

Can the passage way behind the Communion of Saints be used as a pass through?

The plan is to have a pass through, but the details are still being worked out with the architect.

Why does the Communion of Saints have a cross in the center instead of a crucifix?

Using a crucifix would be a conflict with our risen Christ.

Is there a concern that the Communion of Saints will be a distraction from the altar and the mass?

No. As a result of moving the altar closer to our worshippers, we now have the room behind it for this beautiful work of art. The Communion of Saints should help ground us and center our focus on the altar and the mass. The saints are referenced many times during mass. In the Apostles' Creed, we say "I believe in the communion of saints." When we celebrate the Eucharist, we pray that we are able "to enter into a heavenly inheritance" and "to be coheirs to eternal life" with Mary, Joseph, the Apostles and with all the Saints. It serves as a reminder of what we should strive to become – more saintly, and that we are all connected - because we are one body in Christ.

Will Msgr. Paul see this project through to completion?

Yes.

Who will be asked to support the St. Lawrence Martyr Completion Campaign?

In an effort to give every parishioner the opportunity to contribute to the next generation of Catholics in Redondo Beach, every registered family at St. Lawrence Martyr Catholic Church and School will be asked to consider making a gift or pledge to the campaign. The campaign will be conducted in a phased approach so that each member is reached in a timely manner. While not all members will be able to give at the same level, each will be asked to make a sacrificial commitment.

How long will it take to complete these proposed improvements (repairs and renovations)?

It is estimated that construction will take three to four months.

Will the renovations will make the Church look too modern?

Without consulting an art historian, modern art has mainly two characteristics, abstract art and expressionism. We do not feel we are using either in our current designs. Everything we love about our beautiful church will remain the same – our beautiful center aisle beloved by brides-to-be, our gorgeous stained glass, our magnificent pipe organ and our wonderful statues of the Blessed Virgin Mary, St. Joseph and our risen Christ! Our renovations are practical and functional in nature. We will be improving safety, lighting and sound, while bringing these areas up to current code plus taking care of some deferred maintenance, i.e., painting.

Why didn't we do these changes during the last campaign?

Our previous campaign did not raise enough funds to complete these repairs and renovations.

What Church repairs and renovations have taken place during the past 10 years?

New carpet in the choir loft; new carpet in the church; repair of the south side stained glass windows; new sound board; new doors; new security cameras; new signage; repair of the roof leak above the choir area; re-upholstered presider and deacon chairs.

Will we be able to build the columbarium?

Yes. The project has been approved by the Archdiocese of Los Angeles and we are now in the planning stages.

We are replacing the carpet with a new type of flooring. What type will we have throughout the church?

Given the refurbishing and new positioning of the pews, we will need to change the flooring. The new flooring will be tile and will require less maintenance.

How much do we currently have in our Building Project fund (left over from the previous campaign of 2010) and will we need a loan?

We currently have approximately \$890,000 in our Building Project fund. Our intention is not to have any debt associated with this project; therefore, no loan would be necessary.

Will the new facilities be energy efficient (LEED compliant)?

Yes, we will work with our architect and contractors to be as energy efficient as possible within our plans.

What is the timeframe for this campaign?

The campaign is officially underway. The active phase of the campaign is anticipated to conclude in the Fall 2018.

How will the campaign affect parish offertory collection?

St. Lawrence Martyr Catholic Church relies on its offertory for its current ministry and operations. Throughout the campaign, parishioners will be asked to make commitments above and beyond regular giving. Parishioners are asked to not diminish giving to the offertory collection, but rather to consider an increased commitment to the Church. Parishioners are encouraged to continue to embrace stewardship as a way of life and strengthen their vision of what it is to be a member of the Church.

Has the parish determined a timeframe for the groundbreaking for the new buildings?

Not yet. We are still in the preliminary stages and have not selected a building contractor. Upon the determination of that date, every registered family will be informed.

Will we be able to have Masses in the church during construction?

We will make every effort to continue with Masses in our church. We will direct our contractor to do as much as possible without relocating our church community to the hall.

Who is conducting the campaign?

The campaign is being led by Msgr. Paul and our Campaign Director from Changing Our World, a professional Capital Campaign company. Additionally, we are blessed with a committed Campaign committee. These parish volunteers and leaders have come forward to lead and assist in the implementation of this campaign.

Giving to the Campaign

How much should we give?

Genuine stewardship encourages gifts of equal sacrifice, which are not necessarily gifts of an equal dollar amount. Ultimately, your prayerful discernment will be most appreciated.

What happens if we exceed the \$3.6 million goal? What will we do with the extra funds raised?

Exceeding our goal will allow us to address the following school needs in order of priority:

- New exterior doors
- New flooring
- New plumbing
- Restructured office spaces that will create an office for our Resource Specialist, Athletic Director/PE, Assistant Principal, and Bookkeeper. (At present, a few employees are in small cubicles in the library and daycare, and a few other employees are in cramped office quarters).
- Updated blinds for lower-grade classrooms, daycare and office spaces
- Updated office furniture (low on the priority list)
- New P.A. system

How long will the pledge redemption period last?

The pledges can be made over a 1-5 year period.

Are donors able to pay pledges using a credit card, debit card or through automatic withdrawal from a checking or savings account?

Yes. A donor may fulfill a pledge using a credit card, debit card, or automatic withdrawal from a checking or savings account. Donors simply provide their account information and their authorization on their personalized pledge card. Of course, donors may also send checks to the parish, or other types of gifts (see below). All donations to this Building Project are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.

Why are donors asked to complete a Pledge Card?

Pledge Cards aid in appropriately recording and acknowledging commitments and in providing donors with a reminder of subsequent payments according to the schedule they request. Donors are asked to sign a Pledge Card indicating that they have authorized the terms of their pledge/gift. *A Pledge Card is not a legally binding document.*

Can donors make gifts of stock or other non-cash gifts?

The campaign accepts gifts of stock and other non-liquid assets, including real estate. Donors wishing to make a gift of stock should contact Virginia Dargen in the parish office at 310-540-0329, x250 or Virginia.Dargen@STLM.org.

Who should donors make checks payable to?

All donations should be made payable to St. Lawrence Martyr Catholic Church Capital Campaign.

Are contributions tax deductible?

While charitable contributions are generally tax deductible, you should consult with your tax advisor.

Where can I find more information about the campaign?

You can find information about the campaign on our website - www.stlm.org/campaign. You can also contact the Campaign Office at 310.540.0329 x289 or via email at Yvonne.Fisher@stlm.org.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROUS SUPPORT OF OUR CATHOLIC FAITH AND CHURCH