



Saturday, 4 October 2025

FESTIVAL OF THE WORD

“Prospective Preachers”

PARTICIPATION GUIDELINES

CPI will invite a total of eight (8) **representatives** to participate in this session, to include ...

- one (1) student in the M.Div. degree program from each of the following seminaries:
 - Missio Seminary (Philadelphia, PA)
 - Palmer Theological Seminary of Eastern University (St. Davids, PA)
 - Reformed Episcopal Seminary (Oreland, PA)
 - United Lutheran Seminary (Philadelphia, PA)
 - Westminster Theological Seminary (Glenside, PA)
- one (1) student from each of these groups of M.Div. candidates at Saint Charles Seminary:
 - those in formation for ordination as priests in the Archdiocese of Philadelphia
 - those in formation for ordination as priests in partner dioceses/institutes
 - those in formation for ordination as permanent deacons in the Archdiocese of Philadelphia
- Each seminary determines its own method for selecting its representative, as certified by the chief academic officer of that seminary.
 - The chief academic officer of each seminary is to forward to CPI the names and contact information for that seminary’s representative.

Each of the eight representatives is to craft a **sermon** based on a biblical passage selected for each year’s Festival.

- Sermons should demonstrate a methodology that joins insightful biblical analysis with meaningful contemporary relevance.
- Sermons for the 2025 Festival are to focus on **Romans 5:1-11**.

Each of the eight representatives is to **submit a written text or a video recording** of his/her sermon to the staff of the Catholic Preaching Institute.

- The length of the submission (text or video) should equate to a sermon that does not exceed 15 minutes.
- All submissions are to be electronic, sent via email to preaching@scs.edu, and are **due by Friday, September 19, 2025 at 5:00 p.m.**

Of the submissions received, CPI will select three (3) as **finalists** for the awards.

- Finalists will be **announced on September 26.**
- Each finalist is expected to preach his/her sermon to attendees during the first session of the Festival (scheduled for 1:15 to 2:15 p.m.).
- Each finalist will be given a maximum of 15 minutes for his/her sermon.

Following the three sermons, a panel of listeners selected by CPI will determine and announce the **award winners.**

- Prizes of \$250 / \$100 / \$50 will be awarded.
- All three sermons will be recorded and posted (with permission) on the CPI archive of the Festival.

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Seminary officers and/or representatives may contact preaching@scs.edu for further information.

All information about the Festival is available online at www.scs.edu/preaching/festival