

**Spiritual Famine**    Thirteenth Week in Ordinary Time    Friday, July 6, 2018    8:15 AM  
**Am 8:4-6, 9-12; Mt 9:9-13**    (St. Maria Goretti, virgin and martyr)    (God is trying to raise them up to a higher level, get them to be more responsible, let go of their past and move on to some new future that is richer and higher and fuller in life.)

**“Then shall they wander from sea to sea and rove from the north to the east in search of the word of the Lord, but they shall not find it.”**

This prophecy is of a coming famine, not of bread or water, but for hearing the word of the Lord. You might say it’s a prophecy of the so-called dark night, when the spirit desires the sustenance that it has become used to, but can’t get it, and that is always a period of great transition. So **Amos is saying that things are always developing, and sometimes the development isn’t too positive; sometimes development is negative.** We can go backwards. We cannot only evolve, we can devolve.

Recent studies of human beings in the United States in the present age indicate that there is a great deal more immaturity, narcissism, and overall inability to face adult responsibility than fifty or two hundred years ago, not that two hundred years ago there were that many studies, but the tendency seems to be downward toward less responsibility, less maturity, less bearing with, which is very sad, especially because we are dealing with more difficult and complex problems. **So here we have an intersection: growing complex problems, growing issues and needs that must be met, and a population less and less willing to shoulder the burden of being responsible citizens.**

Maybe this plays into what Amos is talking about, **a famine on a spiritual level**, Perhaps the problem is people want the word of God, but they want it fit to their own level, whereas God is trying to raise them up to a higher level, get them to be more responsible, **let go of their past and move on to some new future that is richer and higher and fuller in life. That would be a description of the Paschal mystery.** And what we see today or at least some believe we see today seems to be a denial of the Paschal mystery. So this could be disheartening to say the least, but then we have to keep in mind what Jesus told the Pharisees: **“I did not come to call the righteous but sinners.”**