The Hazel Wright Organ is an internationally famous pipe organ inaugurated at the Crystal Cathedral in May, 1982. It is the largest European-built organ in America and one of the largest organs in the world. It has been featured on the internationally televised Hour of Power, making it one of the most recognizable organs in the world.

The Hazel Wright Organ is a work by Fratelli Ruffatti of Padua, Italy. The organ is a combination of a 1977 Ruffatti organ already installed at the Crystal Cathedral and a 1962 Aeolian-Skinner organ that was formerly at the Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts in New York City.

The organ was designed to support congregation singing, fill the vast spaces of the Cathedral with sounds, and be a resource for musical performance. The cultural importance of the organ will continue to be honored in our future Christ Cathedral through liturgical as well as arts and cultural programming. There will be regular concert performances by visiting organists and by our own principal organist.

After three decades, time, sunlight, heat and water have caused damage to the organ, which is now in need of a total restoration.

As part of the “For Christ Forever” capital campaign, Orange Catholic Foundation is working to raise $2 million to:

- Refurbish the Hazel Wright organ to its original high performance conditions.
- Restore the sound of the great Cathedral organ to its original character.
- Eliminate potential causes of future organ malfunctions and related maintenance costs.
- Repair the connections between the Arvella Schuller Carillon and the organ console inside the Cathedral so the 52-bell carillon can once again be played from the organ.

An “Organ Restoration Committee” led by Monsignor Arthur Holquin, pastor of the Mission Basilica in San Juan Capistrano, has been designated to oversee the restoration of the organ. The restoration process will include removing the organ from the Cathedral, transporting, restoring and reinstalling the organ in our future Christ Cathedral. The expected completion date is prior to the dedication of Christ Cathedral in 2015.

For more information, please visit www.ForChristForever.org or www.OrangeCatholicFoundation.org