

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

September Stewardship Networking Meeting – NOTES

THANK YOU, to Suzanne Staron, St Bernadette, for hosting our meeting, providing handouts and to Sharon Ehrenkranz, St Laurence, for providing notes from the meeting. Nine parishes attended and meeting included a dynamic discussion about creating and sustaining stewardship committees. Two parishes in attendance did not have a stewardship committee and were there to learn as much as they could. These are condensed notes on the topics covered at the meeting. If you would like the handouts contact: starons@stbchurch.org

TOPIC: Establish & Sustain an Effective Stewardship Committee

Began meeting with a review of the handout provided by Suzanne Staron, which includes guidelines for forming a stewardship committee and the responsibilities of a parish stewardship committee.

Important to start by defining the word “stewardship” for the parish

- Must understand that it’s not strictly about finances
- It’s definitely not about fundraising
- The money collected comes FROM stewardship

Dr. Thomas Groome taught that we naturally grow as disciples and stewards in a circular motion

- Look at the totality of one’s life (or a parish’s life)
- We learn, grow and give at different times in our life
- There may be a time in our life that we can give time with Jesus; another time that we are called to share our talents
- Stewardship evolves – it becomes more and more a part of who we are

Important that pastor is on board

- Pastor must have buy-in and really know what the stewardship committee is doing
- Regularly preach stewardship as a WAY OF LIFE from the pulpit
- Sometimes pastors have to grow into it
- At some parishes with a strong culture of stewardship, the new pastor learns from the parish

GO SLOW – you are doing the slow work of God

Never use the word “volunteer”

- Parishioners are “stewards”
- Volunteers are not invested, they just show up, give what they feel like giving, then leave
- Stewards have a sense of ownership and responsibility

Many different ways to STRUCTURE a parish stewardship committee

- Has to fit parish needs
- Pastoral Council and Stewardship Council must have distinct responsibilities/roles

Many different ways to CREATE a parish stewardship committee

- Sign ups
- Discern
- Invited by pastor

Stewardship committees have played an important role in helping to welcome people back to the parish after the pandemic

- Coffee & Donuts Sunday
- Ministry Fair
- New parishioner welcome
- Stewardship Month at Holy Family (3 separate weekends... “about killed the committee!”)

How can we convince people to understand stewardship à change behavior?

- Pastor’s message
- Parish theme for the year from the pastor
- Leadership meetings – plant a seed
- Start simply – with hospitality – people won’t give until they feel a part of something
- Love them through it – if they love the parish, they will recognize the importance of change

Importance of TERM LIMITS and inviting new leadership

- Ensures new blood, new ideas
- 2-year co-leadership model at St. Ignatius

NEXT MEETING: November 10, 2022, 10am-12noon, at St. Laurence in Sugar Land

Topic: Sharing the Best of ICSC and 2023 Calendar



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 or Suzanne Staron starons@stbchurch.org