

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

***Give thanks***  
*to the Lord, for*  
*He is good; His love*  
*endures forever.*  
*Psalm 107:1*

## **Wisdom from Catholic Stewardship Conference**

There were many great sessions at the 2020 ICSC! I would like to share some wisdom I gained.

The session entitled ***Tithes of Saints: Cultivating Leadership Donors*** was given by Dennis Green of Church Development. The first message I received was that we are **servants of our members**. We need always consider how do we facilitate their faith journey.

When presented with the question “why people don’t give generously”, the following four reasons were given:

- Obfuscation-messages were made difficult to understand
- Isolation-they do not feel like they belong
- Never asking
- No investment in development

Reasons people do give generously are:

- Embrace Stewardship-they understand what it is
- Prayer and Discernment-these need to be at the foundation of giving
- Involvement in a decision-they are able to provide input and feel they belong
- Social Connection-they have a social connection/belong to a group
- Volunteer Engagement-this more than just asking people to fill positions
- They have been asked-it is recommended to ask 4 times a year
- Thanked-they are thanked for giving

Another great message that I heard was from Thomas Smith. His talk was entitled ***Major Gifts: Don’t let the Pandemic Slow you Down***. The message was that Christian Stewardship is an opportunity for parishioners. I believe that we often forget that. It is an opportunity for them to live out their faith.

In the session entitled ***Blessed are the Communicators: They Shall Inspire Great Stewardship***, we learned that that three types of messages provide information, inspiration or invitation or a combination of all three. Types of messages include awareness, action (call to) and alerts. They also recommended taking stagnant information out of the bulletin and putting it on the parish website.

I pray that these have helped in some way. Remember that the first part of Stewardship is time. Time is Time spent in prayer and needs to be the foundation for everything we do!!

Michele Gunn, Director of **Outreach**  
Sacred Heart of Jesus Catholic Community, Manvel Tx

## **Using Social Media to Reach Parishioners by Tommy Shultz**

During these times: “Not business as usual”! Start from scratch—look at it from a new angle!

Social Media (Facebook, Twitter)

Staff Assessment:

- Look back 7 months and see what worked. At the beginning maybe people loved it, but, did it get boring?
- Is there value to your pages, does it have a purpose?
- Does it set you apart, is it unique to your parish or do you have same message as everyone else?
- Do research, what is working for others/ other parishes?
- Posting from your phone seems to work better, gets more hits!
- Do at least one live-stream a day.
- Have one or two media channels and do them well.
- Respond to comments/likes and “thank them”
- Pastor gets more likes on his twitter account than parish
- Post daily, use parishioner’s photos, comments, etc

## **AN ATTITUDE OF GRATITUDE**

***I will praise you, Lord, with all my heart;  
I will declare all your wondrous deeds,  
I will delight and rejoice in you,  
I will sing hymns to your name Most High Ps 9:1***

The month of November is the month when we focus on *thanksgiving!* What if we adopted an attitude of gratitude for the complete twelve months of the year how would our lives change?

We would be *good stewards* who are grateful to God for all the daily blessings he gives us. Stewards who recognize that *everything we have is a gift from God, being grateful, responding by developing these gifts and generously sharing with others.*

Stewardship isn’t easy, but it has tremendous rewards - Love, Peace and Joy on earth and eternal life in heaven!



**Meetings temporarily on hold.**

**Email us for any resources needs!**

**Join the Stewardship Networking Group!** Meetings, in normal times, 2nd Thursday of every other month from 10:00 am to 12 Noon, at a host parish.

**You are invited to participate in a forum for idea sharing on all issues related to stewardship. Share ideas, ask questions, spread the word, bring a friend! 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](mailto:coniperez@sbcglobal.net) or Suzanne Staron at [starons@stbchurch.org](mailto:starons@stbchurch.org).**