

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

JOIN US AT OUR NOVEMBER SNG MEETING!

NOVEMBER 10TH, 2022 Last Calendar Meeting for the year!

TOPIC: Best of ICSC and help us plan the 2023 Calendar

Host parish: St Laurence Catholic Church—Sugarland, Ave Maria Center

Join us, share your best information from the ICSC.

Help us plan our 2023 Calendar, bring topics you want to see covered.

If you would like to host a meeting at your parish get on the calendar now.

Please RSVP to: Coni Perez at coniperez@sbcglobal.net

Recently, I was blessed to be able to go to the Holy Land not on a trip or vacation but on a pilgrimage which we were told means on a journey to a sacred place as an act of religious devotion. Our leaders were three priests, a deacon and we had a native born Catholic guide.

I am unable to put into this space here, all the highlights of our twelve day experiences, I will share with you a couple of reflections that exemplified stewardship for me.

After visiting Galilee we journeyed to Jerusalem, Bethlehem and all the places where Jesus was born, taught, lived, died and resurrected all making a powerful impression on me.

This is my second time to visit the Holy Land and my first time one of the things that was impressive were the over 2000+ year old trees in the Garden of Gethsemane, on Mt of Olives, the place where *Jesus prayed on the night of the Last Supper*. This time however, after a few blinks I figured out that those 2000+ year old trees were actually bearing fruit! Some of the trunks are more than eight feet wide, some hollowed out, some dried out but they have new branches that are bearing fruit—olives! Those old trees still bearing fruit stayed on my mind and I wondered “*will our works and deeds still be bearing fruit in 100+ years from today*”?

What we do, say and plant today, how we use our God given gifts will be the fruit and harvest we reap tomorrow. As lay people we also have an apostolate today. We have been called directly by Christ through our baptism and other sacraments and sent to do and be His voice in the world today. Will we plant, water, fertilize and help to bear fruit those gifts we have been given?

Every night we had reflection time and one night’s question was “*as Jesus asked his apostles ‘who do you say I am’; the question was put to us: who do **you** say Jesus is to you*”. A probing question but one I could immediately



answer “*you are my everything*”. But, the follow-up question, “*how do you use what Jesus is to you with others*” I had to contemplate. My answer, “*While I cannot be everything to all, for only Jesus is, I can be or do or say something—for or to—someone today*”.
*Peace and blessings,
Coni Perez*

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, contact:



Coni Perez at coniperez@sbcglobal.net or Suzanne Staron starons@stbchurch.org