

## 2.1.1.2 THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

### 2.1.1.2.1 THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY – HOMILETICS PROGRAM

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The Homiletics Program at Saint Charles Borromeo Seminary is guided by the central place of the Word of God in the life of faith and the consequent importance of the preacher and preaching in the life of the Church.

Regarding the former, as we read in *Evangelii Gaudium* (no. 136), "Saint Paul speaks forcefully about the need to preach, since the Lord desires to reach other people by means of our word (cf. *Rom* 10:14-17). By his words our Lord won over the hearts of the people; they came to hear him from all parts (cf. *Mk* 1:45); they were amazed at his teachings (cf. *Mk* 6:2), and they sensed that he spoke to them as one with authority (cf. *Mk* 1:27). By their words the apostles, whom Christ established "to be with him and to be sent out to preach" (*Mk* 3:14), brought all nations to the bosom of the Church (cf. *Mt* 16:15.20)."

Regarding the latter, the Second Vatican Council notes that "priests, as co-workers with their bishops, have the primary duty of proclaiming the Gospel of God to all" (*Presbyterorum Ordinis*, no. 4). More recently, Pope Francis points out that "The homily is the touchstone for judging a pastor's closeness and ability to communicate to his people" (*Evangelii Gaudium*, no. 135).

Thus, the program attends to four themes of continuing importance to priestly formation, as highlighted in the *Homiletic Directory* (no. 2) published by the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments in 2015:

- 1) the essential link between preaching the Word of God and celebrating the sacraments;
- 2) the fundamental principles of Catholic biblical interpretation;
- 3) the necessary place of Sacred Scripture and liturgy in the spiritual life of priests; and
- 4) the pastoral awareness of the needs of those to whom the Church's preaching is directed.

The homiletics curriculum has been revised (as of 2018-2019) to address these themes in terms of developing the understanding and skills necessary for fruitful preaching. Courses also treat, in a comprehensive manner, the various occasions for preaching throughout the liturgical year, so that by the time of his priestly ordination the graduate will have proficiency in preaching a homily in multiple sacramental settings.

Year I offers an introduction to the person and practice of preaching, with a didactic focus on public speaking skills, along with practice in preaching at daily Mass and about saints and solemnities. Courses required of students in First Theology are:

- PTH 501 (Fall semester) - Introduction to Homiletics
- PTH 502 (Spring semester) – Homiletics Practicum I

Year II continues the formation for preaching with a didactic focus on the theology and history of preaching, along with practice in preaching the Lectionary for the liturgical seasons (Advent-Christmas and Lent-Easter). Courses required of students in Second Theology are:

- PTH 601 (Fall semester) - Theology of Homiletics
- PTH 602 (Spring semester) - Contemporary Homiletics

Year III concludes the academic program with a didactic focus on multiple strategies and contemporary issues in homiletics, along with practice in preaching during Ordinary Time and in diaconal ministries. Courses required of students in Third Theology are:

- PTH 701 (Fall semester) - Homiletics Practicum II
- PTH 702 (Spring semester) - Diaconal Homiletics Practicum

In this way, the revised curriculum offers a comprehensive study of Homiletics, along with opportunities for practice, in preparation for the seminarians' ordination as transitional deacons at the end of the third year of Theological studies.

<i>semester/class</i>	<i>faculty</i>	<i>course</i>	<i>focus of course</i>	<i>focus of practicum</i>
Fall 1st Theology	RUFF	PTH 501 Introduction to Homiletics (1 credit)	using your voice (intro to homiletics)	vocal exercises daily meditations
Spring 1st Theology	RUFF	PTH 502 Homiletics Practicum, I (1 credit)	finding your voice (intro to homiletics)	saints & solemnities
Fall 2nd Theology	DAILEY	PTH 601 Theology of Homiletics (1 credit)	Church teaching on homiletics	Advent / Christmas
Spring 2nd Theology	DAILEY	PTH 602 Contemporary Homiletics (1 credit)	Historical overview  Pope Francis's teaching & example	Lent / Easter
Fall 3rd Theology	OLSON	PTH 702 Homiletic Practicum, II (1 credit)	preaching the Word (various strategies)	Ordinary Time
Spring 3rd Theology	OLSON	PTH 702 Diaconal Homiletic Practicum	diakonia of the Word (as deacons)	baptisms, weddings funerals, occasions

Year IV focuses on the pastoral experience of transitional deacons, with attention to preaching in the parish internship (summer and weekends) and in the seminary setting. Following policies and procedures in the program of pastoral formation, and with use of approved forms, continual evaluation of diaconal preaching

is provided by pastors and select members of the parishes (for the internship), as well as by resident priests and select students in the seminary.

The homiletics program also benefits from the use of videotaping and other communications technology, as well as a strong collection of resources in the Ryan Memorial Library. In addition, formation in homiletics is supplemented with advice and guidance from the lay faithful who serve voluntarily on a homiletics review board.

At the annual Concursus exercises, an award for Excellence in Homiletics is presented to a seminarian in each of the four years of Theological studies. Awards for seminarians in I-III Theology are selected by the Homiletics faculty; the award for s seminarian in IV Theology is selected by the Director of Pastoral and Apostolic Formation, in consultation with the resident priests.

In these ways the formation program at Saint Charles Borromeo Seminary provides that "special attention" to the homily in the context of the *ars celebrandi* that is called for in the updated *Ratio Fundamentalis Institutionis Sacerdotalis* ("The Gift of the Priestly Vocation," no. 177), as promulgated in 2016 by the Congregation for Clergy.

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