



ARCHDIOCESE OF MIAMI

Office of Catholic Schools

September, 2023

Dear Friends of Catholic Education,

I am very pleased to offer my reflections on our experiences with Mrs. Rhonda Gruenwald and Vocation Ministry. With the encouragement of Archbishop Thomas Wenski, we have been working to enhance efforts to intentionally foster vocations in our Catholic schools and parish religious education programs. As part of this effort, we welcomed Rhonda to the Archdiocese last August, where she led a workshop with our school pastors, principals, and representatives of a Catholic homeschool network.

The workshop was outstanding. Rhonda cohesively and passionately described the critical need for intentional outreach on vocations to our young people. Her presentation included numerous practical tips for educators. Her speaking style is extremely engaging; participants felt welcome to share their own thoughts and experiences, and a positive spirit was present throughout the day. Her content is rooted firmly in the teachings of the Church and the ultimate calling of Christ to evangelize all people.

Perhaps most importantly, Rhonda's strategies *work*. Our schools and programs are now implementing many of the strategies, and we are already seeing an uptick in interest in vocations from our students. We are making full use of the abundant resources available through Vocation Ministry. Vocations are now front-of-mind for our priests, school educators, and catechists.

I strongly recommend Vocation Ministry for any parish, school, or diocese that is serious about fostering vocations. I know that God is working through the efforts of Vocation Ministry, and will continue to call young people to holiness in His service.

Yours in Christ,

Jim Rigg, Ph.D.
Secretary of Education
Superintendent of Catholic Schools
Archdiocese of Miami