

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

## **May Stewardship Networking Meeting – NOTES**

THANK YOU, St. Luke the Evangelist for hosting our meeting and to the ten parishes that attended. These are condensed notes on the topics covered by the attendees. If you have questions, comments please let us know.  
**“Create a Fruitful Ministry Fair”**

### **PLAN, PLAN, PLAN!**

Get started early, learn from previous events, “what works, what can we do better”.

- Start planning early, 3 to 6 months ahead of date
- Select a time, date, location.
- Set a theme for the event “keep it simple”
- Will there be food (scatter it around event area to get people to move around) games for kids, raffles for adults, decorations.
- Take advantage of Pandemic changes and get creative try something new or different.
- Can you do a ministry directory with needed info and don’t forget to include it on your website.
- Use bulletin, flock notes to give information and even provide a Stewardship educational series leading up to the day event.
- Highlight in all areas available with timeline.

### **PREPARE**

- Get your ministry and other parish leaders involved.
- Make your ministries responsible for their event day needs, but, give them any help they may need to get organized and prepared for the event.
- Freebies, food can be provided at event tables
- Include your youth, can help with setup, decorations, games, etc.
- Highlight ministries weekly in the bulletin, post ministry posters/banners in and around church areas.
- Have ministry leaders be greeters or offer hospitality before/after Mass.
- How will ministries recruit and follow up on signups?

### **DAY OF EVENT**

- Lay Witness testimonies—day of event at all Masses, limit to 3 minutes, make it an invitation to come and see what we have.
- Make it a big “Celebration”, help everyone to enjoy the day!
- Be mindful of what our purpose “now is time to highlight hospitality”
- Good time to make a video of parish events.

### **FOLLOW UP!**

- The most important thing you should do after the event, follow up.
- Make sure everyone is contacted within a short time, offer help with calls if ministries need it.
- Include a “thank you” in bulletin & announcements the following week to all who participated in any way!

### **Other parish ideas shared:**

- Ministries parade in to every Mass on day of fair holding their created banners.
- Trophy awarded to “best ministry displayed”
- Hand out business cards with QR code to website ministry information and can sign up from there
- Publish copy of volunteers in bulletin
- Post CCE class list where event is being held.
- August is best time for fair
- Use outside spaces “works well”

Please let us know if you have questions or comments.

**OTHER:** ICSC Conference, in Anaheim, Ca, Oct 2<sup>nd</sup> - 5<sup>th</sup>. Still time to take advantage of early registration.

See: <https://catholicstewardship.com/> (for more information contact Tony Oltamarie, St Laurence)

**NEXT Meeting 7/14/22, Downtown Chancery, “Organize a Productive Parish Leadership Meeting” presented by Rhonda Bean. ALSO, Historical Presentation – 175 years in the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston presented by Historian Lisa May**

**Meetings held 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,

Coni Perez at [coniperez@sbcglobal.net](mailto:coniperez@sbcglobal.net) or Suzanne Staron [starons@stbchurch.org](mailto:starons@stbchurch.org)

