

# CATHOLIC ENERGIES NEWS

Proudly serving Catholic organizations nationwide as their trusted solar project developer to evaluate and deliver measurable economic and environmental benefits

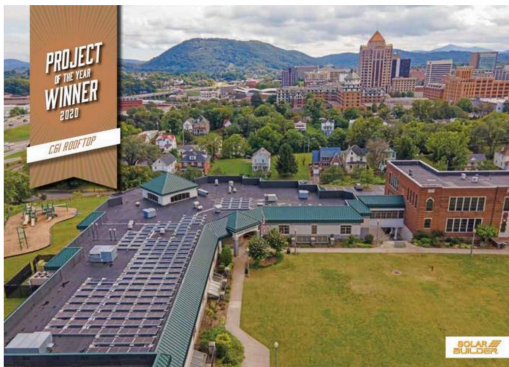
## Looking Ahead to 2021

Archbishop Joseph Marino was on the radio during the Christmas holiday reflecting on 2020 amid the Covid-19 pandemic and describing his hope and confidence looking ahead to 2021 based on “our renewed humanity”. We share his sentiments. While having to rapidly adjust to the pandemic’s spread, compounded by the strains of a noisy and arduous election year, Americans simply took to action. We proactively chose en masse to take care of each other, those physically sickened from Covid-19, as well as the unemployed, emotionally burdened, and alone. Crisis empowered us to turn towards each other to help, love, and serve. Humanity persevered. For that we can be very grateful and hopeful indeed.

## Project Updates

### **C&I Rooftop Solar Project of the Year 2020: Catholic Diocese of Richmond**

NOVEMBER 10, 2020  
BY CHRIS CROWELL



State of Virginia | 1.25 MW in total (6 rooftops)

**The Catholic Diocese of Richmond** was awarded the “2020 Rooftop Solar Project of the Year” award in November by **Solar Builder** magazine. The award recognizes the collaboration by the Diocese and the Mission Energy (Catholic Energies program) team to create a solar development and financing model for a “package” of parish projects, large and small. By leveraging scale for third-party PPA capital placement, smaller Diocese parishes that otherwise would be difficult to finance solar on their own, were able to have roof-top solar systems installed. The award praised this model as an opportunity for any faith-based organization across the country.

**The Sisters of St. Joseph in Brentwood, NY**, are expanding their campus-wide use of solar energy. With a desire to control energy costs, reduce the environmental footprint, and move toward energy independence, the Sisters had installed a 1 MW ground array to supply approximately 63% of their campus energy usage. Catholic Energies, partnering with their solar contractor Empower, will be increasing that supply in 2021 by developing available roof top installations across a number of campus buildings.



**Healy-Murphy Center in San Antonio TX** is a 501 (c)3 nonprofit organization that has been impacting youth in San Antonio for over 120 years. They serve youth-in-crisis through high school and GED programs, daycare and health services. The Center is supported by the Sisters of the Holy Spirit and Mary Immaculate.



*"We are delighted to be moving forward on our solar project. Not only are we reducing our carbon footprint on the planet, we are also reducing our energy costs, which means more dollars for direct services."*

– Doug Watson, Executive Director at Healy-Murphy Center



**The Archdiocese of Washington, DC**, has provided St. Gabriel Parish permission to proceed with roof-top solar through the Community Renewable Energy Facility (CREF) solar program. St. Gabriel becomes the first parish formally approved by the College of Consultors for a solar installation. The roof-top design is oversized for their annual energy needs as allowed under CREF so that the parish can donate excess power to another local parish in need.

*"Having received approval from the Archdiocese of Washington, Saint Gabriel Catholic Church is pleased to be moving forward with our solar project. The array will produce sufficient energy for our own needs and to share with a neighboring parish. Catholic Energies has been a faithful partner with us in our desire to become a faith community with a low carbon footprint."*

– Fr. Kevin Kennedy, Pastor of St. Gabriel Parish

**Catholic cemeteries** offer numerous opportunities to take vacant land saved for future use and place solar arrays in the interim to create income and operating savings. Catholic Funeral and Cemetery Services has teamed with the Catholic Energies program to model and evaluate different solar installation designs and costs across a handful of west coast Catholic cemeteries to start. The potential of operating savings through cleaner energy in scale across cemetery properties is substantial.

**Catholic Energies** is a project development service of Catholic Climate Covenant. Operated by Mission Energy, we empower Catholic organizations nationwide to put faith into action to protect our common home.

We do the work for busy Catholic officials. We represent their best interests throughout. We design and model a project's economic potential, we vet technologies and solar contractors, and we find investors or other financing for each project per the organization's preferences. Our mission is to help Catholic organizations:

1. Install practical solar and energy efficiency projects without needing to raise and spend upfront capital
2. Lower operating expenses and risk by paying for less expensive, more reliable renewable power
3. Use the money saved or income created to further serve their mission
4. Put stewardship for God's creation into practice