



ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF SYRACUSE
PRIEST PERSONNEL

October 13, 2020

Rhonda Gruenwald
Vocations Ministry
15407 Abbey Chase Court
Houston, Texas 77095

Dear Rhonda,

Thank you so much for making the trip to Syracuse, New York and Alexandria Bay, New York to lead and direct our annual Clergy Convocation. I apologize for all the hassles that came up due to COVID-19, but I thank you for your willingness to move through everything with such grace and kindness.

I cannot even begin to tell you what an impact your presentation has had on our presbyterate. I really believe that you reignited a flame within our priests to let them know that it is okay and necessary to speak about vocations to the priesthood and religious life. One priest, as he was leaving the conference center on the last day, said, "Not only am I going to go home and put a vocations committee together, I am going to be more intentional and unapologetic about sharing my vocation story." He shared with me that with the clergy sex abuse crisis, the pandemic, and all the demands of being a priest he has shied away from speaking about the joy of his own vocation. So, I just wanted to let you know that you made a profound impact and, I feel, it will produce much fruit.

Again, thank you for all you did to get to our convocation and to make it special for all of us. Please know of my prayers and all the prayers of the priests of the Diocese of Syracuse for you, your family, and for Vocations Ministry! May the Good Lord provide an abundance of laborers for His vineyard!

*Thank you so much!
Prayers for all the
great work you are doing*

Cc: Rev. Jason Hage

In the peace of Christ,

Reverend John D. Manno
Vicar for Clergy