



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

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**PTH 601**  
**Theology of Homiletics**  
*Fall 2022*



(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  
Sacred Heart Chapel, College



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*Office Hours by appointment*

*This syllabus was last revised on 7/27/22 at 11:40 AM.*

*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.

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## 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 practicum 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 follows:*

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

- All students will **read** the church documents as assigned in preparation for each class period.
- The professor will present the essential teachings in the document and raise questions for further consideration.
- As facilitated by the professor, 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**. For each practicum period (as specified in the course calendar below) ...

- One group of 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 after the preaching.
  - The professor will note the students' feedback, add his own critique, and share this evaluation electronically with the student-preachers.
- The other group of students (i.e., those not assigned to preach) will complete a **written commentary** based on the same Lectionary texts and following the instructions given in class.

*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) **Class Engagement** (10% 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) **Practicum Writing** (30% of the final grade) ... The professor will determine a grade for the three written commentaries submitted by students.
- (3) **Final 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) **Final 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)

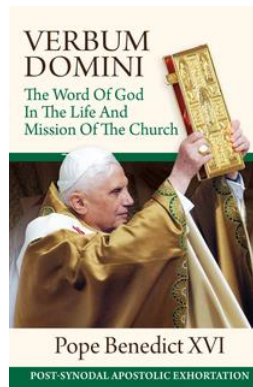


Vatican, 2020  
([full text](#))

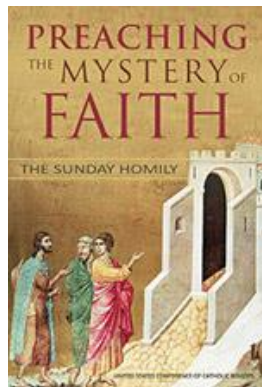
**Fulfilled  
In Your  
Hearing**  
THE HOMILY IN  
THE SUNDAY ASSEMBLY

Bishops' Committee on Family Life and Ministry  
United States Conference of Catholic Bishops

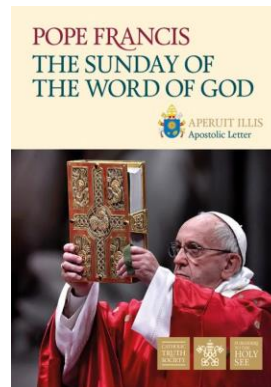
USCCB, 1982  
([full text](#))



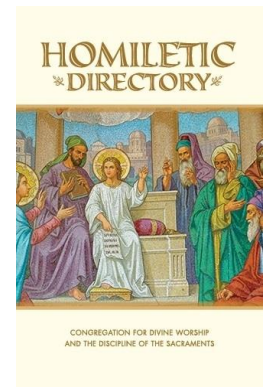
Vatican, 2010  
([nn. 50-71](#))



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



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



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

### SUPPLEMENTAL Texts

- [link](#) to an online **bibliography** of books on Catholic preaching
- [link](#) to other **learning resources** on Communications & Homiletics

## Proposed Schedule

*subject to change at the discretion of the professor*

- Unless otherwise noted, ALL classes begin at **1:45 p.m.**
- “Didactic” classes (75 min.) & the final exam written test take place in Vianney Hall #106
- “Practicum” exercises (100 min.) take place in the Sacred Heart chapel in the College building

section "A"		section "B"	
TIMOTHY BANACH	PHUONG PHAM	ROBERT BOLLINGER	SCOTT SCHIEUER
EMMANUEL CARRENO GARCIA	ANDREW ST. DENIS	CHIKE EGBUFOAMA	PATRICK THORP
JORDAN EVANS	EDWARD TOWN	COLE MASE	ALFREDO TUESTA
JOHN MEYERHOFER	ISAAC WAHLMEIER	JOSEPH MOSKO	
JUDE UGOCHUKWU OPARA		JUAN PEREZ	

<i>Date</i>	<i>Class Focus</i>	<i>Preparatory Task (links to texts in Populi)</i>
Aug 29	<b>Introduction to the course</b>	READ the Papal Message for World Communications Day 2020 (4+ pages)
Sept 1 (TH)	didactic – notes on a <b>Theological Anthropology for Preaching</b>	
Sept 5	<i>no class – Labor Day holiday</i>	
Sept 12	didactic – <i>Fulfilled in Your Hearing</i>	READ the entire document (29-page file)
Sept 19	didactic – <i>Verbum Domini</i>	READ the selection (nn. 50-71)
Sept 26	<i>technological training</i>	<i>meet in the One-Button Studio (Vianney #103)</i>
Oct 3	practicum – “A” preaches / “B” writes	on the First Sunday of Advent
Oct 10	<i>no class – Columbus Day holiday</i>	
Oct 17	practicum – “B” preaches / “A” writes	on the Third Sunday of Advent
Oct 24	didactic – <i>Preaching the Mystery of Faith</i>	READ the entire document (52-page file)
Oct 31	practicum – “A” preaches / “B” writes	on the Christmas Mass during the NIGHT
Nov 7	practicum – “B” preaches / “A” writes	on the Christmas Mass during the DAY
Nov 14	didactic – <i>Aperuit Illis</i>	READ the entire document (9 pages)
Nov 21	practicum – “A” preaches / “B” writes	on the Holy Family
Nov 28	practicum – “B” preaches / “A” writes	on Mary, Mother of God
Dec 5	<b>Conclusion to the Course</b> ( <i>lectio brevis</i> )	READ the <i>Homiletic Directory</i> (nn. 1-36)
<b>Dec 5 / 6 / 7 7:00 – 8:30 PM</b>	final preaching ( <i>special schedule &amp; instructions</i> )	ALL preach on the Epiphany
Dec 12	<i>no class – Our Lady of Guadalupe</i>	
<b>Dec 14 ?</b>	final examination - <i>ONLINE via Populi</i>	review the “top ten” lists for all documents!



## 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.”

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