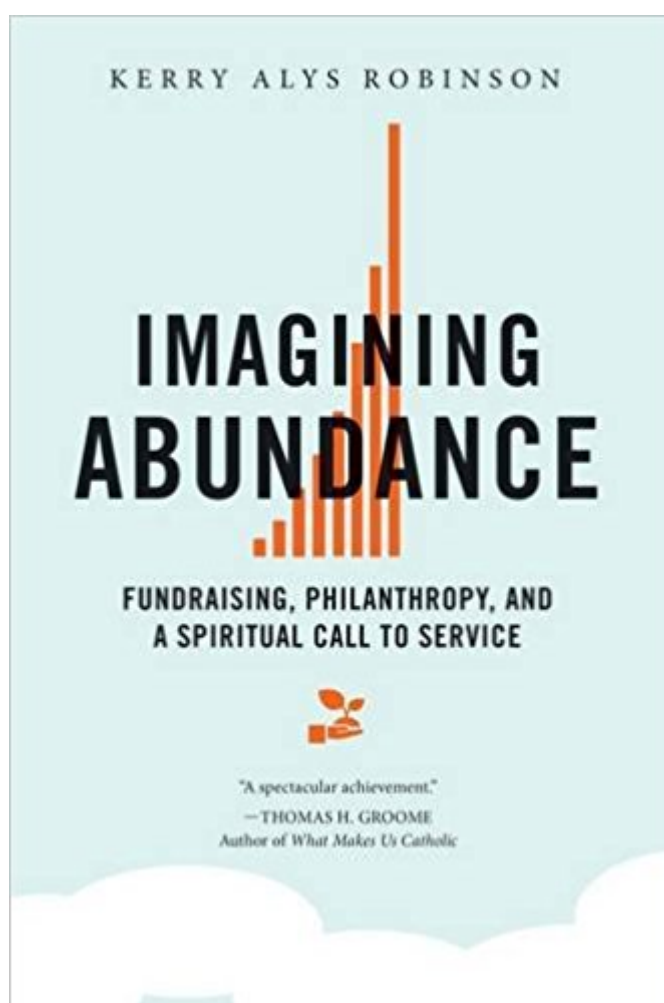


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Imagining Abundance: Fundraising, Philanthropy, And A Spiritual Call To Service



Synopsis

Fundraising is ministry – a transformative ministry that challenges all people to realize their own gifts and how they can be used for the benefit of the church. In *Imagining Abundance*, Kerry Robinson focuses on reasons why each of us are called to be stewards. We act because we're excited about what it is that we do for the church and where we're called by God to be, we want others to be just as excited about what that is, and we want people to be partners with us in that ministry. In *Imagining Abundance*, Kerry Robinson offers an inspirational and practical guide to effective fundraising that is ideal for anyone invested in a faith community. Bishops, provincials, pastors, ministers, executive and development directors and trustees of faith-based organizations will benefit from this healthy approach to the activity of fundraising that situates successful development in the context of ministry and mission.

Book Information

Paperback: 118 pages

Publisher: Liturgical Press (December 15, 2014)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0814637663

ISBN-13: 978-0814637661

Product Dimensions: 6 x 0.2 x 9 inches

Shipping Weight: 4.8 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.7 out of 5 stars 14 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #57,593 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #21 in Books > Christian Books & Bibles > Churches & Church Leadership > Ecclesiology #22 in Books > Christian Books & Bibles > Christian Living > Stewardship #30 in Books > Politics & Social Sciences > Social Sciences > Philanthropy & Charity

Customer Reviews

Kerry Alys Robinson is one of the great women in the Catholic church today. Her new book is an indispensable tool for all fundraisers and philanthropists, as well as all charitable organizations, who seek to help those in need. She brings a wealth of experience, a probing mind and a deep respect for the life of the spirit to her amazing work, and now to her beautiful book. Highly recommended. James Martin, SJ, author of *Jesus: A Pilgrimage* In *Imagining Abundance* Kerry Robinson invites us to accompany her on a holy journey as she takes us on a personalized journey through her life as a philanthropist and fundraiser. The result is an insightful book that is a must read for donors and

fundraisers who want to explore the ways in which faith and spiritual values can inspire and inform transformative and thoughtful giving. William G. Enright, Senior Fellow & Founding Director, The Lake Institute on Faith & Giving, Lilly Family School of Philanthropy, Indiana University This is an essential and instructive book-and at the same time, it is also deeply spiritual and inspiring. It will speak profoundly to anyone interested in the deeper call of vocation, and in achieving great impact for God's people and the common good. Kerry Robinson speaks from firsthand experience and keen understanding of the two interrelated worlds of philanthropy and fundraising." Alexia Kelley, President and CEO, Foundations and Donors Interested in Catholic Activities (FADICA)

Imagining Abundance is a spectacular achievement. I'm not surprised-no one is more capable of writing it than Kerry Robinson. She has so well integrated faith and philanthropy throughout her own life. She reminds that "to whom much is given, much is expected" (Luke 12:48). It will be an inspiration to all of us to be good stewards of what God has given-so abundantly. Thomas Groome, Professor of Theology and Religious Education, Boston College, Author of What Makes us Catholic

In a voice that radiates joy from every page, Kerry Robinson shows us that there is grace to be had on both sides of the asking/giving coin, that "other-centeredness" can truly be a vocation, and that we needn't worry about always slicing the pie more thinly. We have the ingredients to make vastly larger, more nutritious ones. This book, Imagining Abundance, makes me proud to be in the fundraising business! Craig J. Leach, CEO, Graham-Pelton Consulting, Inc./Collegium, Inc.

Not since Henri Nouwen's little book on the spirituality of fundraising have we been given a jewel like this book. Kerry Robinson weaves her own story-which includes her deep roots in the Raskob family's remarkable philanthropic spirit-together with priceless practical theological wisdom and marvelous examples of everyday people serving God and the church. By doing so with such candor and grace, Robinson helps us glimpse the Holy Spirit at work in our midst when we re-imagine philanthropy and fundraising as signs of the abundance that flow from the generosity of God. John Wimmer, Program Director, Religion, Lilly Endowment

Imagining Abundance is an autobiographical case study of one of the most impressive campaigns in history to build a vibrant Catholic campus ministry center at a major research university. Kerry Robinson knows development both as a member of a philanthropic foundation and as a chief development officer. Her account provides more than principles for effective fundraising; it provides a spirituality of development work. This is a must read for all involved in faith-based development. Gregory E. Sterling, The Reverend Henry L. Slack Dean, The Lillian Claus Professor of New Testament Yale Divinity School

Pope Francis tells us that there is only one mission and it is Jesus's mission. Kerry calls us to live that mission with great hope, enthusiasm, and joy in abundance. Everyone

involved in development should read *Imagining Abundance*. It would be a perfect gift to share with a board of directors or trustees. It is well worth the read, but more importantly worth the conversations and ideas it will inspire. Sr. Georgette Lehmuth, OSF, President and CEO, National Catholic Development Conference

Kerry Alys Robinson is the executive director of the National Leadership Roundtable on Church Management, which is dedicated to promoting excellence and best practices in the management, finances, and human resource development of the Catholic Church in the United States. She is a frequent writer and speaker on the subjects of philanthropy, development and faith and is author of a blog on spirituality called *Love in Ordinary Time*.¹

I read this in tandem with Henry Freeman's *Unlacing the Heart*, and found this book much more authentic. The author is straightforward and conversational, willing to admit places where she had needed to rethink, and winsomely earnest in sharing her experience of fundraising as a spiritual, even pastoral practice.

I was privileged to hear the author speak to a group of seminary presidents at a conference hosted by the Association of Theological Schools. Her charisma, grace, humility, and warmth were evident in her presentation. While listening, I added her book to my wish list at . The simple story of a successful development venture in the non-profit faith based world, inspired me. My work is filled with more optimism and energy because of Kerry Alys Robinson's gift of herself through her writing *Imagining Abundance*.

Kerry Robinson brings courage to the fearful, hope to the despairing, and light to those who wallow in darkness. By stressing fidelity to mission, examining the fears relating to asking for money, and relating the story of her own journey as the development director at St. Thomas More Center, Ms Robinson has given me a renewed sense of the importance and possibility of becoming a successful advancement person as the head of a Catholic secondary school. This book, coupled with my attendance at a recent dynamic workshop for Catholic high school presidents, has given me a boost for the new academic year.

A must read for people with a vision seeking to raise money. Looking for faith, provision, vision & hard-work, concluding in being blessed

I highly recommend this book to anyone that works and leads non-profits. Raising money is not about money. It is about our conversion to know about blessing and gratitude that begets blessing and gratitude.

This is a great and inspirational book. It will be of interest to anyone who has worked in fund raising or in deciding about their own philanthropy. It is an easy and fun read

It was a wonderful, inspiring book that changed my way of thinking about fundraising. Easy and enjoyable read, written by a woman that you would be blessed to know!

Beautifully written, and it gives a great insight into the spirituality and self-giving of the fundraising world.

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