

# THE PASTOR'S POST

## GOD'S MEMORY

Dear Parish Family:

A few weeks ago, I wrote about the risk for me, and perhaps for you, of becoming numb to the challenging times in which we live. I wrote that, at times perhaps, we're too quick to move on, rather than face all that is involved in a difficult moment.

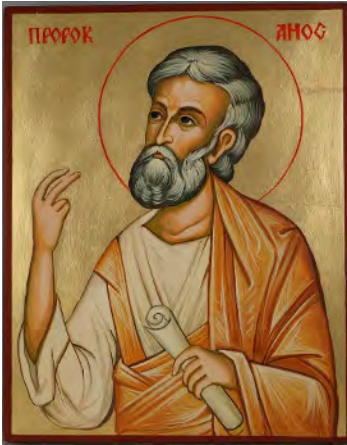
This past week, Yanira Chacon, our Director of Parish Social Ministry, and I drove to an event in gratitude for a significant grant we had received. Having some time, we talked about all that so many are facing right now and how we are sometimes limited in what we are able to do. In discussing an issue many are facing in our community, she said, "I wonder if people are accepting this, thinking this is normal." If so, there will be no desire, no action for change.

After praying with this Sunday's readings, I wonder what Amos would say to us today. I don't have the knowledge about the Scriptures as our new resident priest, Fr. Jacob, has, but I imagine Amos would be livid with us and our care for those in need. I say "us" because we all have to look harder within. The last line of the first reading today strikes me. It is the conclusion of a long discourse condemning the people for taking advantage of the poor and the vulnerable.

We see great advancements, great potential goods, in the world in which we live. Advances in technology, not to mention AI, and so much more. Yes, each of these "good" things and others certainly requires a discernment, particularly if we want these things to remain good. Becoming accustomed to the convenience and comforts of this world, have we become used to some of the injustice, particularly towards the poor and the vulnerable? Instead of standing up, we crunch down.

Think of any of our "hot" topics. We see a real change in the world in which we live regarding sexual morality and actions. The truth of the teaching about sexuality has been lost and the Church has lost

credibility. At the same time, we see people who see things differently or act differently in these areas treated horrendously and vehemently. So we do not work at addressing hatred or the truths of our faith. Well, it is what it is.



We see a rise in violence on so many levels in so many places. The assassination of Charlie Kirk is the latest in a string of acts of violence against leaders who may not agree with us or share our values or approach. In one day, Mr. Kirk's life was taken, there was another school shooting, and war and violence spread further in the Middle East and Ukraine with thousands of people dying. All in one day! What are you going to do? I guess this will need to work itself out. I'll say a prayer. (This is essential, for sure. But is it enough?)

We are watching the families of our immigrant brothers and sisters being torn apart seeing those in criminal justice roles purposely targeting those with black and brown skin. Many of us shrug our shoulders. Maybe convince ourselves with the platitude that "they" didn't come here the right way, so...detentions based on skin color, horrendous prison conditions, and hateful and racist language are accepted and even "liked" by Catholics. This is the way it is now. What can we do?

And we settle. We avoid difficult conversations. We tactically or openly support those who are seeking to destroy others. We fail to speak up or out about things that we know are destroying the dignity of other human beings. It almost becomes normal, accepted.

I don't think Amos would have it.

Pretty sure God won't either.

Let' us pray for a spirit of discomfort in these days and times, a discomfort caused by the Gospel. From that discomfort let us pray for a holy response, one that comes from a place of discernment and desire for the good of the other. God help us!

Please pray for me. I promise the same.

*Father Jim*