

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

JANUARY 2025 Stewardship Networking Group Meeting –NOTES

“Understanding and Engaging College Age Young Adults” by Michele Sabino
An interesting and informed presentation on young adults and working with this age group.
See notes below, for more info you can email her: mljthirdsector@gmail.com
Twenty parishioners from diocesan parishes attended to learn and to share on this topic.

A Look Back as We Begin a New Year

As we embrace the start of a new year, it's inspiring to reflect on the origins and growth of our **Stewardship Networking Group**. Established 12 years ago as a grassroots initiative with six parishes, this group was created with a shared mission: to learn, share, and gather resources grounded in the U.S. Bishops' pastoral letter, *“Stewardship: A Disciple's Response.”*

Over the years, while we have hosted valuable speakers, the heart of our group lies in the connections formed through collaboration. Parishes share their questions, ideas, and experiences on the practical and spiritual aspects of stewardship. It is through these exchanges that we grow in understanding and find solutions to challenges.

Together, we've gained access to an array of stewardship resources, strengthened our knowledge, and even welcomed national speakers to address key topics in stewardship. This shared journey of faith and learning reminds us of the power of coming together to enrich our parish communities.

Let's continue building on this strong foundation in the year ahead!

Emerging adulthood (a term that describes a period of development spanning the ages from 19-29)

Questions to ponder which are significant to this age group:

Leaving home, financing education, finding employment, getting married, starting a family, redefining relationships with parents, pursuing love lives, shaping a career path, developing religious beliefs, having hopes for the future.

Surveys indicate these are the “nones” generation, no affiliation—Houston area survey shows 40% of this age group has no faith connection. What brings them to a church—their peers.

Five characteristics common to age group (18-29)

Identity exploration (who am I?) trying various options. Instability (love, work, resilience). obligation to others reaches a low). Trying to figure themselves out. Feeling in-between—in transition—neither an adolescent nor an adult.

Possibilities/optimism-hopes flourish and people have unparalleled opportunity to transform their lives. Depression is a major factor for the emerging adults.

Comments shared from attendees:

Parishes do not have a product for this generation—they focus on them to come back to the church.

Typical parish schedules, do not work for them. “Do something different”.

Have activities, provide space for this age group when they are home during summer, other holidays, Providing spaces for them to meet will help them know your parish, start a group, etc.

Have a real relationship with them and walk with them instead of another program. They need your presence.

Provide opportunities for adult groups to work with this age group, (i.e.) Fish Frys, bazars, etc.

Next Meeting MAR 13,

Finding God in All Moments of Ministry

Fr. Orrin Halepeska

Holy Family, Missouri City

To ask questions obtain resources on stewardship and to get on our email list, contact:
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