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Saint Charles Seminary Receives \$1.2 Million Grant from Lilly Endowment to Improve Preaching
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The GRANT

- In the Spring of 2023, Saint Charles Borromeo Seminary submitted a competitive grant proposal in the nationwide “Compelling Preaching Initiative” @ Lilly Endowment, Inc.
- In September, the Seminary was awarded one of eighty grants in this initiative, for the purpose of establishing a Catholic Preaching Institute in the Archdiocese of Philadelphia.
- The grant project begins in January 2024 and runs through December 2028.

The PROJECT

Saint Charles Borromeo Seminar will establish a *Catholic Preaching Institute* for archdiocesan clergy (priests and permanent deacons) assigned to parish ministry. The Institute will offer a series of integrated activities that aim at bringing about a homiletic revival among the people of God in the Archdiocese of Philadelphia.

- *research* — two surveys (pre/post), conducted in collaboration with the Catholic Leadership Institute, that will gauge parishioners’ weekly experience, throughout the archdiocese, in terms of specific elements that contribute to compelling preaching
- *commentaries* — weekly email newsletter to all clergy and any registered users, later converted to blog posts, that provide scholarly and popular insights on the Scripture readings for each Sunday
- *workshops* — a twelve-part instructional series, by way of videos and/or webinars, for clergy assigned to parish ministry, that presents key topics associated with compelling preaching, especially those identified in the research survey as being in need of development
- *mentoring* — two year-long cohorts for twelve teams, each consisting of a preaching fellow + a clergy mentor + three lay advisors, who will meet monthly to review each preacher’s homily, provide constructive feedback, and suggest helpful recommendations for improvement
- *preaching series* — occasional events, drawing parishes and neighborhoods together, that feature a three-night series of sermons for the public on topics of social concern to any/all believers
- *festival* — an annual public event that showcases the theory and practice of compelling preaching, in keeping with the Seminary’s motto: *exiit qui seminat* (“he went forth who sows”)
- *resources* — an online collection of books, journals, and digital media, via the centralized web portal