

Stewardship

Networking Group

Greater Houston Area

"Becoming the Parish Young Adults Can Call Home" was the topic for our September Stewardship Networking Group gathering. **Our speaker, Claire McMullin, Campus Minister, University of Houston, Newman Center not only gave us insight into this group but has graciously authored her presentation below: "THANK YOU, CLAIRE"**

When asked about frustrations, questions, and expectations, the Networking Group offered great insight. Often, our questions come from frustrations and unmet expectations lead to frustration. What is left is frustration and confusion of how to move forward in integrating young adults in the life of a parish.

Though not easy, this endeavor is crucial, especially from the standpoint of Stewardship. Helping young adults realize their gifts and the fact they are welcome and needed as part of the parish community leads us to learn how to better welcome everyone. Below, please find some highlights from our discussion.

Snapshot of Young Adults Now (symptom of a bigger problems)

-Perceptive awareness of perceived or real inauthenticity

They pick up on hypocrisy, division, etc. There is a distrust for institutions. They pick up on cliques and people talking about each other. They do not always see community or unity in Church. They can find better community with their tribe, or friend group.

-Product of American Culture

They have been trained from an early age to perform. They might see adults as those who are critiquing them. They don't know how to communicate with others very well in person, though extremely intelligent. American culture values independence, being the best. High gpa, being the best athlete or musician is valued more than growing closer to God. This has seeped into our families and parishes...Soccer tournament can be more important than attending Mass, a retreat, etc.

-Lack of ability to integrate

It can be difficult for young adults to integrate their faith life or the Catholic Faith into their daily life. This is very clear in times of transition: high school to college; college to the work force. The culture of a university or work place can be so hostile or incongruent to what they have come to see; they do not know how to merge the two. What does Mass have to do with what I do during the week? Important question.

Ideas and Some Resources

Share and listen. Become someone who shares your story and listen to the stories of others. Good for the parish.

-Homecoming Dinner...invite college aged students or young adults to come over for dinner and Scripture discussion

-Mentor/discipling/invite and bring along. Who do you see attending Mass regularly? Introduce yourself and take an interest in their life.

-Teach how to disciple others:

Evangelical Catholic <https://www.evangelicalcatholic.org> Guidance on how to evangelize the parish community as a whole. Contact Cody for a time of coaching without obligation. cleaire@evangelicalcatholic.org

Center for Faith and Culture, UST

<https://www.stthom.edu/Academics/Centers-of-Excellence/Center-for-Faith-Culture/Index.aqf>

Excellent speakers for Theology on Tap, Young Adult and Adult Faith gatherings; they also hold informative workshops on navigating and understanding the relationship of Faith and Culture.

YACM, Apostles on Mission and Young Adult Ministry Workshop <http://ow.ly/Uyrk50wnf1R>

Christus Vivat, on young people and vocation vatican.va

JOIN US IN NOVEMBER!

Stewardship Networking Group:

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

Nov. 14th Stewardship Networking Group, Roundtable: Best Practices & Best of ICSC & plan calendar for 2020. **If you have topics that you would like to see addressed in our 2020 meetings, email us see contact information below.**
Meeting at St Bernadette 15500 El Camino Real, Houston, TX 77062 10AM TO 12 N.

I would like to share some notes from our workshop presented by **Casting Nets**, a lay apostolate dedicated to the New Evangelization. Speakers Tony Brandt and Chris Stewart gave a great deal of inspiration and information in three talks.

- ◇ The Challenge of Missionary Discipleship: unless you live your life for others it is not worthwhile. You must be "all in" willing to say who the Lord is to me. Disciples make disciples. Discipleship and Stewardship are one message.
- ◇ The Complete Gift of Self: (Both Tony & Chris come from the Diocese of Wichita) a total Stewardship diocese and shared things that work: 24 hour adoration—make the Lord available to everyone in an intimate way. Stewardship is like exercise, it works when you work it. Stewardship is not about money. When we give we have less but not when we give to God. Greatest gift is *faith* when we give ourselves away and evangelize. We have a moral obligation to evangelize.
- ◇ Seven Pillars of Effective Evangelization.
 1. Prayerful: Inhaling and exhaling 24x7 is prayer, you can not stop pray always.
 2. Invitational: Jesus gave each one of us a personal invite, be persistent and invite.
 3. Hospitality: show joy and sincerity with your hospitality.
 4. Inspirational: the world offers us comfort but we are made for greatness.
 5. Sacramental: Bring others to the sacraments for Jesus.
 6. Formational: build a relation to introduce others to our friend "Jesus".
 7. Missionful: "Church is Mission" if you want to set your faith on fire—SHARE IT!

We will finish the Pillars of Stewardship from Diocese of Wichita in our next newsletter.

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! Let us know of any topics you would like to know more about or if you would like to host our meeting at your parish!