

**Year of Faith**  
**Liturgical Minute No. 30**  
**Faith Must Lead to Service**

In the eighth century BC, the prophet Amos, a simple shepherd and sycamore fig farmer was called by God to travel to the northern Kingdom of Israel to preach to the people, because an increase in their wealth was matched with a decline of religious faith, and indifference to the poor. Amos, without any special training, and relying only on the power of God, finds his voice. He was not the kind of prophet who uses poetic words and beautiful images. Amos was blunt as he insisted that those who follow God must be people of justice.

Amos told the Israelites, and he tells us today, that our prayers and rituals are meaningless if they do not lead to service. No special skills are needed to work for justice, only a heart that sees God in every human being.

To “keep the faith” is virtuous, but it is not a thing to be kept to oneself, like a firefly that soon fades in a sealed jar. The way to “keep faith” is to share it.

Deacon Gary Nelson

Major Source: Monsignor Gregory E. S. Malovetz, and Father George William Rutler, Magnificat Year of Faith Companion.