

Stewardship Networking Group ***Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston***

March Stewardship Networking Meeting – NOTES

THANK YOU, St. John Fischer in Richmond, TX, for hosting our meeting. These are condensed notes on the topics covered by the attendees. If you have questions, comments please let us know.

HOSPITALITY:

- Welcome Desk inside the church area (or on the patio) includes standard church information (Mass times, confessional, ministries). This area is staffed by volunteers at weekend Masses.
- Weekly, a Ministry is highlighted at the welcome desk & in the bulletin, can have a mini ministry fair, takes care of staffing the desk (St Laurence)
- A welcome and recognition at Mass
- Greeters at the door (scheduled by Liturgy/ Worship)
- Coffee and Donuts served after Mass

Welcome New Parishioners:

- Priest calls and greets new parishioners.
- Meeting for new parishioners, (held every 2 months or quarterly) includes parish information, gift of a bible, refreshments, something special to recognize them.
- On-line registrations gets a phone call and are mailed an information packet.

Faith Formation:

- Students and parishioners are coming back!
- Adult faith formation, RCIA in person, classes still held on Zoom, getting new parishioners.
- Parishes catching up on the Sacraments for students / adults due to Pandemic absences.

Worship:

- Parishioners are coming back! Ash Wednesday, parishes packed.
- No physical peace sign, no children offertories, gift bearers- some parishes yes, others no.

Welcome Back Activities:

- Celebration with food, etc. included a video with a photo of their 93 parishioners who passed away during the pandemic. (Holy Family)
- Flock notes to communicate with parishioners

Stewardship Council:

- How to retain your members? The term should be at least 2 yrs, frequent at least monthly meetings. Members to be educated on stewardship, have a purpose, ask for a commitment. Ask Pastor to join in meetings as much as possible. "It should be an honor for members to work with the Pastor on parish goals.

Challenges:

- Getting volunteers to commit.
- Hiring paid staff and security officers
- DSF donations coming from 65+ group, younger group at 11%
- Getting ministry leaders.
- Volunteers, allowing them to be heard and to let them share their ideas.

OTHER: ICSC Conference, in Anaheim, Ca, Oct 2nd to the 5th. Still time to take advantage of early registration. See: <https://catholicstewardship.com/> (more information contact Tony Oltamarie, St Laurence)

NEXT Meeting 5/12/22 - Create a Fruitful Ministry Fair (St Luke Parish Houston Tx)

Meetings 2nd Thursday of every other month 10:00 am to 12 Noon. To ask questions get resources on stewardship and to get on our email list,

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