

Stewardship

Networking Group

Greater Houston Area

“The Ministry Fair”, the topic for our July Stewardship Networking Group gathering. Holy Family in Missouri City was our host and a big Thank you to Carol Updike and her Stewardship Committee for their hospitality and the breakfast buffet!

“Carry out the Stewardship Effort of time, talent and treasure on an annual basis” is a responsibility of a Stewardship Committee, based on suggestions from Stewardship Disciples Response, Practical Guide for Pastoral Leaders.

Tips to prepare for the Fair :

- Pick a theme—use it through out the year, if possible, if not use it at least 3 to 4 months before the Fair.
- Prepare a list/booklet of parish ministries information to give parishioners an opportunity to become aware of types of volunteer opportunities available in the parish.
- Suggestions to do before the Fair: Prayer after Mass for the success of the Fair; Highlight a Ministry of the week in the bulletin; setup a table in gathering area with Fair information; ask Pastor do a reminder at all Masses.
- Use all parish possibilities (website, social media, bulletin, etc) to call attention to the Fair
- Personal testimonies, this will be the most educational, motivation and important part of the stewardship effort. Parish individuals sharing about their believe and practice of stewardship in their own lives is a true and real witness.

Day of the Fair—suggestions:

- Have a parade of ministries, with banners or other form to highlight people & ministers who witness their faith in parish ministries.
- Have a map prepared for location of ministry tables.
- Each table should have identifying signs
- Make it a festive event, have snacks, plenty of information available
- ENJOY THE DAY!

After the Fair—suggestions:

- Follow up, Follow up, Follow up! Contact every single person that signed up, whether they are returning volunteers or new ones. It is vital that everyone who signed up is personally contacted.
- Second opportunity—a couple of weeks after the Fair, a simple table with a ministry booklet giving those who were not able to attend to see opportunities in ministries and volunteer.
- Commitment Sunday—do a blessing of new volunteers.
- Evaluate your annual event efforts.
- Enter volunteers into a parish database

Start planning for next year!



Back to School

“Let no one have contempt for your youth,* but set an example for those who believe, in speech, conduct, love, faith, and purity.” 1 Timothy 4:12

JOIN US IN SEPTEMBER! Stewardship Networking Group:

Thurs. Sept 12th: Becoming the Parish Young Adults Can Call Home 10:00 a.m. –12:00 p.m. St Dominic Center, Morkovsky Hall, Room 104. Speaker, Clara McMullin, Campus Minister, University of Houston, Newman Center. Looking around at Sunday Mass, it might seem that the Church has become an empty nester. Our young people turn 18, go off to college, and don’t come back. What can we do to bridge this gap? Through discussion, reflection and personal insight, we will strive to move through frustration and fear, to find real ways to create a place in our parishes for young adults.

Saturday, Sept 21st. Stewardship Workshop 8 a.m. –12 noon. St Laurence Catholic Church, Presenters: Casting Nets, a lay apostolate dedicated to the New Evangelization. Speakers Tony Brandt and Christ Stewart will bring a great deal of inspiration and information in three talks: The Challenge of Missionary Discipleship; Stewardship: The Complete Gift of Self; The Seven Pillars of Effective Evangelization. fee \$15 before Sept 1 and \$20 after September 1st. Light continental breakfast will be served. Register thru our Archdiocese at <https://cvent.me/MNaoa>

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.

The Diocese of Wichita, Ks, recognized as the founders of teaching Stewardship As A Way of Life has written a manual which *identifies important building blocks within, under and around “pillars” stewardship.*

Today we will address Education as the third pillar.

It is important to understand that formation of each individual becomes part of the formation of the parish community.

Formation is a life-long journey of conversion. Such formation is a formidable task, involving education of the mind and conversion of the heart. As always, Formation starts with the

1. Pastor, the primary communicator of stewardship in the parish. He teaches by personal witness the spirituality of stewardship in the pulpit, in parish gatherings, the staff, ministry meetings and in all interactions with his parishioners.
2. Stewardship Committee, works with Pastor and other parish Councils to execute the Stewardship renewal process, seeking lay witnesses to share their testimony in living a live as God’s stewards; finding inviting ways to provide stewardship opportunities, as a way, for parishioners to respond to their God-given call.
3. A needs analysis process—identifying people’s gifts and strengths. Very important process as this is how the parish will identify types of educational and formational programs which correspond to the uniqueness of each parish.
4. Catechesis for all ages! Formation of stewardship as a way of life process which calls for giving as a respond in gratitude for all of God’s gifts to each one of us.

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 would like to host our meeting at your parish!