

Stewardship

Networking Group

Greater Houston Area

Our SNG group met at St Bernadette for our November meeting topic “Best Practices & Best of ICSC & plan calendar for 2020. Thank you to Suzanne Staron and her group for hosting.

Eight parishes were represented and many ideas were shared from the ICSC conference held in Chicago in October. Sharon Ehrenkanz from St Laurence shared her Best of ICSC 2019.

Workshop: Stewardship: A Life Giving Spirituality—Fr Joe Creedon

Be patient— it’s a process— and this process will CHANGE YOU!

- Our message should be CONSISTENT-CONSTANT-CONCRETE-CREATIVE
- Nothing that is worth doing can be achieved in our lifetime, so we hope
- Stewardship is about spirituality—it’s not a euphemism for money

It’s God’s, not ours. Owners have RIGHTS—stewards have responsibilities

CS Lewis: “If you devoted every moment of your whole life exclusively to His service you could not give God anything that was not in a sense his own already.

Anthony de Mello: “I used to be stone deaf. I would see people stand up and go through all kinds of gyrations. They called it dancing. It looked absurd to me— until one day I heard the music!”

READ: Henri Nouwen’s Reaching Out and Prodigal Son

Workshop: Jesus on Money— Six Lessons We have learned— Fr. Michael White and Tom Corcoran

Stewardship the whole of our lives

Financial stability and strength-fundamental to a parish’s health and growth.

Start with the WHY—start with your purpose

- Inspired Companies Model (SWA example) starts with the WHY-HOW-WHAT
- Jesus gives us our WHY (go and make disciples-not go and sell raffle tickets or play BINGO)
- When we lose our WHY we lose our WAY
- The path toward financial health is not running away from our mission but running toward it-God will provide.

Nine (not six) Lessons:

1. Begin in prayer—it’s a sensitive nerve that runs from the heart to the wallet
2. Lead yourself-give first, make it wholehearted and generous; don’t ask people to do something you’re not willing to do first.
3. Teach what God says about money— preach over a series of weeks, follow up with materials; it’s not about what we want from you, it’s about what God wants FOR you.
4. Ask people to give-they won’t give unless you ask; how you ask matters-don’t respond to neediness
5. Put rungs on the ladder-make it easy for people to begin giving-plan, priority, percentage, progress
6. Set them up for success-electronic, automated giving
7. Celebrate giving-“rouse one another” (Heb 10:24) report back to parish
8. Eliminate competing systems-2nd collections, fundraisers, fundraising is a consumer exchange; going after low-hanging fruit discourages discipleship
9. Persevere-It’s a process, continually preach/teach, change the culture.

For more information see: (catholicstewardship.org)

CALENDAR 2020!

Stewardship Networking Group: meetings are from 10am to 12Noon

- 9-Jan- ROUNDTABLE: Many Ministries, One Mission
(Sacred Heart, Manvel)
- 12-Mar- Stewards of Creation & Parish Property
(Mary Queen, Friendswood)
- 14-May- Accountability & Transparency with Parishioners
(St. Laurence, Sugarland)
- JULY ARCHDIOCESAN WORKSHOP:
Parish Staff as Partners in Stewardship (TBD)
- 10-Sep- Charisms & Strengths
(Christ the Good Shepherd, Spring)
- 12-Nov- ROUNDTABLE: ICSC/Materials/Plan 2021
(St. Angela Merici, Missouri City)

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

We address the last pillar: Service

Parishioners seek the parish family as a primary community to serve and to be served—to give and to receive. If a parishioner finds they can serve and be ministered to, they have little need to search elsewhere for this fulfillment.

Stewardship Committee: The annual stewardship renewal and the ministry fair identify potential parishioners who have the gifts and interests to address needs within the parish and the wider community.

Renewal: The stewardship renewal process is important individually and communally. As individuals renew their stewardship pledge, they commit themselves to God in sharing their time, talent and treasure. The annual renewal is important for every steward and offers a time of discernment. The message of stewardship remains the same each year. But the parishioner receives the message in a different way every year.

Parish Ministries: The various ministries in a parish extend God’s presence, love and mercy to others. Parish ministries should strive to meet the needs of the parish, and where possible, the needs of the wider community and the Church at large. These ministries provide opportunities for parishioners to carry out their call to discipleship.

Youth: Our youth are the present and future generations of stewards. Giving youth opportunities to serve now is important for them as individuals, for the parish family and the community.

CONGRATULATIONS! St Laurence of Sugarland was awarded the Archbishop Thomas J Murphy Parish Stewardship award at the ICSC conference in Chicago. The award is presented to a parish for its outstanding work in Christian stewardship. A great honor and achievement for the parish and pastor, Fr. Drew Wood! For more info see: (catholicstewardship.org)



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 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!