

**HERITAGE AND HOPE
OUR STORY AS A DIOCESAN FAMILY
DIOCESE OF LAS CRUCES**

VI. CALLED TO BE STEWARDS

The Catholic Bishops of the United States have also called us to be responsible disciples. The Gospel term is familiar; Jesus had many disciples. We embrace this call, fully grasping its import and transformative obligation outlined by the Bishops.

1. Mature disciples make a conscious, firm decision, carried out in action, to be followers of Jesus Christ no matter the cost to themselves.

2. Commitment to be a disciple is expressed not in a single action, nor even in a number of actions over a period of time, but in an entire way of life. It is a total giving of one's very self to the Lord.

3. *Stewardship* is an expression of discipleship, possessing the power to change how we understand and live out our lives. We are the recipients and caretakers of God's many gifts – whether that be of time, talent or treasure – out of love for God and one another.

Our call to discipleship in the Diocese of Las Cruces will be marked by commitment to stewardship – the sharing of our time, talent, and treasure. We accept responsibility to protect and preserve the gifts of God found in the rich natural resources and characteristics of our environment; in the cultural expressions and heritage of Native American, Hispanic and Anglo traditions which enhance our social milieu; in the technology and availability of material advantages we enjoy. We rejoice in the number and beauty of the churches of our diocese and in the presence of clergy, women and men of religious orders and laity who are rooted in faith in Jesus the Christ and dedicated to sharing that faith with others. The seeds of the Catholic faith were planted in our state over 400 years ago. What we will celebrate 400 years from now depends on our discipleship, our stewardship.

March 25, 1999