

**Year of Faith**  
**Liturgical Minute No. 8**  
**God's Gift of Faith – An Offer of Friendship**

Because God's gift of faith allows us to know God personally in a relationship of trust, God's gift requires a response. Everything depends on whether or not God's gift of faith is accepted. Saying "Yes" to God's gift of faith is saying "Yes" to God's offer of friendship.

Friendship has to be freely given and freely accepted, and so, God will not force our minds or our wills. If we say, "Yes" in faith, it is not because our minds have been compelled to do so, but because our hearts have yielded to God's invitation. Our "Yes" to God is more than a response declaring, "I believe IT" – our "Yes" declares, "I believe YOU."

Faith is like a seed. It is alive and growing, confident in the promise of harvest, even when buried in mid-winter soil. Faith is like a lamp shining in the middle of darkness. With its aid, we can truly see, and trust that dawn is coming – the dawn of eternal life.

Major Source: Father John Dominic Corbett, O.P., "The Nature of Faith," Magnificat Year of Faith Companion.