

**Year of Faith**  
**Liturgical Minute No. 34**  
**The Gifts of Intellect and Free Will**

God has implanted in our souls the gift of “intellect” and the gift of a “free will,” – that is, the gift of intelligence, and the gift of making choices – and God wants us to use these gifts in his service.

God desires that our intellects should be truly enlightened and instructed so that it will have a clear knowledge of who God is. God desires that we continually grow in the knowledge of his love, power, goodness, justice, and mercy.

And when we have attained the knowledge of these things, the Christian will know how to adore God, how to trust God, how to follow God’s instructions, and how to thank God for all things and in all circumstances.

We demonstrate and prove that we believe by what we choose to do. We proclaim God’s revealed truth to others not only by our words, but also by our actions. Our acts of love toward others imitate God in certain ways because he not only told us that he loved us, but his Son died on the cross to prove it.

Deacon Gary Nelson

Major Sources: Father James M. Sullivan, O.P. and the Venerable Louis of Granada, Magnificat Year of Faith Companion.