



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 2023



(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



Contact Information:

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Office: TS #260
Office Hours by appointment

This syllabus was last revised on 8/14/23 at 11:52 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 the didactic lectures and discussions about the theological readings. The class is sub-divided into 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 reading quizzes and class discussion*
2. a fuller understanding of the interpretation of Sacred Scripture as foundational to the preparation of the homily
 - *assessed by class discussion and practicum exercises*
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**. For each period so designated in the course calendar ...

- All students will complete the assigned **reading** prior to class and participate in a **discussion** of the thoughts expressed in the readings.
- The professor will lead the discussion of the readings, lecture on the designated topic, and suggest points / raise questions for further consideration.

The PRACTICUM element incorporates the didactic into the **art of preaching**. For each period so designated in the course calendar ...

- One group of students will **prepare and deliver** a 5-8 minute homily based on the specified texts from the Lectionary.
 - Assigned students will **evaluate** each homily by offering verbal feedback immediately 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.

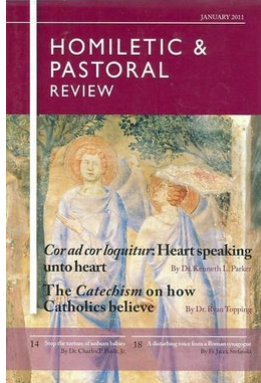
Assessment of learning in this course will be based on accumulated knowledge of the theology of homiletics and developmental progress in the art of preaching. Grades will be determined as follows:

- (1) **Class Engagement** (10% of final grade) ... The professor will determine a grade based on the student's contributions to in-class discussions, preaching critiques, and other ad hoc tasks.
- (2) **Reading Quizzes** (30% of the final grade) ... The professor will determine a cumulative grade for the 5-question quizzes on each of the assigned readings.
- (3) **Practicum Exercises** (30% of the final grade) ... The professor will determine a grade for the three written assignments submitted by students.
- (4) **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.

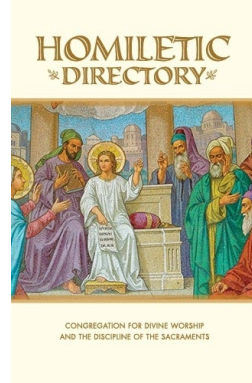
Academic Resources

REQUIRED Texts for this Course

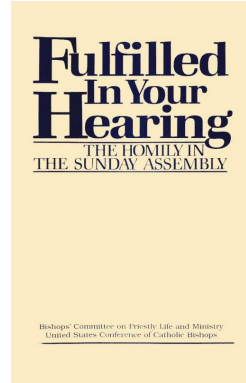
(linked to **online** versions at no cost; reading selections are also posted on Populi)



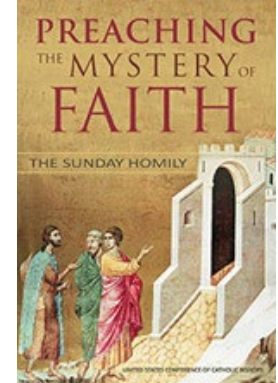
on the 'Story of Stories'
([article](#))



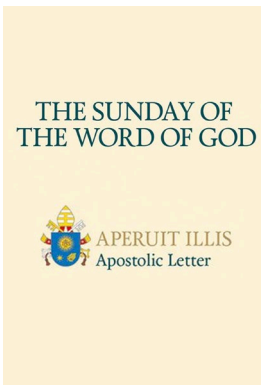
Vatican, 2014
([nn. 1-36](#))



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



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



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



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

SUPPLEMENTAL Texts

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

Proposed Schedule

subject to change at the discretion of the professor

- Unless otherwise noted, ALL classes begin at **1:45 p.m.**
 - “Didactic” sessions (75 min.) take place in Vianney Hall #106.
 - “Practicum” exercises (150 min.) take place in the Sacred Heart chapel in the College building.
- All information for the course will be posted in Populi. Timely communications will also be emailed.

section "A"		section "B"	
DOMINIC CIVITELLA	ANH DO MAI	CHARLES CAPPELLI	ARKESH RAGEL
JUAN COLON	BRADLEY MOSS	THOMAS CIPOLLA	GRIFFEN SCHLAEPFER
TYLE DAVIS	JAMES NGO	DECLAN COLE	SACHIN SONATAKKE
ANDREW HEIDELBAUGH	ALEXANDER SOLSMA	ALEXANDER CROSS	SANDUN THARUKA
TYLER LOCH	JEFFREY TOMCZYK	DOMINIC MIRENDA	BR. JOSHUA VARGAS, C.O.
PAUL MACH			

<i>DATE</i>	<i>Topical FOCUS</i>	<i>Preparatory READING</i>
Aug 28	Introduction to the course	READ the syllabus!
<i>Aug 29 @ 7pm</i>	<i>Special Event: The Cardinals' Forum</i>	<i>your attendance is expected!</i>
Aug 31 (TH)	didactic – The “Story” of Sacred Scripture	Homiletic & Pastoral Review article
<i>Sept 4</i>	<i>no class – Labor Day holiday</i>	
Sept 11	didactic – Interpreting the Biblical “Story”	Homiletic Directory , nn. 4-36
Sept 18	didactic – The “Story” of the Advent Season	Fulfilled in Your Hearing
<i>Sept 25</i>	<i>class meets for technological training in the One-Button Studio (VH #103)</i>	
Oct 2	practicum – “A” preaches / “B” writes	on First Sunday of Advent
<i>Oct 9</i>	<i>no class – Columbus Day holiday</i>	
Oct 16	practicum – “B” preaches / “A” writes	on Third Sunday of Advent
Oct 23	didactic – Theological Anthropology for Preaching	Preaching the Mystery of Faith
Oct 30	practicum – “A” preaches / “B” writes	on Christmas Mass during the NIGHT
Nov 6	practicum – “B” preaches / “A” writes	on Christmas Mass during the DAY
Nov 13	didactic – The “Story” of the Christmas Season	Aperuit Illis
Nov 20	practicum – “A” preaches / “B” writes	on Holy Family
Nov 27	practicum – “B” preaches / “A” writes	on Mary, Mother of God
Dec 4	Conclusion to the course	“Life Creates History” (WCD 2020)
Dec 6 / 7 / 11 7:00 – 8:30 pm	final examination - HOMILY <i>(special schedule & instructions)</i>	ALL preach on the Epiphany

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. [Use of AI technologies to create homilies or written exercises related to homilies will be considered an instance of academic \(and pastoral\) 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.”
