



 VOCATION
MINISTRY



COURTESY DIOCESE OF ORLANDO/FLORIDA CATHOLIC

“Every vocation is a summons not to stand on the shore, nets in hand, but to follow Jesus on the path he has marked out for us, for our own happiness and for the good of those around us.

• Pope Francis

“A good vocation is simply a firm and constant will to serve God in the way and places the Almighty God has called you.

• St. Francis de Sales

“All vocations are intended by God to manifest His love in the world.

• Thomas Merton
No Man Is An Island

FROM OUR FOUNDER

Vocation Ministry is a 501 (c)(3) non-profit organization committed to the work of vocation promotion to Catholic parishes and dioceses throughout the United States and Canada. Through presentations, workshops, VocationMinistry.com, and *Hundredfold: A Guide to Parish Vocation Ministry* and *Sembrando Semillas*, Vocation Ministry provides information, inspiration, ideas, and activities to help anyone starting, reviving, or refreshing a parish vocation ministry or committee.

Founded in 2016, Vocation Ministry has become a driving force for promoting vocations in North America. Pope Saint John Paul II once said, "The family is the seedbed of vocations." With that in mind, our focus is to teach and sustain ministries

to create a vocation-friendly environment that reaches families, inspiring children to consider a supernatural call to the priesthood or consecrated life or to sacramental marriage.

When I began my work promoting vocations, I was stunned to discover that only 10 to 20 percent of parishes throughout the country do anything to promote vocations, and of that small percentage,



Rhonda Gruenewald

their efforts tend to be minimal, uncoordinated, and therefore lack impact. However, the promotion of vocations should be at the heart of every family and every parish to foster an environment where each baptized person can joyfully explore the potential of God's call on his or her life and be given the resources to pray, discern, and ultimately answer God's call with love and generosity.

Vocation Ministry continues to create an abundance of effective, hands-on, easy-to-implement resources to foster the promotion of vocations in parishes and in families. From our website to our Resource Book we have created a way for any parish easily to begin vocation promotion, grow the ministry over time, and infuse the beauty and joy of vocations into parish life.

In April 2017, *Sembrando Semillas*, a Spanish edition of the book *Hundredfold*, was published, providing additional materials specifically related to predominantly Spanish speaking parishes. The website, workshops, and presentations are now available in Spanish, as well.

At our signature Hundredfold workshops in English and Spanish, we have trained thousands of parishioners and priests, representing over 3,000 parishes in 42 dioceses on how to create a culture of vocations at their parish so that men and women can more easily answer God's call.

We invite you to be part of this mission to positively impact the vocation landscape for generations to come.

In Christ,
Rhonda Gruenewald
Founder and President

"Some seed fell on rich soil and produced fruit yielding thirty, sixty, and hundredfold."

Mark 4:8



Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston

Office of the Cardinal

February 24, 2018

Mrs. Rhonda Gruenewald
Founder and President
Vocation Ministry
15407 Abbey Chase Court
Houston, TX 77095

Dear Mrs. Gruenewald:

On this occasion of the 2018 Vocations Expo for the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston, for which you and Mrs. Leticia Ramirez are serving as the primary keynote speakers, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to you, Leticia, and to all who have cooperated in and contributed to the efforts of Vocation Ministry during the past two and a half years since the publishing of your book *Hundredfold: A Guide to Parish Vocation Ministry*. Your dedication to the promotion of a culture of vocations and vocational awareness has been a valued contribution to the mission and spiritual life of the local Church of Galveston-Houston.

As Vocation Ministry continues to expand its efforts in cooperation with the Office of Vocations for the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston, it is my prayer that our parishes and our families may be fruitful soil for the discernment and recognition of vocations for the service of the Church. With my prayers and sincere gratitude, invoking God's blessings upon the praiseworthy endeavors of Vocation Ministry in the Archdiocese and beyond, I am

Sincerely yours in Christ,

+Daniel Cardinal DiNardo

Daniel Cardinal DiNardo
Archbishop of Galveston-Houston

DND:ael

cc: The Reverend T.J. Dolce
Vocations Director, Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston

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HISTORY OF VOCATION MINISTRY

The national apostolate Vocation Ministry began in 2011 at St. Cecilia Catholic Church in Houston, Texas, with a simple ask by a parish priest and a simple yes by a faithful laywoman. “Our newly ordained parochial vicar, Fr. Victor Perez, asked me to come to a meeting about priests,” recalled Rhonda Gruenewald, founder of Vocation Ministry. “Fr. Victor had been tasked with reviving the parish vocation committee that had been dormant for more than five years.” Being a convert to the Church, Rhonda did not know what he was talking about. “Vocations, in the Catholic context, was foreign to me,” said Rhonda. “But after hearing Fr. Victor’s enthusiasm for everything vocation-related, I became hooked and took over as leader of the newly founded, parish-based vocation ministry.” From there, Rhonda went home to research anything she could find about vocations. Finding nothing detailed about how to start or revive a committee, Rhonda let the Holy Spirit guide the direction of the committee. “We prayed and promoted vocations any way we could at our parish, from starting Adoration for Vocations to playing pin-the-miter-on-the-Bishop at our parish festival,”



remembers Rhonda. During this time, Rhonda also came to understand the crisis of vocations in North America. “I discovered that in the United States there were 3,500 parishes without a resident priest, in addition to the more than 1,700 parishes without a priest in Canada,” recalled Rhonda. “At the same time, the number of religious sisters had declined to levels similar to those at the turn of the 20th century and Sacramental Marriages, the seedbed for all vocations, were down 55 percent since 1990.” Without a doubt, Rhonda now

understood why Fr. Victor wanted her to kickstart a vocation ministry at his parish.

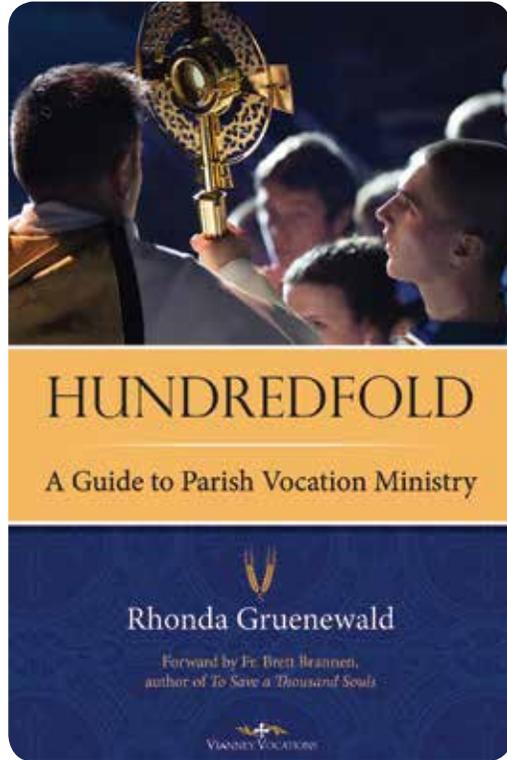
“When I asked Rhonda to start a vocations committee, I certainly never expected what was to come,” says Fr. Victor. “But it’s clear there is a demand for vocation promotion throughout parish life and everyone needs the resources to do this in the most effective way.”

After 18 months, Rhonda was asked how she could place this model for a vocation ministry in every parish in the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston. In response, she thought maybe she could write a pamphlet.

But the Holy Spirit had much larger plans. “Seventeen months later, the ‘pamphlet’ was a fully published 288-page book with an imprimatur!” said Rhonda.

The goal of *Hundredfold: A Guide to Parish Vocation Ministry* was to provide information, activities, and inspiration to anyone starting, reviving, or refreshing a vocation ministry, and to help those ministries thrive. It was

designed to inspire parishes to get involved in vocation work, to help new ministries start strong by providing a clear guide to the nuts and bolts of the ministry and to reinvigorate long-standing committees with fresh ideas that attract new workers to his vineyard.



“The mission of Vocation Ministry is to foster an environment for vocations promotion by providing hands-on resources and materials to equip families, parishes and dioceses to build a fruitful culture of vocations.

Hundredfold was immediately well received and those inspired by the book began asking for more resources. That same year, VocationMinistry.com was launched as a platform to assist others in starting a vocation ministry and to create a resourceful network of people all working towards the same goal.

Ultimately, the success of the book and website gave rise to the creation of Vocation Ministry, a non-profit organization committed to the work of vocation promotion in Catholic parishes and dioceses throughout the United States and Canada by providing practical hands-on resources, workshops and presentations to equip those seeking to promote vocations at all levels within the Church. Finally, a vocations network and resource hub had come to life! *God was at work!*

As Vocation Ministry grew, so did the demand for more resources. In April 2017, *Sembrando Semillas*, a Spanish translation of her book was published, providing additional materials specifically related to predominantly Spanish-speaking parishes. The website was also made available in Spanish, along with workshops and presentations.

Since that time, Vocation Ministry has worked with more than 6,000 vocation promoters nationwide. That number is increasing each year. “The demand is there,” says Rhonda. “People everywhere are passionate about increasing and nurturing vocations. I see it all over the country. This passion stems not only from a desire to foster more holy vocations, but truly from people’s love for Christ and his Church. The Church of tomorrow already exists – we just have to begin to awaken it!”

VOCATIONS IN THE CHURCH TODAY

Vocations are integral to the life of the Church. The vocation of marriage produces religious vocations, and religious vocations are the human means for the entry point of all Catholics into a grace-filled sacramental life. Fostering strong and courageous vocations in the modern world is the lifeblood of the future of the Church.

Over the past 50 years, both the Church and the culture have experienced many shifts in values, priorities, and family life. In 1965, the Church in the United States had more than 58,000 priests, serving just over 17,000 parishes. By 2018, that number had fallen to 36,580 priests, serving 17,156 parishes. Currently, many dioceses, particularly in the north and northeast, are anticipating a **50 percent drop** in the number of priests by 2025. That is less than ten years away.

At the same time, marriages in the Church have

fallen by **55 percent** since 1990, and one-fifth of baptized children do not receive First Communion, thereby significantly reducing those being confirmed. According to a recent Pew study, 36 percent of Millennials claim no religious affiliation.

Though this reality is sobering, the zeal and desire to promote all vocations is growing! Vocation directors,

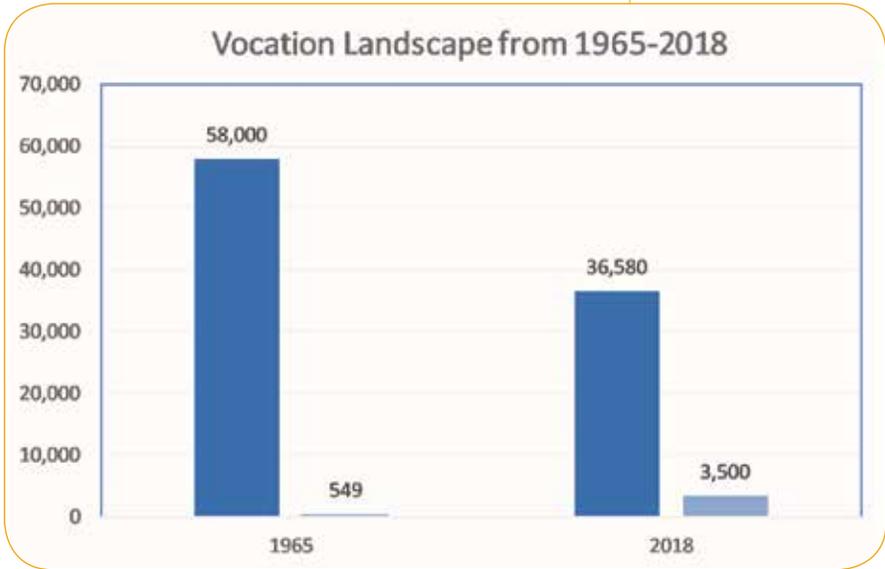
parish leaders, and parishioners across the country are actively seeking ways to build up marriage and family life and promote the beauty and dignity of vocations. Pope Saint John Paul II said that “the future of the world and of

the Church passes through the family” and that family begins with marriage, by which the world is gifted with the beauty of vocations.

Renewal in the Church and the culture hinges on actively and intentionally promoting and building up vocations. Each person’s vocational call is already written on their heart by the intricate design of God. The work of Vocation Ministry must equip the Church once again to awaken the call of a vocation within the human heart.

“Everyone... is called to holiness... In order that the faithful may reach this perfection, they must use their strength accordingly as they have received it, as a gift from Christ. They must follow in His footsteps and conform themselves to His image, seeking the will of the Father in all things. They must devote themselves with all their being to the glory of God and the service of their neighbor. In this way, the holiness of the people of God will grow into an abundant harvest of good, as is admirably shown by the life of so many saints in Church history.”

• *Lumen Gentium, Dogmatic Constitution on the Church (40)*



VOCATION MINISTRY: ACTIVELY EQUIPPING DIOCESES, PARISHES AND FAMILIES TO PROMOTE VOCATIONS

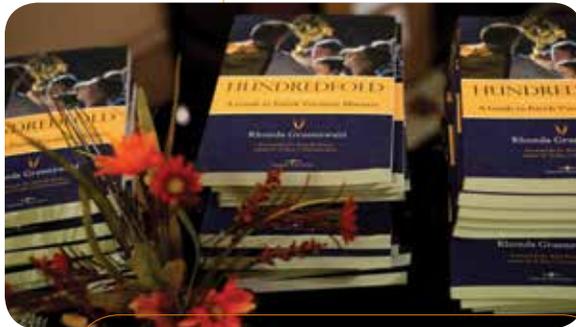
Vocation Ministry is a service-based nonprofit working to foster the growth of vocations to the priesthood, religious life, and sacramental marriage. Together with Catholic dioceses and Serra clubs, the organization instructs priests and laity on how to create a vocation-friendly environment at their parishes.

Vocation Ministry focuses on a variety of tools to inspire the faithful to get involved by starting a vocation ministry at their parish, including the books *Hundredfold: A Guide to Parish Vocation Ministry* and its Spanish-language counterpart *Sembrando Semillas*, along with the website vocationministry.com.

A survey in the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston found that 80 percent of seminarians came from the 20 percent of parishes that actively promote vocations. Vocation Ministry seeks to have every parish in a diocese praying for and promoting vocations so that discernment is encouraged on an on-going basis.

Vocation Ministry works with parishes and priests to help them implement activities in four primary areas—*prayer, youth, awareness/education, and affirmation*. Reports show that the time when most young men and women first

hear the call to the priesthood and consecrated life is when they are active in parish life. So, we need to encourage them to think about how God is calling them while they are altar serving and singing in the choir. Also, putting joyful witnesses, like current seminarians who have answered the call from their own parish in front of youth, has been proven to inspire others to say “Yes!”



Since 2015, Vocation Ministry has equipped more than

6,000 parish promoters nationwide and in Canada

After identifying the unique needs of their parish, parishioners can begin to establish programs that promote vocations specific to the dynamics of their particular parish. Parishioners are encouraged to start small and take a phased approach that steadily nurtures a culture of devotion, where families and youth can easily hear and answer God’s call.

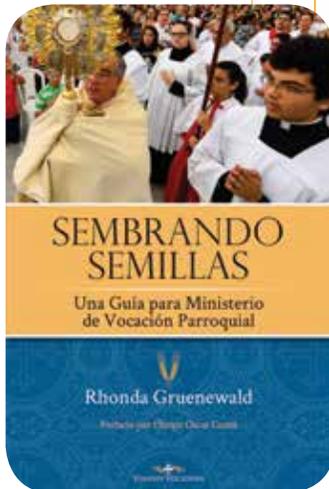
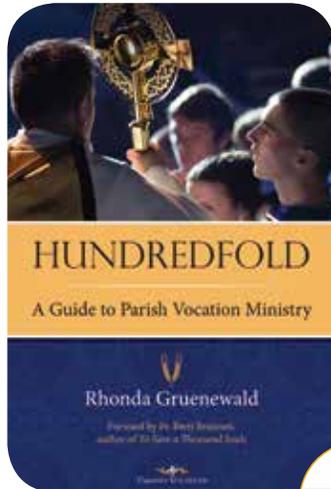
Understanding the lay-driven nature of parish life, Vocation Ministry’s resources are purposely created as easy to use, parish friendly, and implantable by anyone. Parishes of any size can find helpful and relevant resources to start, boost, or re-start an effective and fruitful vocation ministry.

The organization also provides on-going support to parishes through a monthly e-newsletter and personal follow up by Vocation Ministry staff. Once a parish gets started, Vocation Ministry is committed to ensuring they keep going and keep growing. New materials, templates and ideas are constantly being added to VocationMinistry.com and shared through social media.



RESOURCES

HUNDREDFOLD: A GUIDE TO PARISH VOCATION MINISTRY was written to inspire parishioners to become more involved in building a vocation-friendly parish environment. The book provides a clear guide to forming ministries within Catholic parishes. *Hundredfold* goes beyond the nuts and bolts of simply running vocation activities, offering wisdom about how to start and sustain a healthy ministry. The book describes each phase of developing a strong vocation ministry, from start-up to maturation. In 2017, *Hundredfold* was published in Spanish and has been widely distributed.



VOCATIONMINISTRY.COM is an online resource developed to guide individuals through organizing and energizing a vocation ministry and to create a sense of community among vocation promoters worldwide. Being the companion website to *Hundredfold*, it includes valuable downloadable resources referenced in the book that can be customized — such as prayer cards, bulletin inserts, coloring pages, and specialized templates for successful meetings, budgets, and much more. In addition, the website features more in-depth tools such as how-to videos, a vocation blog, quotes from Pope Francis, a schedule of upcoming events, and access to monthly newsletters. The website gives users the opportunity to share stories, start their own ministries, and become part of a larger faith community of vocation promoters.



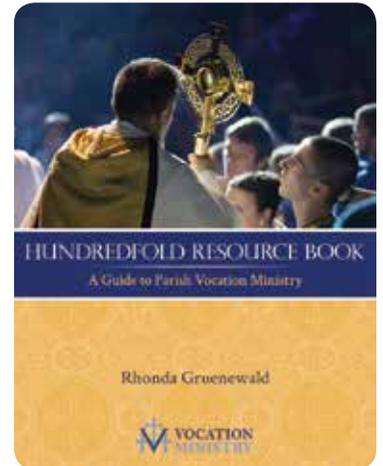
More than **12,000** copies of *Hundredfold* have been sold and distributed, in addition to more than **3,000** copies of *Sembrando Semillas*

Since 2015, VocationMinistry.com has more than **30,000** unique users

“The book and website provide vocation ministry guidance and resources for the development and successful implementation of vocation activities throughout parish life.”

RESOURCES

The *Resource Book* is a 108-page, concrete, hand-on resource from VocationMinistry.com in an easy-to-replicate, spiralbound book with sections in both in English and Spanish. The *Resource Book* includes prayer cards, spiritual bouquets, bulletin comments, announcements for vocation promotion events, altar server certificates, worship aids for holy hours, bulletin inserts, engagement tools such as “Vocation Jeopardy,” and so much more!



EVENTS & WORKSHOPS inspire laity and clergy to begin parish vocation ministries and cover a wide range of topics:

- What is a vocation ministry?
- What are the goals of a vocation ministry?
- What kinds of activities should you do?
- How do we sustain the ministry?
- How can clergy best guide a vocation ministry?



“The workshop provided practical steps to address a pressing need in our diocese. The wide gamut of possibilities allows large and small parishes to DO something.

• Very Reverend Jay Peterson, Vicar General,
Diocese of Great Falls-Billings, Montana

RESOURCES

SPANISH-LANGUAGE RESOURCES

In 2017, Vocation Ministry began offering materials and training in Spanish, led by Spanish-language program presenter, Leticia Ramirez. Leticia's family has a beautiful history of vocations. Her brother is Bishop Oscar Cantú of the Diocese of San Jose, and two of her sons have answered the call to the priesthood with the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston. To date, Vocation Ministry has presented more than 11 Spanish-language workshops across the United States.



SINCE 2015, VOCATION MINISTRY HAS SERVED:

- Diocese of Albany, NY
- Diocese of Amarillo, TX
- Diocese of Beaumont, TX
- Diocese of Belleville, IL
- Diocese of Brooklyn, NY
- Diocese of Burlington, VT
- Archdiocese of Chicago, IL
- Diocese of Davenport, IA
- Diocese of Fairbanks, AK
- Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston
- Diocese of Grand Island, NE
- Diocese of Great Falls-Billings, MT
- Diocese of Joliet, IL
- Archdiocese Kansas City, KS
- Diocese of Lake Charles, LA
- Diocese of Lansing, MI
- Diocese of Las Cruces, NM
- Diocese of London, Ontario
- Diocese of Lubbock, TX
- Diocese of Manchester, NH
- Archdiocese of New York, NY
- Diocese of Ogdensburg, NY
- Archdiocese of Omaha, NE
- Diocese of Owensboro, KY
- Diocese of Peoria, IL
- Diocese of Peterborough, Ontario
- Archdiocese of Portland, OR
- Diocese of Rapid City, SD
- Diocese of Rockford, IL
- Diocese of San Angelo, TX
- Diocese of San Diego, CA
- Diocese of Springfield, MA
- Archdiocese of St. Louis, MO
- Diocese of Spokane, WA
- Diocese of Stockton, CA
- Diocese of Venice, FL
- Diocese of Victoria, TX
- Diocese of Youngstown, OH
- Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston, WV

In addition, Rhonda has presented at numerous Legatus chapters and Serra Clubs around the U.S., and Vocation Ministry has been featured in prestigious Catholic publications such as *Religious Life* magazine and on the EWTN television and radio network. In 2017, Rhonda was presented with an achievement award by Cardinal Daniel DiNardo for her work in promoting vocations.



ONGOING SUPPORT, SOCIAL MEDIA PAGES & DISCERNMENT GROUPS

Ongoing Support

Vocation Ministry also provides ongoing support for vocation promoters through a monthly e-newsletter to more than 3,000 subscribers. The informative newsletters offer ideas, tips, stories and more to continue feeding those seeking to do more to promote vocations in their area. In 2019, Vocation Ministry will be adding a Program Coordinator to its staff to provide direct support to parish-based vocation ministries, vocation directors, and those championing vocations through their own personal networks.



Not only does Vocation Ministry provide resources for vocation promotion, but it also provides social media communities for discerners and promoters to encourage collaboration and to provide forums for support for those journeying along the path of vocational discernment. Vocation Ministry also provides a support group for parents of discerners, priests, religious sisters, and religious brothers.



The Veil, The Collar, Seedbed

These social media communities are designed to support and encourage those discerning a vocation by asking and answering questions through posts and Facebook Live sessions,



which foster discussion among members. **The Veil** is moderated by an apostolic sister, cloistered nun, consecrated woman, and consecrated virgin. **The Collar** is moderated by several priests who work with the men in the group to answer questions and help them enter more deeply into discernment, posting weekly to help these men in their discernment. **Seedbed** is designed to support and encourage parents of men and women who are discerning their supernatural vocation or who have already said YES to the priesthood or consecrated life.



Hundredfold

This group is dedicated to the laypeople looking for support while promoting vocations to the priesthood, religious life, and marriage in a diocese or in a parish vocation ministry or committee. Rhonda Gruenewald posts and holds video chats with members on a regular basis to foster community and their work in vocations.

Facebook

Begun in 2014, the Vocation Ministry Facebook page is designed to share the good news about vocations to the priesthood, consecrated life, and marriage throughout social media. Each month posts organically reach on average 500,000 people. The page adds 100-150 new followers weekly.



IMPACT OF VOCATION MINISTRY

The Case of Grand Island, Nebraska

The Diocese of Grand Island, Nebraska, may not seem like a hotbed of vocations, but think again! This middle American diocese covers 42,000 square miles with a Catholic population just over 56,000. In 2015, when Vocation Ministry presented its first workshop, the diocese had one seminarian in formation. When Vocation Ministry returned in 2019 to offer a follow-up workshop, the diocese had nine seminarians in formation! What changed? A lot!



Before the workshop in 2015, parishes in the diocese had little if any vocation ministries. “Some of our parishioners attended the first workshop,” remembers Glenda Stittsworth, “and they returned with a new attitude and excitement about vocations.” The workshop triggered a seriousness about the need to foster vocations in both families and parishes and many began implementing what they learned from Vocation Ministry across the diocese.

“I attended the second workshop in 2019,” said Glenda. “I was thoroughly impressed with all of the information, both



from the workshop and from reading *Hundredfold*. This experience has shown me not only the necessity of a parish vocation ministry, but that it can also be fun and community building. I am happy to report that our parish has a young man entering seminary this fall!”

“As the parent of a seminarian, now a priest ordained last December, I cannot emphasize enough the need for this ministry in every diocese!”

• **Michael, Beaumont, TX**

“Your enthusiasm for Vocation Ministry lit a fire in my heart”

• **Kerry Matthyssen, Diocese of London, Ontario, Canada**

“The Complete Package—it was ‘Vocation Ministry in a Box.’ I felt someone who is inexperienced but moved by the Holy Spirit could pick this up and run with it!”

• **Workshop Participant, Springfield, MA**

“I am a teacher, and it made me realize some ways that I can promote vocations at the school!”

• **Catholic School Teacher, Diocese of Lansing, MI**

“My husband, Dean, and I were asked a year ago to be co-directors for a newly formed vocations ministry at our parish outside San Antonio. We began by scheduling a few events at our parish, then we discovered your book, *Hundredfold*, and ordered a copy for each person in our group. You have been an inspiration for us as we continue the journey.”

• **Dean and Joan Schoppe, Archdiocese of San Antonio, TX**

“Thank you for this fantastic book that has guided our vocation committee every step of the way! Our prayers have been answered through this book!”

• **Laurie Hervert, Diocese of Grand Island, NE**

“Knowing nothing about this ministry, I feel that we received such valuable information from such a dynamic speaker, who is so very passionate about vocations!”

• **Barbara Randolph, Archdiocese of Kansas City, KS**

“The best convocation we have had!”

• **A Priest from the Diocese of Amarillo, TX**

“It was beneficial for our priests to be both challenged to promote parish vocation ministry and equipped with materials and ideas that they can pass on to their people.”

• **Monsignor Paul Hudock, Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston, WV**

WHAT CATHOLIC LEADERS AND VOCATION DIRECTORS ARE SAYING ABOUT VOCATION MINISTRY

“The parish community is where vocations to serve God and His Church are encouraged. Every parish, therefore, should be actively supporting the call to priesthood and consecrated life. *Hundredfold* is an excellent resource offering activities for parishes that are inspiring and easy to use.”

- Most Rev. Thomas J. Olmsted
Bishop of Phoenix

“Twelve years after her conversion to the Catholic Faith, Rhonda recognized the call of God to establish a vocation ministry at her own parish. Throughout this process, she learned many valuable lessons and persevered through the numerous obstacles. In the end, the work was successful and her parish continues to be a flagship of what a dedicated parish vocation ministry should be!”

- Fr. Brett Brannen
Author of *To Save a Thousand Souls: A Guide for Discerning a Vocation to Diocesan Priesthood* and *A Priest in the Family: A Guide for Parents Whose Sons are Considering Priesthood*

“*Hundredfold* is a tremendously useful resource for promoting vocations at the parish and school level. It inspires both pastors and laity engaged in the work of vocations. We give a copy of this book to every parish in the diocese.”

- Fr. J.D. Jaffe
Former Director of the Office of Vocations
Diocese of Arlington, Virginia

“Without our Catholic parishes instilling a deep appreciation of religious and priestly vocations, young people may not hear this divine invitation. Good vocations flourish in good families—and good families flourish in good parishes. Thank you, Rhonda, for the inspiration of *Hundredfold*!”

- Sr. Joseph Andrew Bogdanowicz, OP
Vocation Director, Dominican Sisters of Mary, Mother of the Eucharist,
Ann Arbor, Michigan

“Rhonda Gruenewald is a great Apostle for Vocations in the Church today. Her enthusiastic presentations, her excellent suggestions and resources, and her love for the priesthood, religious life, and Christian marriage was just what we needed to foster a culture of vocations in our diocese. Rhonda offered effective workshops to our priests and deacons which inspired them to invite over 220 lay people from parishes and schools across the diocese. As Vocations Director, I am very aware that the work of promoting vocations is too big a job for any one person or group of people. I now have a whole army of people across the diocese who are sustaining our work in prayer, actively finding ways to promote a culture of vocations in their local communities.”

- Fr. Matt Mason
Vocation Director
Diocese of Manchester, New Hampshire

“Hosting the “Hundredfold Workshop” has made a definite impact on our vocation promotion efforts. Within just four months of the Workshop, some parishes are already doing things they did not do before. For example, one parish during Advent put out drop boxes for parishioners to place Christmas cards and well-wishes for their parish priests and seminarians. Another one celebrated World Marriage Day last February by honoring the longest-married couple in their parish, which again, they had not done before. In addition, they have been invited to schools and parishes which previously had not had the Vocation Director visit. I believe that actual fruits will take time, but I am very pleased that we hosted the “Hundredfold Workshop” to jumpstart our efforts.”

- Fr. Joseph Sia
Vocation Director
Diocese of Davenport, Iowa

APPENDICES

APPENDIX A

RHONDA GRUENEWALD FOUNDER, VOCATION MINISTRY



Rhonda Gruenewald, a full-time wife and mother of two teenagers, converted to the faith thanks to her husband of 21 years, David. Prior to volunteering in the field of vocations, she graduated from the University of Texas in Austin and taught English, speech, and debate at a public high school for six years.

In October 2011, she began her volunteer work in vocations at Saint Cecilia Church in Houston by becoming the leader of the vocation committee. Under Rhonda's guidance, the committee was renamed Vocation Ministry and held a wide variety of events that increased parishioners' awareness of and interest in vocations. The ministry quickly grew to 20 members who promoted, affirmed, and brought awareness to vocations.

Rhonda wrote *Hundredfold: A Guide to Parish Vocation Ministry* and its accompanying resource book and developed VocationMinistry.com to provide information, activities, and inspiration for anyone seeking to establish or revive a vocation ministry.

“Rhonda believes that the overarching purpose of a vocation ministry is to light a fire for vocations through prayer and education.

Rhonda continues to present workshops to parishioners, deacons, priests, and religious to teach them how to do this important work at parishes all over the United States and Canada. Rhonda also shares the message of Vocation Ministry with priests at convocations.

APPENDIX B

ADVISORY COUNCIL

The Advisory Council is composed of friends, collaborators, and strategic partners who support and advise Vocation Ministry leadership.

Most Reverend Thomas Anthony Daly

Bishop of Spokane, Washington

Most Reverend Edward B. Scharfenberger

Bishop of Albany, New York

Most Reverend George V. Murry, S.J.

Bishop of Youngstown, Ohio

Most Reverend Brendan J. Cahill

Bishop of Victoria, Texas

Reverend Christopher Martin

President, National Conference of Diocesan Vocation Directors
Pastor of St. Clare of Assisi Parish in Ellisville, Missouri

Sister Joseph Andrew Bogdanowicz, O.P.

Foundress and Vocation Director,
Dominican Sisters of Mary, Mother of the Eucharist

Reverend Brett Brannen

Author, *To Save A Thousand Souls*,
Pastor of Blessed Sacrament Church in Savannah, Georgia

Reverend Benedict Croell, O.P.

Director of Development & Mission Advancement,
Pontifical University of St. Thomas Aquinas (Angelicum), Rome

Mr. Alan Napleton

President, Catholic Marketing Network

APPENDIX C

BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Larry Massey, Chairman

Larry is President of the Scanlan Foundation, a large religious charitable fund in Texas that supports hundreds of Catholic organizations yearly. He is currently a Knight of the Order of Malta, University of St. Thomas Board Member, and a member of various other Catholic organizations. He has a heart for vocations. As a Serran, he has held the position of former Governor for Serra International District 10 and led his own parish Vocation Ministry. Larry has two children and is married to Susan. They are members of Annunciation Church in Houston, Texas.



Will Cravens, Treasurer

Will is the Executive Vice President of the Scanlan Foundation, a nonprofit corporation that awards grants to Catholic religious, charitable and educational institutions in Texas. He has been active in vocations for several years, including the immediate Past President of the Serra Club of Houston and the immediate Past Chair of the Vocations Committee at St. Michael the Archangel Catholic Church. Will is married to Janet, and they have three children: James, Mary, and Stephen. They are members of St Michael the Archangel Parish in Houston, Texas.



Natalie C. Fleming, Secretary

Natalie has been a practicing attorney in the Houston area for over 20 years and is a former judge of Harris County Criminal Court at Law. As the daughter of Cuban immigrants, she is fluent in Spanish and English. She is a longstanding member of the St. Mary's Seminary Board of Advisors. Natalie is married to Michael P. Fleming, and they have six children. A lifelong Catholic, she and her family have been longtime parishioners of St. Cecilia Catholic Church in Houston, Texas.



Theodore J. Trumble II, MD CMD

Theodore has been a medical doctor in Houston for almost 30 years, specializing in nursing home care and hospice. He is married to Sylvia and they have four grown children. Lately, Theodore and his wife have been devoting more of their time to parish and community activities at St. Vincent de Paul. He has been involved with ACTS, That Man is You, St. Vincent de Paul's Vocations Ministry, and he is an Instituted Acolyte in the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston.



Fr. Victor Perez

Father Victor grew up in Katy, Texas. He majored in business at the University of Texas at Austin and studied abroad in Seville, Spain. After visiting both Fatima and Lourdes where he experienced the profound mercy of God, he felt a strong call to discern the priesthood. After discerning religious life—and eight years in seminary for Galveston-Houston—he was ordained in 2011. His first assignment was at St. Cecilia where he started a vocation ministry with Rhonda Gruenewald. The program was a great success. He served for three years as pastor of Most Holy Trinity in Angleton, Texas. In June 2019, he was made pastor of St. Joseph and St. Stephen Churches in Washington Heights/Sixth Ward area of Houston.



Laura Johnson, OFS

Laura Johnson is a native of Houston, Texas, and a faithful Catholic and who attends St. Cecilia Catholic Church where she was an active part of founding their vocation ministry. In addition, Laura served on the chaplaincy board of MD Anderson Hospital in Houston for nine years, is an auxiliary member of Legion of Mary, and has been a Third Order Franciscan for more than nine years. Laura has experienced firsthand the impact strong vocation ministries can have on both parishes and dioceses. Her wealth of knowledge of the Church, spirituality, and parish are blessed gifts to the direction of the board and Vocation Ministry.

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