

Stewardship

Networking Group

Greater Houston Area

Our SNG group met at Sacred Heart of Jesus in Manvel for our January meeting topic “*Many Ministries, One Mission*”. Thank you Michele for being the host and to Fr. Tom for his participation in our group discussions. Below are some of the sharing:

- Education on the danger of “Silo Effect”! We are many parts and that’s good thing! Be aware of a lack of communication and common goals, isolation and departmental thinking. We are One Body called to our parish mission, called to collaborate and bring people to Christ, by, being example, communicating, sharing ideas, and giving people a voice. Each part is important to the whole, but it is just PART of the whole.
“for more information on above contact Sharon at St Laurence”
- The book “Leading Like Jesus” (introducing S3 Leadership, Servant, Steward, Shepherd) by Owen Phelps) Leadership challenges - what is our purposes who is our Leader? Developing and cultivating our leaders so they may in turn do the same for other parishioners.
- Question: “We have many ministries in the parish, a large Hispanic community, how do we keep from becoming 2 churches?”
 1. Communicate, Communicate, Communicate! It is always a struggle when you have different languages in the parish, so it is important that “all” here the same message (especially messages coming from the pastor). If we want “all” to be on the same page we must make it a priority to reach out and make available messages in the proper languages.
 2. Invite ministries leaders for a quarterly or annual gathering include staff, parish councils, clergy). Work on an activity for all to get to know each other. Use the time to do education on parish mission and goals. Give updates on future parish plans.
 3. Invite different ministries to participate in a monthly event such as: sponsor coffee/donuts; feature a ministry of the month after Mass or bulletin article with update on parish ministries. “Make your ministries feel they are a piece of what it takes to make your parish function.
 4. Provide education events to help ministries feel a part of the parish mission, including the U.S. Bishops Pastoral Letter on Stewardship A Disciples’ Response.
 5. An annual review of parish ministries: Does it support our parish mission? Is this ministry in line with mission of the parish?
 6. Never give up, reach out - ask for advise and help. We don’t know all the answers, but, we have tried many things and may know what does work! Contact the Stewardship Networking Group, see contact information below.

“Behold what you -are become what you receive”
St Augustine

CALENDAR 2020!

Stewardship Networking Group meetings are from 10am to 12Noon

12-Mar- Stewards of Creation & Parish Property
(Mary Queen, Friendswood)

ICSC Webinars:

catholicstewardship.com webinar series

23-Mar-How an #iGiveCatholic Giving Day can assist your diocesan development efforts.

20-April-Getting Stronger Results From Your In-Pew Solicitations

14-May- Accountability & Transparency with Parishioners (St. Laurence, Sugarland)

JULY ARCHDIOCESAN WORKSHOP: (TBD)

10-Sep- Charisms & Strengths

(Christ the Good Shepherd, Spring)

12-Nov- ROUNDTABLE: ICSC/Materials/Plan 2021

(St. Angela Merici, Missouri City)

Q & A

Why have a Ministry Fair in my parish?

- Because the focus and center of our parish life is the Eucharist—where we are nourished at the table of the Lord and sent forth to fulfill God’s will in our lives.
- Because Christian Stewards fulfill God’s will by responding to God’s call to share with others and return to the Lord with increase.
- Because God’s stewards are called to be accountable, but it’s more – it’s also being accountable for our brothers and sisters. We are called to witness our faith, to make a difference in people’s lives and to help others discover their gifts for service.
- Because the Ministry Fair gives everyone the opportunity to fulfill their call to imitate Jesus by sharing their time, talents and treasure.
- Because this is an opportunity to highlight and celebrate parishes ministries, services and programs available in the parish. To publish ministry resources with contact information and make available to all. Also, to reach out to those who may be in need of parish services or information.
- Because it can be a community building celebration to bring all together in His name to help build up His kingdom.

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 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!