“HERE WE LOOK TO HEAVEN FOR THE GRACE TO DO GOD’S LOVING WILL ON EARTH.”

BECOMING CHRIST CATHEDRAL: A STORY OF FAITH AND TRANSFORMATION

CHRISTCATHEDRALCALIFORNIA.ORG
THE CHALLENGE OF A LIFETIME: STEWARDING THE BLESSINGS OF A PROVIDENT GOD

A symbol of the unity of believers and their Church, the cathedral has been central to Catholic worship for thousands of years. A cathedral is the diocese’s “mother church” and the core of liturgical life. Today the Diocese of Orange is embarked upon an ambitious campaign to transform the historic Crystal Cathedral into the vibrant heart of the diocese, the unparalleled Christ Cathedral. While respecting the site’s famous architects and legacy as a worldwide center of worship, Christ Cathedral promises to be an innovative transformation of a unique building and its surrounding grounds.

The Diocese of Orange purchased the former Crystal Cathedral and its campus for the same reasons that Rev. Robert Schuller built it: having outgrown existing space, the Diocese was overdue for an appropriate cathedral. Bishop Emeritus Tod Brown had purchased property in south Santa Ana and established Christ Our Savior parish in 2005, making plans for a new cathedral. Then Crystal Cathedral Ministries entered bankruptcy and the Diocese became a bidder. Its central location and size (seating nearly 3,000) were ideal, and its cost – even with renovations – would be less than half of phase one of the planned cathedral complex. When the Diocese’s bid was accepted, Dr. and Mrs. Schuller urged Orange County Catholics to “Steward this campus [to] keep it a light in Orange County that will never go out."

TOGETHER WE JOURNEY, TOGETHER IN FAITH

ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESE of ORANGE
Rev. Schuller began preaching on top of a snack bar at the Orange Drive-In Theater. When his congregation grew, he built a 1,400-seat church that still allowed him to address those seated in their cars. In 1975, the congregation outgrew the church, thanks to the reach of Rev. Schuller’s “Hour of Power” television show.

Dr. Schuller wanted a church to uplift the spirit. “When you’ve worshipped in a drive-in as long as I have,” he said, “you’ll come to the conclusion that a roof that comes between your eyeballs and the infinity of space limits your capacity for creative imagination.”

When it opened, the Crystal Cathedral had its critics. But it also was described as “both an inspiring and an inspired structure,” as Architectural Record noted.
As suburban parishes flourished, so has creeping congregationalism—the belief that the Catholic Church is centered in our own parishes. But because the essence of “Catholic” a universal church made up of families of faith means a universal, 2,000-year-old church, our “local” center of worship is really the cathedral.

The deepest and most significant aspects of our rich liturgical heritage and tradition are embodied in the new plans for Christ Cathedral and its campus. The two firms commissioned for this work call it the challenge of a lifetime. The monumental task of converting an all-glass church into a space that is intrinsically Catholic and facilitates contemplative and solemn prayer requires inspired action that combines the thoughtful accommodation for sacred ministry with the simultaneous honoring of the property’s legacy.

Johnson Fain and Rios Clementi Hale Studios, respectively, will redesign the cathedral interior and re-sculpt the campus. Bishop Kevin W. Vann called the decision to hire both “inspired.” “Their work is an invitation from the Lord himself to be part of something greater than we are,” Bishop Vann said. “This will be here long after we are gone, remaining as a testament of faith that continues Rev. Schuller’s vision and strengthens faith among Orange County Catholics.”

As stewards entrusted with the world-renowned Philip Johnson-designed church and its grounds, Diocese architects aim to create a place of awesome beauty that celebrates God’s magnificence.
Three of the world’s greatest modern architects – Philip Johnson, Richard Neutra and Richard Meier – designed the Christ Cathedral campus’ most iconic structures, and the Roman Catholic Diocese of Orange has worked tirelessly to ensure the property’s history and integrity while undertaking major renovations and improvements.

RENOVATION OF THE ARBORETUM:
UP FROM STEEL AND DIRT

A titan of mid-century modern architecture, Richard Neutra designed the Arboretum, a 22,288-square-foot structure built in 1961, to serve as the original sanctuary for the Rev. Robert Schuller’s congregation. Rev. Schuller would speak to up to 1,400 churchgoers inside the Arboretum, and walk outside on the balcony to address additional congregants parked in 500 cars just outside the building.

Because the Arboretum was badly deteriorated, construction crews took it down to steel and dirt and conducted extensive renovations, including the creation of an innovative and energy-efficient underground air-conditioning system. Also completed were seismic strengthening, glass replacement, landscaping and other aesthetic renovations. Since every element was specifically designed by the original architect, the Diocese studied archival records to ensure that every dimension and pane of glass matched specifications. Completed in six months, the Arboretum’s amazing renovation has won several noteworthy awards. Currently used as a worship space by Christ Cathedral parishioners, it will function as home base until the future Christ Cathedral is completed.
A NEW HOME FOR ST. CALLISTUS PARISH...

Christ Cathedral campus became home to members of Garden Grove’s former St. Callistus Parish in July 2013, with parishioners moving to their new location. The parish serves nearly 10,000 members who speak English, Spanish, Tagalog, Mandarin and Vietnamese, among other languages. “This will be a place of welcome for people of all faiths or no faith,” said Father Christopher Smith, the cathedral’s episcopal vicar and rector, during the welcoming ceremony. “We want it to be a shining example of what it means to do outreach to the poor or the marginalized.”

As the new center of the Diocese, Christ Cathedral “will honor the human person,” Father Christopher said. “We will support the arts, music, dance, painting. We will make it a wonderful home.”

The parish journey, from one end of Lewis Street to the other – a few blocks – “can be considered among the other great journeys in the history of salvation,” Bishop Kevin W. Vann said, including the journey of Moses and his people from slavery to the Promised Land, and the journey of Joseph and Mary from their home to Bethlehem, where Jesus was born. “In staying on the journey and not looking back, the Kingdom of God will be found.”

Meanwhile, worshipers from the former Crystal Cathedral – whose church is now known as Shepherd’s Grove – have moved to the rented former St. Callistus site.
...AND A NEW SCHOOL

In fall 2013, students from the former St. Callistus School enrolled in the new Christ Cathedral Academy, with classes for preschoolers through eighth grade. Classes are held in the Diocese of Orange Pastoral Center and Christ Cathedral Academy building, designed for school and office purposes by architect Gin Wong and built in 1990.

In addition to a new location and a school name, students have new uniforms and a new school logo – and the way they are learning is new as well. Beginning with the fifth grade, students sit in groups so they can easily collaborate and work on projects that align with their interests. Teachers are encouraged to seek out the best resources for their students, including textbooks, technology, and in-person learning. The new learning system is designed to encourage deeper critical thinking and develop a deeper level of knowledge in the students.

The new Christ Cathedral Academy features a full-size gymnasium on the lowest level of the building, as well as a dance studio with mirrored walls and movable barriers. A music room includes speakers in the ceiling. There are real lab tables in the science lab.

Much is different, but the heart of St. Callistus School continues to beat at Christ Cathedral Academy.
A FACELIFT FOR AN ICONIC TOWER

Designed by Richard Neutra, the Tower of Hope was the tallest building in Orange County upon its 1968 completion. The building takes its name from the 24-hour telephone counseling service, a ministry begun by New Hope Ministries which today continues under the auspices of Catholic Charities of Orange County.

The Tower of Hope has undergone an award-winning, $7 million renovation and seismic upgrade and houses the offices of the Cathedral Parish and Christ Catholic Cathedral Corp., the entity that manages the extensive Christ Cathedral site. EWTN Global Catholic Network will have its West Coast television news and broadcast facility located there, and the Diocese will house its radio production facility airing content over Immaculate Heart Radio across Orange County. The ninth floor of the tower will house executive office suites for other worldwide Catholic ministries, including the Augustine Institute, Magis Institute, Dynamic Catholic, and other leading organizations.

DEVELOPMENT OF THE SCULPTURE GARDEN AND WALK OF FAITH

As part of our dedication to preserving the Crystal Cathedral’s history and heritage, the grounds’ existing sculptures will be relocated and honored in a dedicated garden. The sculptures, many of them bronze, larger-than-life depictions of Bible stories, will be moved to a beautiful, meditative sculpture garden, displayed for visitors together with a transformation of the Crystal Cathedral’s Walk of Faith to timelessly honor the faithful witness and stewardship of the Crystal Cathedral Ministries.
Christ Cathedral
Renaissance of a landmark

Johnson Fain and Rios Clementi Hale Studios, respectively, will redesign the cathedral interior and resculpt the campus. The two firms, working with the Architectural and Renovation Committee of the Diocese of Orange, have developed a design that respects and embodies the unique heritage of the campus, both spiritual and physical, while creating an inspiring center of Catholic worship, a center for the arts and culture, and a charitable center for outreach to the community and the poor and marginalized.

The deepest and most significant aspects of the rich liturgical heritage and tradition of the Catholic Church are embodied in the project, which the two firms have called the challenge of a lifetime. The task is to convert an all-glass church into a worship space that is intrinsically Catholic and that inspires contemplative and solemn prayer and sacred ministry while honoring the property's legacy.

**Six guiding principles** provide the inspiration for the design of the cathedral and the rest of the campus:

- The cathedral is the center and focal point of the 54-acre campus
- The campus is intended to be a global center for Catholic life
- The cathedral and campus will welcome and serve all in the local community
- People have priority over cars
- Design excellence will be a priority for the site
- Flexibility for the future will be preserved

The historic shell of the original Crystal Cathedral will be maintained and restored. Its three principle entries will be reconfigured. The main entry leading to the new Nave at the South will be fully glazed with the addition of two bronzed pivot doors which will comprise the Bishop's Door. The new interior plan is a simple rectangle surrounded by the four triangles of the upper mezzanine.

**The Baptistry**
On the west side is octagonal and incorporates a cruciform-shaped font. Aop one of the walls is a base holding the Pascal Candle.

**The Eucharistic Chapel**
Is located just through the Pilgrim's Entry on the east side of the sanctuary. The Chapel is circular shaped encompassing the tabernacle and a magnificent portrait of Our Lady of Guadalupe.

**The Ambo**
Is elevated above the predella of the right-hand side while the baptistry is on axis to the west with the Chapel of the Blessed Sacrament to the east.

**Directly behind the altar is the cathedral while pews are arrayed in a radial pattern around the predella.**

**Sanctuary Walls**
The new stone sanctuary walls are designed to allow the floor to wrap upards creating a sense of enclosure in a sense reorganizing the worship level space. Within the structural cavity of each wall will be a low level air plenum. This will allow proper conditioning of air at the 'pedestrian' level around the ambulatory. Within the structural cavity of the walls surrounding the worship level there will be diffusers at approximately lift above the finish floor with high-velocity output.
**The Baldachin**
Is a horizontal “canopy” that floats about 30 feet above the altar. Hanging from the open center of the structure will be a large carved crucifix.

**The Shading System**
Constructed out of a translucent material (metal or composite plastic), the system will be a complex series of quatrefoils made up of triangular metal sails. By arranging open and closed “petals” on the inside surface, natural light is modulated and glare is reduced. The system also will be sufficiently rigid to act as an acoustic element and reflect sound.

**Future Phase**
Ringing the cathedral is a shaded, tree-lined plaza where shrines, chapels, visitor services and support elements for the cathedral will be located. This frame of trees and small structures will serve as a liminal, or transitional, space: visitors will walk out of the secular world outside, through a cloud-like canopy of shade trees and into the sacred space of the cathedral. Future Phase

**Undercroft**
Situated 15 feet below the main worship level of the cathedral, the new undercroft will include several key elements and support functions. A small existing mezzanine at the northern tip of the building will be closed off and demolished to create a single level for the undercroft.
THE FUTURE CHRIST CATHEDRAL
A DAZZLING CHALLENGE OF RENOVATION

In the revitalized cathedral, the structure will be maintained and restored, with a radial antiphonal form. Three entries will be reconfigured as the Bishop’s Door located to the south, Baptistery on the west, and Pilgrim’s Entry to the east, and the spaces inside each entry will be distinctive.

Near the top of the modified radial antiphonal form will be the altar, sitting atop the pradella (a raised platform) and visible from all pews, which will be angled toward the altar. A large baldachin and carved crucifix will be suspended above the altar, with the Cathedra (Bishop’s Chair) directly behind the altar and the ambo to the east. The upper level of the worship area will be reconfigured to support music in multiple configurations and the organ casework will be redesigned in opaque white glass and brushed stainless steel trim.

The cathedral’s new stone floor and lower walls will recall the earth, while the glass vault overhead frames the heavens. The quatrefoils address acoustics, lighting, solar heat transmission and ventilation, as well as environmental comfort and visibility, said Scott Johnson, partner in Johnson Fain. To minimize heat and light from the glass walls and ceiling while maintaining its striking beauty, the firm has designed an algorithmically complex series of quatrefoils made up of triangular metal sails in various stages of openness. By arranging open and closed “petals” on the inside surface based on the sun, natural light is modulated, glare is reduced and patterns will define the interior.

The public zone of the undercroft will be accessed from the East Entry and down the stair from the cathedral. From the base of the stair, the entry to the future Chapel of St. Callistus, which will be competed as part of a future construction phase, is located on a central axis down an arched corridor. It will feel somewhat austere and of the earth, supporting the cathedral above.
The famous landmark with more than 11,000 panes of glass has been synonymous with Rev. Schuller and his television evangelization for decades. But when the Diocese purchased the 34-acre complex with seven buildings, including a 236-foot bell tower and a large onsite cemetery in 2012, its leaders recognized the potential for continued Christian worship and the inherent value of the land and buildings.

“It must be clear to the community that the Catholic Church is the finest steward of this property,” said Rob Neal, the first chief operating officer for Christ Cathedral Corp. and former chair of the Architecture and Renovation Committee. “These buildings are remarkable assets. Some were designed by the greatest architects who ever lived. Throughout the renovation, we are setting the bar very high.”

Ensuring the property’s service for many years, Christ Cathedral is the Diocese of Orange’s greatest legacy. “Once I understood the scope of this purchase and this project,” Neal said, “I knew it would be the most important work I’ll ever do in my career.”
While Christ Cathedral is the heart of the campus, the surrounding grounds are central to Catholic life. For the long-range master plan that will span multiple future phases of work, the architects transforming the campus are prioritizing people over cars, promoting design excellence and preserving flexibility for future development while honoring its history, architecture and worshippers.

The master plan site development focuses on the plaza area adjacent to the cathedral, creating communal gathering spaces that radiate sacred space to the surrounding community.

In the future, from the outside of the campus, the most visible of these communal spaces will be the community green at the corner of Lewis Street and Chapman Avenue. Lined by parkways, this green space opens to the community a park-like setting for large-scale events, such as outdoor religious services and community events.

The plaza surrounding the cathedral will be equipped for a wide range of liturgical and non-liturgical events. Zoned into four courtyards - the Pilgrim’s Court, Festal Court, Marian Court and Court of the Catechumens - each will be connected to the cathedral and tied together by a continuous paving pattern, as well as 12 large lighting elements marking stone entry thresholds.

Plaza and water elements include a water feature animating the Pilgrim’s Court and encouraging children’s play. A reflecting pool near the Bishop’s Door will connect visually to the existing Arboretum fountain, providing a calming, cleansing element near the cathedral entry.

Ringing the plaza will be a tree-lined threshold containing a mix of shrines, chapels, visitors’ services and support elements. The frame of trees and small sculptures allows visitors to walk under a tree canopy, making the transition into the cathedral’s sacred space.
ST. CALLISTUS CHAPEL is rectangular and will seat over 200 worshippers. The floors are a combination of travertine and polished concrete. Walls will be hand-plastered with stone mouldings which articulate the wall base and the tall openings leading into four devotional chapels.

*Future phase of construction

THE BLESSED SACRAMENT CHAPEL is located at the eastside of the sanctuary through the pilgrims entry. It is a circular shaped room encompassing the tabernacle and portrait of Our Lady of Guadalupe art installation. The walls are comprised of faceted metal panels which are perforated with a cloud-like pattern to offset light and movement within the chapel. The seating is movable and able to be incorporated into any layout as needed.

*Included in current phase of work
An intense two-year restoration of the Christ Cathedral's Hazel Wright Organ, the world's fourth-largest church-based pipe organ, has been completed ahead of schedule and on budget. It is a marvel of technology and innovation that combines components of two instruments: the historic Aeolian-Skinner Organ, built in 1962 and originally played in New York City's Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts, and the five-manual Ruffatti Organ, originally located in the Arboretum's former sanctuary.

The pipe organ combines 14 organs or divisions that can be played in any combination from the largest drawknob console in the world. It was funded by a $2 million gift from Hazel Wright, a viewer of the Rev. Robert Schuller's “Hour of Power” telecast. Beginning in 1982, the year of the organ’s dedication, it was widely regarded as the world’s most visible organ, as people in more than 165 countries saw and heard it played on the weekly TV series.

“As a young priest, I was fortunate to be at the dedication of the Hazel Wright Memorial instrument, a crowning achievement of the Crystal Cathedral,” remembered Monsignor Art Holquin, today the Diocese of Orange’s episcopal vicar for divine worship.

“I’d avidly watched the building of the structure and was aware that the organ was an amalgamation of several organs. And when the Diocese acquired the property, I immediately realized that we had inherited one of the largest pipe organs in the world. When it is restored, it will be the second-largest pipe organ in a Catholic church in the world.” (The largest is in a German church).

An extraordinary instrument of impressive quality, the refurbished Hazel Wright Organ will accompany services and be available for concert purposes, especially fitting because Catholic cathedrals have always been places where the fine arts flourish.

“We are firm believers that the beautiful, whether it is ritual or music, conveys the beauty and goodness of God,” Monsignor Holquin said. “Catholics have historically been patrons of the arts, seeing them as the reflection of God. All of that is important to the Catholic Church.”

During its 30-year performance life, the pipe organ was exposed to all manner of deterioration and needed a comprehensive refurbishment. As part of the cathedral renovation, the organ was dismantled in February 2014 and all of its pipes removed, both those made in Italy and those that were part of the historic Lincoln Center organ. They were packed in special crates and shipped in containers to the Italian workshops of Fratelli Ruffatti in Padua, Italy.

Reinstallation of the organ will be one of Christ Cathedral’s last tasks in the restoration. Because the organ’s more than 16,000 metal and wooden pipes need to “speak” properly in the instrument’s new acoustical environment, the organ will be tuned and scaled in time for the cathedral dedication, Monsignor Holquin said.

The fraternity of top organists in the United States eagerly awaits the restoration, said Paul Jacobs, chairman of the organ department at The Juilliard School in New York.

“This instrument, tonally speaking, is one of the most exciting I’ve ever played,” said Jacobs, who has played some of the world’s most famous organs. “Playing it is akin to conducting a world-class orchestra. This instrument can both whisper and proclaim. And it’s jaw-droppingly impressive to look at. When you hear music come out of those 16,000 pipes, it provides a thrill unlike any other.”
Support for the For Christ Forever Capital Campaign is a profound expression of the cathedral’s central role, empowering Catholics to experience the global church. Gifts to the campaign are important for the church, our faith, and our future.

No Orange County group does more to feed the poor, heal the sick and educate children than the Catholic Church, which has always helped with educational, outreach and health care ministries. The new cathedral encourages visitors to “look to heaven for the grace to do God’s loving will on earth,” writes Monsignor Michael Heher, pastor of St. Anne Church in Seal Beach and a Pastoral Council member. “A cathedral lifts up the mind, heart and soul of believers – and perhaps even others – to the love of God and the hope that God has promised.”

RECOGNITION, APPRECIATION AND ENCOURAGEMENT FOR DONORS

Donor recognition opportunities encourage and acknowledge the individuals, families, foundations, businesses and corporations who participate in raising the funds to support the For Christ Forever Capital Campaign. Naming and memorial opportunities are special ways of honoring the people we love, living or deceased, and can be made for a special intention or in thanksgiving for blessings received from God. Donor recognition includes Christ Cathedral Guild and naming and memorial opportunities for donors who give at and over $100,000, and a Donor Recognition Wall for donors who give at and over $10,000.

Outdoor areas including grounds, gardens, courtyards, plazas
Floors, wings of existing buildings
Classrooms and offices at Christ Cathedral Academy
Conference rooms, meeting rooms and office space for diocesan departments
Public areas at the Christ Cathedral campus, such as balconies, atriums, foyers, etc.
New liturgical items and sacred space (*donors will be recognized on a wall of honor at the future Christ Cathedral campus and not on the sacred item.)
Upcoming architectural schematics will provide donors with floor plans and proposed designs illustrating each recognition opportunity.

For more information please contact the Orange Catholic Foundation at 714-282-3021 or visit our website www.OrangeCatholicFoundation.org.
St. Ignatius of Antioch said that “where the bishop is, there is the Church.” So the place where the bishop formally presides over the holy table of God’s word and sacrament is the source of our spiritual lives, noted Monsignor Arthur A. Holquin, the diocese’s episcopal vicar for divine worship. That place is the cathedral church; “cathedral” takes its name from the Greek term for chair, or cathedra. What makes a cathedral is the chair of the bishop, the chief shepherd of the local church and successor to the apostles.

As the liturgical heart and center of our Catholic faith, Christ Cathedral promises to be inspiring and challenging, humbling in its profound celebration of God’s magnificence. It will be both new and old, continuing the ministry to God’s people that began so many decades ago while serving those of great faith in the future.

Brother William J. Woeger, director for the Office of Divine Worship in the Archdiocese of Omaha and liturgical design consultant to Christ Cathedral, said the placement of the altar atop a pradella toward the front of the cathedral changes the building’s parameters, supporting Catholic liturgy and fully engaging worshippers with pews arranged in a radial pattern around the predella.

The vision for Christ Cathedral as the center point of evangelization for the entire Diocese will bring together the greater community of faith in our shared mission, Bishop Vann said, noting that it is a blessing indeed to have the possibility of creating a new and wonderful church based on the property’s long and respected worship history.
The spiritual and temporal efforts to make the Christ Cathedral campus the true center of the Diocese of Orange are aimed at building a deeper unity of purpose and mission among Catholics within our local Church and a renewed commitment to permeating the world with the love of Christ.

Flowing from the Eucharist, the source and summit of Catholic belief and practice, the Christ Cathedral campus intends to be a place of outreach to the materially poor and marginalized, catechesis, evangelization, ecumenical dialogue, interreligious cooperation and theological discourse.

In the spirit of Christ, we welcome all people to come to be renewed in spirit and truly know that they are loved by God. In addition to activities of the cathedral parish, Diocese, parishes of the Diocese, Catholic schools and Catholic organizations, the Christ Cathedral campus is a gathering place for cultural, civic and social events.