



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

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PTH 602

Contemporary Homiletics

Spring 2023



(CNS photo)

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 - 4:15 p.m.
Vianney Hall #106



Contact Information:

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This syllabus was last revised on 1/19/23 at 3:11 PM.

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

Description

This course explores the history of Homiletics in the Roman Catholic tradition, with a particular emphasis on preaching in the twenty-first century.

Formation for preaching benefits from examining the work of those recognized as masters of sacred eloquence. This course considers some key figures in Church history, with emphasis placed on the contemporary teaching and example of Pope Francis. It offers the opportunity for practice focused on delivering Sunday homilies in the Lent and Easter seasons.

Typically, the course methodology will be divided between a didactic element (readings and lectures) and a practicum for liturgical preaching, as scheduled in the proposed course calendar below.

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 Learning Outcomes

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

1. a basic understanding of the historical development of Catholic preaching, encompassing impacts of the new digital age
 - *assessed by class engagement with assigned readings*
2. a deeper appreciation of the essential qualities of good preaching today, with particular reference to the approach taught and exemplified by contemporary churchmen
 - *assessed by class engagement and the final reflection paper*
3. a stronger familiarity with the *ars praedicandi* related to the Lectionary for select Sundays during the seasons of Lent and Easter
 - *assessed by written assignments and progress in preaching*
4. a continuing improvement in the communications skills employed in delivering a homily, with attention to public speaking and rhetoric
 - *assessed by practicum evaluations and progress in preaching*

Assessment

(to be explained further during class)

Growth in the art of preaching involves both didactic and practical learning. The course will alternate between both elements, as outlined in the proposed class schedule below.

The DIDACTIC element focuses on the history of homiletics and contemporary preaching. In this learning, students have the following responsibilities:

- All students will complete the **assigned tasks** for the designated class period and be prepared to **discuss** the significant points raised therein.
- All students will engage the ideas presented in **class lectures** by raising critical questions and offering thoughtful responses.
- As specified, all students will complete **special assignments** on specific topics in the course.






The PRACTICAL element incorporates the didactic into the art of preaching. In this learning, students have the following responsibilities:

- During the assigned periods, students will **prepare and deliver** a 5-8 minute **homily** on the specified texts from the Lectionary, or complete a specific practicum exercise related to that day's homily.
- The class will offer "live" **feedback** to each homilist during the class period.
- The professor will provide a summary **evaluation**, in writing, for each homily practicum. Students are welcome to 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 distributed as follows:

- (1) **Class Engagement** (10% of the final grade) ... Students will read, watch, and/or listen to contemporary Catholic teaching about homiletics, and discuss the ideas and applications in class.
 - (2) **Written Outlines** (30% of the final grade) ... Students will complete six (6) homily outlines on the Lectionary readings.
 - (3) **Final Preaching** (30% of the final grade) ... Students will preach on Pentecost before a public audience of parishioners.
 - (4) **Final Exam Essay** (30% of the final grade) ... Students will write a reflection paper (5-10 pages) concerning their growth in preaching and a contemporary understanding of evangelization.
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Required Sources for this Course (info also posted on Populi)

	<p>POPE FRANCIS <i>Evangelii Gaudium: on The Joy of the Gospel</i> USCCB, 2013</p> <p>ISBN-10: 1601374585 ISBN-13: 978-1601374585</p> <p>Hardcover = \$10.85 Kindle = \$9.95</p> <p><i>selected sections:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “The Homily” (nn. 135-144) - online text • “Preparing to Preach” (nn. 145-159) - online text 		
	<p>BISHOP ROBERT BARRON & BRANDON VOGT <i>“Five Qualities of Good Preaching”</i></p> <p>Word on Fire Show (podcast, 11/29/15)</p>		
	<p>ARCHBISHOP ALLEN VIGNERON “The Preacher: Servant of the Word of God”</p> <p>pastoral letter 2015</p>		<p>TIMOTHY CARDINAL DOLAN “Ars Praedicandi”</p> <p>address at Theological College 2022</p>
	<p>BISHOP CHRISTOPHER J. COYNE “Connecting to God and WiFi: Preaching in a Digital Culture.”</p> <p><i>America</i> online (10/3/16)</p>		
	<p>FR. MIKE SCHMITZ “Telling the Story of God’s Love”</p> <p>The 2020 Cardinal Foley Lecture @ Saint Charles Borromeo Seminary</p>		

Recommended Reading:

Congregation for Divine Worship & Discipline of Sacraments. *Homiletic Directory* (6/29/2014). [online text](#)

Pope Francis, with Antonio Spadaro, SJ. *Encountering Truth: Meeting God in the Every Day. The Morning Homilies from St. Martha's Chapel.* Image Books, 2015 [online text](#)

Foley, Edward (ed.). [A Handbook for Catholic Preaching.](#) Pueblo Books, 2016

Supplemental Reading (listed in order of topics in the course)

HISTORY

Atwood, Ray. [*Masters of Preaching: The Most Poignant and Powerful Homilists in Church History*](#). Hamilton Books / Rowman & Littlefield, 2012.

Atwood, Ray. [*Masters of Preaching: More Poignant and Powerful Homilists in Church History*](#). Hamilton Books / Rowman & Littlefield, 2012.

Gregory, Archbishop William. "Liturgical Preaching in the 21st Century." *The Jurist* 76 (2016): 361-378.

Hermenegild, Brother. [*Instructions from the Saints on How to Preach*](#). Amazon Digital Services, 2017.

Waznak, Robert P. "From Sermon to Homily." In *An Introduction to the Homily*. Collegeville, MN: Liturgical Press, 1998. pp. 1-30.

SAINT FRANCIS DE SALES

Dailey, Thomas. ["From Francis to Francis: How a Saint and a Pope Share a Vision of Preaching."](#) In *Love Is the Perfection of the Mind* (2017), pp. 19-34.

Dailey, Thomas. ["Preaching as Praying: Complementary Methods for Sacred Eloquence."](#) *New Theology Review* 31/1 (October 2018): 11-17.

Dailey, Thomas. ["The Soulful Homily."](#) *Homiletic & Pastoral Review*, May 2000, pp. 56-60.

see more in the section on "Salesian Homiletics" on the seminary's website at <https://www.scs.edu/chairs/foley-chair-of-social-communications/publications/studies/>

POPE FRANCIS

Cameron, Peter John. [*Evangelii Gaudium and Pope Francis' Revolution in Preaching*](#). CreateSpace Publishing, 2014.

Dailey, Thomas. ["Preaching the 'Story of Stories'."](#) *Homiletic & Pastoral Review* (26 Feb 2020).

Heille, Gregory. [*The Preaching of Pope Francis: Missionary Discipleship and the Ministry of the Word*](#). Liturgical Press, 2015.

Landry, Fr. Roger. "Pope Francis and the Missionary Reform of Sacred Preaching" ([seminar notes](#))

Proposed Calendar

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

<i>Date</i>	<i>Class Focus</i>	<i>Related Task(s)</i>
Jan 19 (TH)	<i>introduction to the course</i> Recap of PTH 601 and a look ahead	review: syllabus
Jan 23	<i>feast day lecture</i> St. Francis de Sales: Master of Sacred Eloquence	attend the Foley Lecture at 7pm
Jan 30	practicum – “A” preaches / “B” outlines	on the First Sunday of Lent
Feb 6	practicum – “B” preaches / “A” outlines	on the Third Sunday of Lent (scrutiny)
Feb 13	lecture – the teaching of Pope Francis	read: Evangelii Gaudium , nn. 135-159
Feb 20	lecture – the example of Pope Francis	
Feb 27	practicum – “A” preaches / “B” outlines	on Easter Sunday (day)
Mar 6	practicum – “B” preaches / “A” outlines	on Divine Mercy Sunday
Mar 13	conference – Word on Fire with Bishop Barron	listen: BARRON podcast
Mar 20	practicum – “A” preaches / “B” outlines	on the Fifth Sunday of Easter
Mar 27	practicum – “B” preaches / “A” outlines	on the Ascension of the Lord
<i>Apr 3</i>	<i>no class – Holy Week</i>	
<i>Apr 10</i>	<i>no class – Easter Week</i>	
Apr 17	seminar – episcopal thoughts on preaching	read: VIGNERON pastoral read: DOLAN address at TC
Apr 24	<i>conclusion to the course</i> History of Homiletics ... Preaching in a Digital Age	read: COYNE article
May 1+2	final exam – public preaching <i>(special schedule & instructions)</i>	ALL preach on Pentecost (Mass during Day)
May 10	<i>no class ... due date for final exam – written essay</i> <i>(special instructions)</i>	send by email on or before May 10

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.”
