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# Bishop Vann signs Christ Cathedral construction contract; work set to begin June 1



Bishop Kevin Vann, left, and John Rochford, right, president and COO of Snyder Langston, signed a construction contract for work on the Christ Cathedral sanctuary, Tuesday, May 23, 2017. (Photo by Ana Venegas, Orange County Register/SCNG)

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The \$72 million Christ Cathedral reconstruction project took a big step forward Tuesday morning, May 23, after Bishop Kevin Vann signed a contract with [Irvine-based firm Snyder Langston](#) to rebuild the iconic glass sanctuary.

The formal signing ceremony was followed by a choir concert and a procession around the Garden Grove sanctuary.

Construction on the project is set to begin June 1 and is expected to be completed by the fall of 2018. It will be dedicated in early 2019 after the Hazel Wright organ is installed.

In September, the [diocese unveiled a design plan for the sanctuary's transformation](#) into a Catholic worship space, with white as the dominant color, a lighted altar in the center, the bishop's chair, baptismal font and shrines for Our Lady of Guadalupe and Our Lady of La Vang, a Marian apparition believed to have blessed persecuted Catholics in Vietnam during the turn of the 19th century.

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## Deepa Bharath

Deepa Bharath covers religion for The Orange County Register and the Southern California Newspaper Group. Her work is focused on how religion, race and ethnicity shape our understanding of what it is to be American and how religion in particular helps influence public policies, laws and a region's culture. Deepa also writes about race, cultures and social justice issues. She has covered a number of other beats ranging from city government to breaking news for the Register since May 2006. She has received fellowships from the International Women's Media Foundation and the International Center for Journalists to report stories about reconciliation, counter-extremism and peace-building efforts around the world. When she is not working, she loves listening to Indian classical music and traveling with her husband and son.

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