

# The Word on the Web<sup>1</sup>

by Gregory Heille, O.P.

No question about it, the World Wide Web is a boon to preachers – and perhaps especially to busy preachers on a budget. The challenge is finding sites that serve biblical interpretation, congregational and cultural analysis, and interaction with other preachers – without giving over to canned sermons or other (sometimes expensive) quick fixes. The following annotated list of preaching websites is by no means exhaustive. Yet, it can help serious preachers to sample several available resources and book mark a few tried and true study resources on their computers.

## Bible & Lectio Divina

- Lectio Divina (<http://www.valyermo.com/ld-art.html>)  
An introduction to the contemplative reading of biblical texts presented by Fr. Luke Dysinger, O.S.B. The method presented here can be used individually or in a Bible Study or preaching preparation group.
- New American bible (<http://www.usccb.org/nab/bible/index.shtml>)
- New Revised Standard Version Bible (<http://www.devotions.net/bible/00bible.htm>)

## Roman Catholic Lectionary

- Roman Catholic Lectionary (<http://www.usccb.org/nab/index.shtml>)  
Lectionary texts for weekdays and Sundays from the U.S. Conference of Catholic bishops.
- Biblia Clerus: Reading the Word of God with the Church ([http://www.clerus.org/bibliaclerus/index\\_eng.html](http://www.clerus.org/bibliaclerus/index_eng.html))  
This site interprets Scripture “in light of Sacred Tradition and the teachings of the Magisterium, with appropriate theological commentary and exegesis. The downloadable version allows you to connect Sacred Scripture to the complete works of many Doctors of the Church, Councils, Encyclicals, teachings of the Popes, and Catechisms, as well as commentaries from secular literature, etc.”<sup>2</sup>
- Catholic Homilies/ Homilias Catolicas (<http://www.homilies.net/>)  
This site, fully bilingual in English and Spanish, provides a complete table of readings for the current liturgical year and many useful links.
- Center for Liturgy at St. Louis University (<http://liturgy.slu.edu/>)  
This comprehensive site is designed for use by all members of the assembly in preparation for the Sunday liturgy. It includes prayers to precede scripture reflection, reflections on the spirituality of the Sunday Mass, commentary on the readings (including historical/cultural context and thoughts from early Church writers), music ideas, and additional annotated links (see [http://www.liturgy.slu.edu/links\\_longlist.html](http://www.liturgy.slu.edu/links_longlist.html)). An early-stage Spanish site also is included.
- Center of Concern Sunday Reflections (<http://www.coc.org/resources/lectionary-reflections>)  
This site, edited by Fr. John Bucki, S.J., relates Sunday texts to current events and Catholic social Teaching. Includes sample prayers of intercession and reflection questions.
- The Good Word Blog ([http://americamagazine.org/blog/blog.cfm?blog\\_id=1](http://americamagazine.org/blog/blog.cfm?blog_id=1))  
*America's* blog on preaching and Scripture.
- Preachers' Exchange (<http://www.judeop.org/>)  
This site, also available by free e-mail subscription, provides diverse spiritual reflections, insights, quotations, etc. for preaching from a Catholic perspective with a social justice and ecumenical focus. It includes Spanish-language reflections on the Sunday lectionary readings.
- Reflecting on Sunday's Readings ([http://emmausjourney.org/reflecting\\_sundays\\_reading.cfm](http://emmausjourney.org/reflecting_sundays_reading.cfm))  
Intended for small group discussions, these reflections on the Sunday readings explore aspects of the readings and personal spirituality. The page is hosted by Emmaus Journey, a Catholic small group bible discussion series.
- The Roman Catholic Lectionary Website (<http://catholic-resources.org/Lectinary/>)  
This site, constructed by Felix Just, S.J., includes tables of Scripture readings from various Latin and English editions of the Roman Catholic Lectionary for Mass as well as many links to other lectionary-related sites.

- Sánchez Archives (<http://www.nationalcatholicreporter.org/sanchez/>)  
This online archive of commentaries on the Roman Lectionary was composed by Patricia Datchuck Sánchez and previously published in the homiletic section of *Celebration*. These commentaries provide a scholarly but accessible study of the Scriptures assigned to all Sundays and most major feasts for Years A, B and C.
- Word-Sunday.com (<http://www.word-sunday.com/>)  
Written by Larry Broding, a Director of Religious Education in the Diocese of San Diego, this site includes reflections for adults and children, catechesis, and family activities related to each Sunday's readings.

#### Ecumenical and Revised Common Lectionary

- Revised Common Lectionary (<http://lectionary.library.vanderbilt.edu/>)
- SAMUEL (<http://www.ucc.org/worship/samuel/>)  
The United Church of Christ provides a collection of resources for worship, Bible study, and sermon preparation based on the Revised Common Lectionary.
- The Text This Week (<http://www.textweek.com/>)  
This ecumenical page includes links and general resources for each Sunday of the Revised Common Lectionary, including stories, movie connections, artwork, and reflections and questions to enhance prayer, study, and worship. Additional resources are included for the Roman Catholic, ELCA, and United Methodist lectionaries.

#### Publications and Media

- Fulfilled in Your Hearing: the Homily in the Sunday Assembly (<http://www.usccb.org/plm/fiyh.shtml>)  
Issued by the Bishops Committee on Priestly Life and Ministry in 1982, this document represents a major contribution by the United States bishops on preaching and preaching preparation.
- Homiletic (<http://ejournals.library.vanderbilt.edu/homiletic/>)  
"A freely accessible, peer-reviewed journal sponsored by the Academy of Homiletics."
- The Word: A Daily Dose of Dominican Preaching (<http://word.op.org/>)  
"A service of the Order of Preachers, offering audible daily reflections on the Christian Scriptures. Preachers are drawn from the entire worldwide Dominican Family – priests, brothers, sisters, and lay people."

#### Resources for Lectors

- The Effective Lector (<http://www.turning.to/digital.liturgy/EffLec.html>)  
An essay on the liturgical role and ministry of lectors.
- Lector Preparation / Lector's Notes (<http://www.lectorprep.org/>)  
An excellent resource that will serve readers, lectors, preachers, and others preparing to proclaim (and hear) the Word of God.

Gregory Heille, O.P., is Professor of Homiletics at Aquinas Institute of Theology, St. Louis, Missouri, where he currently serves as Academic Dean and Vice President. Many more annotated links can be found on his website, "The Word on the Web," at <http://www.kn.pacbell.com/wired/fil/pages/listpreachergr.html>.

<sup>1</sup>For additional online resource, see NDCL's Preaching bibliography at <http://liturgy.nd.edu/bibliography/preaching.shtml>.

<sup>2</sup>Any material in quotation marks is taken directly from the website's own description.