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RABBI AGUS made his career as a communal rabbi first in Chicago, then in Dayton, Ohio, and then for more than thirty years in Baltimore at Congregation Beth El. The role of communal rabbi was one that he took very seriously and from which he gained great personal satisfaction.

The following selections, chosen to accompany Mark Loeb's essay "Jacob B. Agus as Pulpit Rabbi" in American Rabbi: The Life and Thought of Jacob B. Agus (New York, 1996), are from Jacob B. Agus' The Meaning of Jewish History (New York, 1963), 1:11–31; and The Jewish Quest (New York, 1983), 62–76.