

## 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