

A Spirituality of Fundraising

By Henri J. M. Nouwen

Review by Dennis Fancett

**Giving Ministry Adviser,
The Diocese of Newcastle**



It's rare to find a book that grips me from the very first sentence but this one did: *"Fundraising is a way of announcing our vision and inviting other people into our mission. Vision and mission are so central to the life of God's people that without vision we perish and without mission we lose our way (Prov 29: 18; 2 Kings 21: 1-9)"*.

In 8 very short chapters, some only a paragraph or a page long – the author feels no need to pad out his simple assertions of truth with pointless repetitions – Nouwen gently prompts us to explore and face our own attitudes to money, reminding us that as people of faith, our calling is to implore others to join us on the journey we ourselves are on.

Whilst I found the strongly stated connection between asking for money and clearly stating our vision – what we are trying to achieve - particularly appealing, subsequent chapters deal with the coming of the Kingdom of God, whether money can become our security base, understanding the spiritual needs of rich people, how giving together joins us into communion with one another, and being grateful for everything we have. The book may only take you 30 minutes to read, but it may change your life, and that of your Church.

This book is also available to loan from the [North East Religious Resource Centre](#)