

Stewardship

Networking Group Greater Houston Area

“The Spirituality of Stewardship” was the topic for our May Stewardship Networking Group gathering which was hosted by St Ignatius in Spring Tx. Tony Oltremari was our presenter and gave a heartfelt talk with quizzes, examples and challenges to bring across the message of the Spirituality of Stewardship. A big “thank you” to Mary Ann Schmitt and Barb Michael for their gracious hospitality and yummy food! Below are just some of the notes from an intense and faith filled presentation.

- Everything comes from God. Everyone is the recipient of God’s generosity. We are all gifted.
- It doesn’t matter what our gifts are or how many we have received. What matters is *how we use our gifts*.
- Whatever we think we have and whoever we are, it is our responsibility to discover what gifts we have, *to recognize them and use them in a manner that shows gratitude to God* in order to follow Christ using the road map of stewardship.
- What Jesus knew that we have forgotten or not yet learned is that all of creation – the entire spiritual and material universe – *has been entrusted to us*, not simply given to us.
- To embrace stewardship as a way of life, as Jesus did, means *truly letting go of our dependence on the things of this world*
- *Giving is an expression of discipleship*, one of the fundamental principles affirmed in all stewardship efforts.
- We were made in the image and likeness of God. This does not mean that we all look like God physically. What it means is that *we share in God’s nature and God’s nature is love, and sharing and giving*.
- When *we give without any expectation of return* we get a great feeling of satisfaction and even joy because when we do this we are fulfilling our nature.
- We are charged with being *good managers of all these things*.
- *The practice of stewardship is rooted in our baptism*. To live our baptism is to live a life as a Christian Steward
- It takes a change in my priorities... a conversion experience. Not just a change in attitude but *a change of heart... an acceptance of a personal invitation to follow Jesus* without counting the cost.

“Thank you Tony”

Be a traveling steward. Your response to discipleship doesn't stop when you travel to new places. Pray. Serve. Give.

Thoughts on Stewardship

Stewardship Networking Group “CALENDAR FOR 2019”

July 11th: Parish Ministry Fairs—Holy Family Church
1510 Fifth St Missouri City Tx 77489, Centennial Room Bldg C
(enter thru Porta Cocher facing hwy 90)

Sept 12th: Young Adults— St Bartholomew Parish, Katy Tx

Sept 21st. Stewardship Workshop—Casting Nets, St Laurence Church (more info to follow)

Nov. 14th Roundtable: Best Practices & Best of ICSC & plan calendar for 2020.

& more:

Annual Conference of the International Catholic Stewardship Council October 6 – 9, 2019 Sheraton Grand Chicago Hotel Chicago, Illinois

Our Sunday Visitor Loaves + Fishes Stewardship Webinars: **July 9th:** 1:00pm **"The Spiritual Meaning of Money"** by Fr. Andrew Kemberling

August 13th: 1:00pm **"Sharing Time, Talent and Treasure Between and Among Parishes"** by Mark Mogilka

The Diocese of Wichita, Ks, recognized as the founders of teaching Stewardship As A Way of Life has written a manual which *identifies important building blocks within, under and around “pillars” stewardship*.

Today we will address Prayer as the second pillar.

1. **Pastor:** a man of prayer, who helps lead his parishioners to be a people of prayer. Spiritual exercises promote private daily prayer, communal prayer and participation in the sacramental life of the church. Through his leadership, prayer is the rock foundation of every parish direction and decision.
2. **Pastoral Planning:** prayer needs to precede the development of the parish pastoral plan, as well as, precede every step of the implementation of the plan. Parish organizations can model this by beginning meetings, activities with prayer.
3. **Holiness:** is the perfection of love—to be like Jesus. The gift and call to holiness is first given to us at our Baptism when we become children of God. Our journey of faith in this life is a spiritual journey to the Lord.
4. **Sacraments:** frequent reception of the Sacraments, especially Reconciliation and Holy Communion, strengthen us in our journey to holiness.
5. **Liturgy:** celebration of the Sunday Mass is the source and summit of our lives as faithful stewards. The Eucharist not only feeds us, but challenges us to share the gifts we have received with others.
6. **Gratitude:** a deep sense of gratitude fills the heart of a steward. A steward understand that everything they are and have that is good comes from God. Our desire to thank God is His gift from us.
7. **Conversion:** Our journey towards holiness requires a lifetime of daily conversion. Prayer helps us to see ourselves as God sees us and to see who God calls us to become.
8. **Virtus:** through faithful lives of prayer, we grow in virtue (a habitual and firm decision to do good). A steward is a person of virtue.

Reflection Question:

Is your parish a place of prayer?"

Join the Stewardship Networking Group! meetings are held the 2nd Thursday of the month; every other month from 10:00—12:00. You are invited to participate in a forum for idea sharing on all issues related to stewardship. For more information about this grassroots group in the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston and to get on our email list, please contact Coni Perez at coniperez@sbcglobal.net or Suzanne Staron at starons@stbchurch.org. Spread the word, bring a friend! Any topics you would like to learn about or would like to host our meeting at your parish —LET US KNOW!