

## 6 LESSONS ON LIFE AND LEADERSHIP THAT STEWARDSHIP TEACHES

2017 marks the 25th anniversary of the pastoral letter, *Stewardship: A Disciple's Response*.

GP Catholic Services' Dan Conway has made stewardship his life's work. He offers his six top takeaways **from this life-changing letter**.

### 1 **Stewardship is a lifelong responsibility.**

Because God never stops giving, a Christian steward is constantly being invited (and challenged) to receive, cherish, share, and return with increase the fruits of God's abundant generosity.

### 2 **Stewardship deepens spirituality.**

It challenges us to let go of any false notions that we are somehow in control of our lives, our skills, and our talents, or our material possessions. We are not the authors of our own existence. We are not the owners of our spiritual and material gifts. We are stewards (caretakers or custodians) of what belongs entirely to God.

### 3 **Stewardship is a source of grace.**

When we respond to God's goodness by growing in gratitude, responsibility, and generosity, we can experience the difference that stewardship makes in our daily lives.

### 4 **Stewardship is not a program.**

It is a way of life. It requires nourishment and practice. A Christian steward is one who makes a conscious decision to remain open to God's grace and to respond from the heart to whatever opportunities and challenges may come.

### 5 **Stewardship is humbling.**

Archbishop Thomas J. Murphy was the principal architect of the pastoral letter on stewardship. When he was diagnosed with leukemia, he used the principles of stewardship to acknowledge that even cancer can be seen as a gift from God. He recognized the workings of a good and gracious God in the skill and dedication of his medical team and the love and support he received from his family, friends, and community.

### 6 **Stewardship raises awareness.**

It helps us recognize that both ordinary experiences of daily living and the most profound moments of our life and death are gifts from God to be cherished and shared with others.