

2.2 DIACONAL FORMATION

2.2.1 HOMILETICS OVERVIEW

(School of Diaconal Formation)

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Statement of Philosophy, Shared Beliefs and Purpose

The School of Diaconal Formation, in cooperation with the Theological Seminary of St. Charles Borromeo in Philadelphia, believes that ordained deacons must be competent lectors and preachers of the Word of God, professionally trained and educated, and continuously developed in their craft.

We believe the homily is an organic part of the Mass, and that the homilist acts sacramentally when he preaches from the Word of God in the Scriptures. His homily through his ministry can give grace, open the faithful to the Word of God, lead them to a conversion of heart and to the unity of belief that impels them to seek God’s forgiveness and mercy and to celebrate the Eucharist actively.

Therefore, homiletics instruction and practica in proclaiming and preaching will be an integral part of the Formation program, drawing on and consistently broadening the candidate’s spiritual, human, intellectual and pastoral skills.

Mission Statement

The aim of the Homiletics program in the School of Diaconal Formation is to form lectors and preachers who are effective and efficient heralds and prophets of the Word of God. These will minister to the faithful at liturgical, sacramental and devotional services, diocesan and parochial level catechetical and exegetical gatherings and in all times evangelize by their adherence to the gospel life.

Vision Statement

Appropriate professional preparation in the art and science of proclamation and preaching of men called to ordained ministry will yield deacons who can effectively and efficiently open the Word of God to the faithful in their ministries of Word, Altar and Charity.

Sources of Guiding Information

National Directory for the Formation and Life of Permanent Deacons in the United States of America, Other Church documents to be cited as used here
