



ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF SYRACUSE

OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

240 E. ONONDAGA STREET, SYRACUSE, NY 13202-2608

November 15, 2021
St. Albert the Great, Bishop & Doctor

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

From my days in college-seminary when I first served on the Diocesan Vocation Team until the present day, it has been a privilege for me to be involved in seeking laborers for the Lord's Harvest through Vocation Promotion. Over the course of the last decade before I was a Diocesan Bishop, I served as the Vocation Director and Director of Seminarians for the Diocese of Ogdensburg. It is then I had the privilege to become involved in the Vocation Ministry of Rhonda Gruenewald and her engaging workshops seeking to assist dioceses and their parishes in raising the awareness of Church vocations. Accompanying these workshops were easy-to-use resources for parish leadership and parish vocation teams.

With this background, I wish to recommend to you Vocation Ministry workshops and resources for your dioceses. You will not be disappointed! In fact, to hear the diocesan Superintendent of Catholic Schools tell me what a "game-changing" collaboration this has been for our school staffs and his own staff is both heartening and inspiring. To know that the parishes and schools of a diocese have come to embrace enthusiastically "*the core mission of bringing intentionality and concrete opportunities for vocation discernment*" gives renewed impetus to the efforts to call forth harvesters.

Thank you for allowing me to share these personal insights with you. Again, I express my own gratitude and appreciation for the service the Rhonda Gruenewald and her collaborators render to the Church. I assure you also of my prayers for your ministry and those you serve.

In the Name of Jesus,

Most Reverend Douglas J. Lucia
Bishop of Syracuse

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