



Diocese of Austin

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Dear Co-laborers in the Vocations Mission,

My name is Fr. Greg Gerhart. I am the Vocation Director for the Diocese of Austin. We recently had Rhonda Gruenewald from Vocation Ministry as the keynote speaker at our Priest Convocation. As a follow-up, she also gave a Vocation Promoter Workshop to 250 parishioners from throughout the diocese. The feedback from both priests and laity was extremely positive. I highly recommend her as a speaker to strengthen your own vocations promotion efforts.

Rhonda is zealous, knowledgeable, and responsive. Her zeal for promoting vocations inspired and encouraged both priests and lay people. Her practical knowledge about the mission of promoting vocations comes from her lived experience of starting a successful Vocation Ministry in her home parish of St. Cecilia's in Houston. Her strategies have borne fruit in parishes and dioceses of different sizes and types throughout the country. Rhonda also proved herself responsive and collaborative in working with me. The Diocese made a large investment of time and opportunity in giving an entire Convocation to the subject of vocations promotion, but Rhonda proved herself worth the investment. She made herself available for several meetings with me before the events to plan out the details of how best to incorporate her strategies with my own efforts, and the results were stupendous. Several priests shared with me that they thought it was the best Convocation they had ever attended, and we now have a momentum for vocations promotion in our parishes that I would never have come close to producing on my own.

She recognizes the irony of this statement, but it's worth stating nonetheless: our priests and lay parishioners would not have listened to me with the same openness and readiness to respond with which they listened to her. I now have real partners in the mission on the ground among my brother priests and among lay parishioners, which is a stark contrast to my experience before she came. Partnering with Rhonda is a no-brainer.

Know of my prayers for you, and please reach out if I could expand upon my recommendation. God bless you.

In Christ,

Fr. Greg Gerhart
Vocation Director