



The John Cardinal Foley Chair of Homiletics & Social Communications
SAINT CHARLES BORROMEIO SEMINARY, OVERBROOK

100 E. Wynnewood Road • Wynnewood, PA 19096 • 610-785-6267 • www.scs.edu/john-cardinal-foley-chair

PTH 601
Theology of Homiletics
Fall 2020



(FRA ANGELICO - detail of St. Peter Preaching in the Presence of St. Mark)

Rev. THOMAS F. DAILEY, O.S.F.S., S.T.D.

The John Cardinal Foley Chair of Homiletics & Social Communications

Class Information

Mondays
1:35 to 4:15 p.m.
Vianney Hall #106 and
1st floor Chapel, Faculty Wing, College



Contact Information:

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Office Hours by appointment

This syllabus was last revised on 8/23/20 at 3:28 PM.

All elements in this syllabus are subject to change in the event of extenuating circumstances and/or at the discretion of the instructor.

Description

This course offers a contemporary **Theology of Homiletics** in the Roman Catholic tradition.

Formation for preaching requires a critical understanding of the ecclesial and liturgical contexts that shape the distinctive character of the homily as a dialogic proclamation of the Good News. Emphasis will be placed on the study of Church documents related to preaching. Practical experience will focus on delivering Sunday homilies in the Advent and Christmas seasons.

The course methodology includes two alternating elements throughout the semester. The entire class gathers for lecture and discussion about the assigned documentary readings. The class is sub-divided into groups and sections for the practicum on liturgical preaching. The calendar below provides details.

Goals

Related Department Goals (Pastoral Theology)

- The student will develop and practice skills for celebrating, proclaiming, preaching, teaching, evangelizing, listening, guiding and reconciling in the multi-cultural Catholic Christian community.

Specific Course Goals & Student Learning Outcomes

By the conclusion of this course, students will gain ...

1. a deeper appreciation of the relationship between the assembly, the liturgical context, and the ministry of preaching
 - *assessed by class engagement and the final written examination*
2. a fuller understanding of the interpretation of Sacred Scripture as foundational to the preparation of the homily
 - *assessed by class engagement and commentary writing*
3. a stronger familiarity with the *ars praedicandi* related to the Sunday Lectionary for the Advent and Christmas seasons
 - *assessed by homily critiques and progress in preaching*
4. a gradual improvement in the communications skills employed in delivering a homily, in terms of public speaking and evangelical rhetoric
 - *assessed by homily critiques and progress in preaching*

Assessment

(to be explained further during class)

Growth in the art of preaching involves both didactic and practical learning, as specified in the course calendar (below).

The DIDACTIC element focuses on the **theology of homiletics**.

- All students will **read** the church documents as assigned for each class period.
- The professor will present the essential teachings in the document, raise questions for consideration, and facilitate the discussion.
- All students will **discuss** the significant thoughts and critical questions raised by the readings and lectures.

The PRACTICAL element incorporates the didactic into the **art of preaching**.

- Assigned students will **prepare and deliver** a 5-8 minute homily, in whole or in part, based on the specified texts from the Lectionary.
- Assigned students will **evaluate** each homily by offering verbal feedback.
- The professor will note the students' feedback, add his own critique, and share this evaluation electronically with the student-preachers. Students who wish to do so may meet individually with the professor to **review** the evaluations and discuss areas of progress.

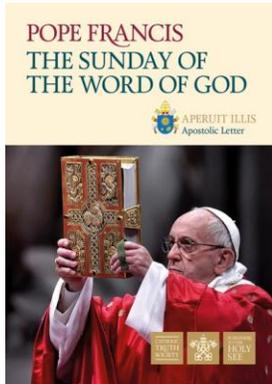
Assessment of learning in this course will be based on accumulated knowledge of the theology of homiletics and developmental progress in the art of preaching. Grades will be determined as follows:

- (1) **Engagement** (20% of final grade) ... The professor will determine a grade based on the student's contributions to in-class discussions, preaching exercises, and other ad hoc tasks.
- (2) **Writing** (20% of the final grade) ... The professor will determine a grade for the three (3) written commentaries submitted electronically by students. Students may submit additional commentaries as extra credit!
- (3) **Preaching** (30% of the final grade) ... An independent panel of reviewers will determine the grade for the final homily of the semester, as the culmination of the students' progress in the art of preaching.
- (4) **Examination** (30% of the final grade) ... The professor will determine the grade based on a written examination dealing with the students' cumulative knowledge of the lectures and assigned readings in the course.

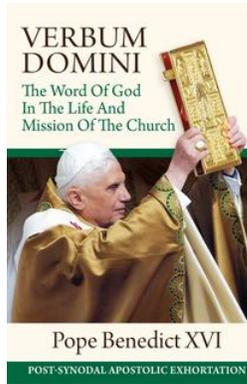
Academic Resources

REQUIRED Texts for this Course

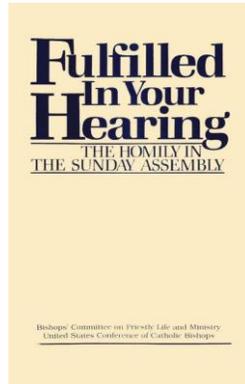
(linked to [online](#) versions [at no cost](#); reading selections are also posted on Populi)



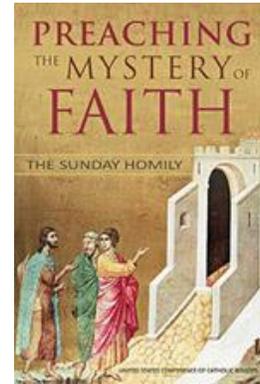
Vatican, 2019
([full text](#))



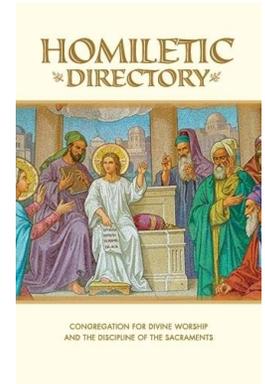
Vatican, 2010
([nn. 50-71](#))



USCCB, 1982
([full text](#))



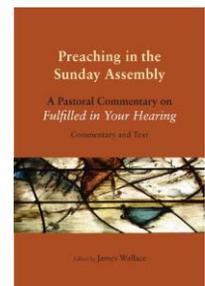
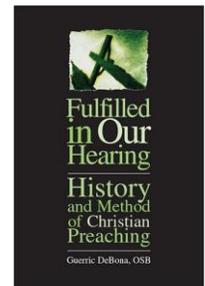
USCCB, 2012
([full text](#))



Vatican, 2014
([nn. 1-36](#))

SUPPLEMENTAL Resources

- [link](#) to an online **bibliography** of books on Catholic preaching
- related to *Fulfilled in Your Hearing*
 - Cisetti, Joseph. "On the Preacher and Preaching." *Homiletic and Pastoral Review* 106/1 (Oct 2005): 22-31
 - [Debona, Guericc](#). *Fulfilled in Our Hearing: History and Method of Christian Preaching*. Paulist Press, 2005.
 - Driscoll, Jeremy. "Catechesis and Doctrine in Liturgical Preaching." *Origins* online 43/15 (Sept 12, 2013): 231-237
 - [Wallace, James \(ed.\)](#). *Preaching in the Sunday Assembly: A Pastoral Commentary on Fulfilled in Your Hearing*. Liturgical Press, 2010.
- related to *Preaching the Mystery of Faith ...*
 - Smigma, George. "Preaching the Mystery of Faith: The Sunday Homily – Key Perspectives as a Guide in Seminary Formation." *Building on the Word* ([online](#))



- Notre Dame Conference, 2013 (video links)
 - [Bishop Christopher J. Coyne](#): Preaching and the New Evangelization
 - [Fr. Jeremy Driscoll, OSB](#): Catechesis and Doctrine in Liturgical Preaching ([text](#))
 - [Fr. Donald Senior, CP](#): The Word of God: Source and Power of Preaching ([text](#))
 - [Msgr. Richard Henning](#): Teaching Homiletics in Seminaries Using New Technology
 - [Dcn Joseph Michalak](#): Teaching Homiletics in Permanent Diaconate Formation Programs
 - [Fr. Allan Deck, SJ](#): Intercultural Competency and the Sunday Homily
 - [Fr. John Crossin, OSFS](#): Ecumenical & Interreligious Sensitivity in Preaching
 - [Msgr. Rick Hilgartner](#): Preaching the Mystery of Faith: Funerals and Weddings
 - [Ian Mitchell](#): Catholic Social Mission & the Sunday Homily
 - [Dr. John Cavadini & Fr. Thomas Weinandy, OFM Cap.](#): Doctrine & the Sunday Homily

- related to *The Homiletic Directory*
 - Driscoll, Michael. "The Homiletic Directory and the Art of Preaching." *Pastoral Liturgy* 47/2 (Mar-Apr 2016): 4-7
 - Driscoll, Michael. "The Homiletic Directory: A Brief Commentary." *Notitiae* 51/1-6 (Jan-June 2015): 97-110
 - Krosnicki, Thomas. "By Way of Comment: The 2014 Homiletic Directory." *The Pastoral Review* 10/5 (Sept-Oct 2014): 20-25
 - Krosnicki, Thomas. "What? The Homily Again?" *Worship* 90 (March 2016): 139-150
 - Roche, Arthur. "New Directives on Preaching: The Congregation for Divine Worship Publishes the Homiletic Directory." *L'Osservatore Romano* online 2384 (Feb 20, 2015): 14
 - Witherup, Ronald. "A Directory on Homiletics: Will It Make a Difference?" *The Pastoral Review* 11/3 (May-June 2015): 38-43

- related to *Aperuit Illis*
 - [Dailey, Thomas](#). "Preaching the 'Story of Stories'." *Homiletic & Pastoral Review* (2/26/2020).
 - Merrick, James. "Recovering Love for the Liturgy of the World." *Ascension Presents* (11/13/2019).

Proposed Schedule

subject to change at the discretion of the professor

- Unless otherwise noted, ALL classes begin at 1:35 p.m.
- "Didactic" classes (75 min.) & the final exam written test take place in Vianney Hall #106
- "Practicum" exercises (90 min.) & the final exam public preaching take place in the 1st floor ("upper") chapel in the faculty wing of the College building

section "A"		section "B"	
Albanese, Anthony (PHL)	Flanagan, Shane (PHL)	Key, Kevin (HBG)	Omeke, Kenneth (PHL)
Brown, Alexander (ALT)	Himes, Jeffrey (O.Praem.)	Kraft, Randall (PHL)	Poczatek, Stanley (ARL)
Clark, Andrew (ARL)	Iglesia, Zinjin (ARL)	Le, Phong (PHL)	Ramirez, Miguel (ALT)
DeCamp, Derick (HBG)	Okpara, John (PHL)	Martinez, Ricardo (RM)	Redinger, Loudon (LCN)

<i>Date</i>	<i>Class Focus</i>	<i>Preparatory Task</i>
Aug 20 (TH)	Introduction to the Course	review syllabus
Aug 24	didactic – <i>Aperuit Illis</i>	READ the entire document ... Populi link
Aug 31	didactic – <i>Verbum Domini</i>	READ the selection (nn. 50-71) ... Populi link
Sept 7	<i>no class – Labor Day holiday</i>	
Sept 14	practicum – “A” preaches / “B” writes	on the First Sunday of Advent
Sept 21	practicum – “B” preaches / “A” writes	on the Third Sunday of Advent
Sept 28	<i>technological training</i>	
Oct 5	didactic – Fulfilled in Your Hearing	READ the entire document ... Populi link
Oct 12	<i>no class – Columbus Day holiday</i>	
Oct 19	practicum – “A” preaches / “B” writes	on the Christmas Mass during the NIGHT
Oct 26	practicum – “B” preaches / “A” writes	on the Christmas Mass during the DAY
Nov 2	<i>no class – Forty Hours</i>	
Nov 9	didactic – Preaching the Mystery of Faith	READ the entire document ... Populi link
Nov 16	practicum – “A” preaches / “B” writes	on the Holy Family
Nov 23	practicum – “B” preaches / “A” writes	on Mary, Mother of God
Nov 30	<i>no class – Thanksgiving break</i>	
Dec 7	didactic – The Homiletic Directory	READ the selection (nn. 1-36) ... Populi link
Dec 9 + 10 7:00 – 8:30 PM	final exam – public preaching <i>(special schedule & instructions)</i>	ALL preach on the Epiphany
Dec 14	final exam – written test	based on readings/lectures about the five Church documents studied in this course

Seminary Policies

Internet Use in the Classroom:

While the internet is a valuable source of information that can facilitate the learning process, it can often be a distraction within the classroom setting. Therefore, unless explicitly permitted by the instructor, students in the classroom are not permitted to connect to the internet.

Because the digital world is the environment in which people live and work in the twenty-first century, students in this course are not only permitted to connect to the internet in the classroom, they are required to do so!

Attendance

Saint Charles Borromeo Seminary requires attendance at all classes at the assigned times. This policy reflects the Seminary's recognition of the vital importance of philosophy and other preparatory studies for the seminarian's formation and for the pastoral ministry to which the seminarian aspires. As a general rule, the number of absences in a course should not exceed twice the number of weekly class meetings for the course. For example, in a three-credit course which entails two instructional classes each week of 75 minutes in length, the maximum number of absences of any kind should not exceed four (4) such classes. Students with absences in excess of the limit may be asked to withdraw from the course. Exceptions to this policy are to be sought from the Vice President for Academic Affairs. The instructor reserves the right to determine the number of absences which may result in a reduced grade or even the loss of academic credit, with the consequent requirement to repeat the course. In aggravated cases, excessive, unexcused absences may result in dismissal. Out of courtesy, students who are absent are asked to communicate this fact – if possible, prior to the class day in question – to the Dean of Men of their respective Seminary, to the Vice President for Academic Affairs, and to the course instructor. Students are responsible for the timely performance of all class assignments and the gaining/mastery of class notes. Students who wish to have the course lecture recorded on the day of absence should seek permission from the instructor prior to making such an arrangement.

Academic honesty

As indicated in the Seminary policy, “no instance of plagiarism, cheating or falsification of research work, examinations or academic records will be tolerated and will make the seminarian liable to dismissal.” A failing grade will be assigned where there is evidence of academic dishonesty.

Late Work - Unless approved by the instructor prior to the due date, late work is unacceptable.

Incomplete Work - Failure to fulfill any of the requirements of this course may result in an F for the course.

Exams

“[Final] Examinations in all courses are held on the dates and in the places designated on the final examination schedule. No seminarian is excused from an examination unless an exception is granted by the Academic Dean. A seminarian who, for illness or another serious reason, must be absent from a final examination may request permission from the Academic Dean to reschedule the examination and is responsible for making the necessary arrangements with the appropriate professor [or instructor]. If an examination has not been taken within two weeks, the grade of “F” will be given for the course. Extensions can be granted only by the Academic Dean.”

Seminary Grading System

“Letter grades are used to indicate the quality of a seminarian's performance in a course. Professors assign grades as the result of class work, reports, research papers, examinations, or a combination of the above.” “A seminarian's academic standing is measured by the cumulative average. The cumulative average is calculated by dividing the total number of grade points earned by the total number of credit hours attempted. Grade points are not granted for Pass/Fail courses, nor do these courses affect the semester or cumulative averages.”
