

One of nature's best jumpers is the African impala. It's a type of antelope or deer that can leap to a height of 10 feet, and a distance greater than 30 feet.

The surprising thing is ... these animals can be kept safe in any zoo by a 3 foot high enclosure wall. How is this possible? *Impalas never ever jump if they cannot see exactly where their feet will fall.* (from *Dynamic Preaching*, XXVI, 3, p. 33)

This is a wise, conservative approach to life. "Look before you leap." But it is certainly not the life of faith. In the life of faith God asks people to go places and do things without knowing exactly how everything will turn out. The second reading explains that Abraham began the journey God asked him to begin, *not knowing where he was to go*. He just started, and trusted God.

Immigrants to the United States ... you or your parents, and my great great grandparents ... would never have left the old country if they had to be certain about everything that would happen to them here. No, they were people of faith and hope, who took a risk and jumped, even if they couldn't see exactly where their feet would land.

It's the same in doing a ministry for the Church or the town.

Some people are afraid to offer themselves as a eucharistic minister, or lector, or office volunteer or visitor to the sick because they have to know everything before they leap.

God sometimes asks good servants and good stewards to be more brave and have more faith than that.