

ST. PETER'S SEMINARY/KING'S UNIVERSITY COLLEGE
at The University of Western Ontario
THEOLOGY OF PROCLAMATION 5471A
September – December 2018 - Thursdays 9:30 – 11:30, Room 108

Lecturer: Fr. Al Momney
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Appointments available upon request

A. COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is a study of the theology of the proclaimed word, with an emphasis on the knowledge and skills needed to preach in a liturgical context.

B. GOALS

This course will assist students to grow in the following knowledge, skills and attitudes.

Knowledge

1. To understand the place and importance of preaching within the life of the Church.
2. To grasp the nature and function of the liturgical homily.
3. To know how to go about preparing a liturgical homily, and where to go to find resources to assist in this task.
4. To have a familiarity with the structure of the lectionary, and how that structure affects the task of preaching.

Skills

1. To be able to prepare and deliver an effective homily in various liturgical contexts (eg. Sunday and daily Mass, weddings, funerals, etc.).

Attitudes

1. A fuller appreciation of the significance of the homily within the liturgical context.
2. A deep love for the gift of the call to liturgical preaching.
3. A commitment to life-long learning in preaching.

C. ASSIGNMENTS AND EVALUATIONS

I Interviews (20%)

Each student will be required to do two interviews, one with a married couple or a single person, and one with an ordained priest.

For the interview with the married couple or single person, the student will be required to contact a local pastor, and ask for recommended parishioners to interview. Once given names, the student will be responsible for arranging and conducting the interview. The purpose of the interview will be to get the perspective of an average lay person or couple on what they would want to say to a seminarian who is preparing to preach. Suggested questions will be provided for each student.

The interview of an ordained priest will take place either by phone, mail, e-mail, or in person. The purpose of this interview will be to listen to an experienced preacher, who will be invited to share with the student how they go about preparing for a homily, and five pieces of advice they would want to give to a budding preacher.

Each student will be asked to submit in written form the results of their interviews and their reflections on them, as well as to make a brief (5-15 minutes), presentation to the class on the result of their findings. Students will be asked to be ready to present by **Thursday, October 16, 2008.**

II One Written Sunday Homily (40%)

Each student must submit a written Sunday homily, on the readings which will be designated for each student, accompanied by a log describing the process used in the construction of the homily. This is to be submitted by **Thursday, November 6, 2008.**

III Oral Exam On Course Content (40%)

There will be a 10 minute oral exam on the full content of the course at a mutually agreed upon time during the first semester.

D. COURSE OUTLINE AND TEXTS

PART 1: INTRODUCTION TO THE COURSE

- The purpose of the course, and the expected course work.

PART 2: THE CHURCH'S MISSION: PROCLAMATION

- The Church's Mandate
- The Bishops' Mandate
- The Priests' Mandate
- The Deacon's Mandate
- The Mandate of the Laity

Required Reading:

Congregation for the Clergy, Circular Letter, "The Priest: Teacher of the Word, Minister of the Sacraments, Leader of the Community", 1999. (Section II: Teachers of the Word).

PART 3: THE WORD MADE FLESH TODAY

- The tradition and contemporary theology on the importance and efficacy of the word.

Required Reading:

Cannon, Kathleen, O.P. "Theology of the Word," in Peter E. Fink (ed.), *The New Dictionary of Sacramental Worship*. The Liturgical Press: Collegeville, 1990, pp. 1323-1331.

National Conference of Catholic Bishops. *Fulfilled in Your Hearing: The Homily in the Sunday Assembly*. USCCB, Office of Publishing Services. Washington, 1982 (Epilogue: The Power of the Word).

PART 4: A THEOLOGY OF PREACHING

- Theological Reflection on the nature of the preaching act

Required Reading:

Hilkert, Mary Catherine, O.P. "Naming Grace: A Theology of Proclamation," *Worship* 60 (1986), pp. 434-448.

Hill, William, O.P. "Toward a Theology of Preaching: One Model and One Question," in *Preaching and the Non-Ordained: An Interdisciplinary Study* (Nadine Foley, O.P., editor). The Liturgical Press: Collegeville, 1983, pp. 91-110.

PART 5: THE HISTORY OF PREACHING

Required Reading:

- J. Kevin Coyle, "From Homily to Sermon to Homily: The Content of Christian Preaching in Historical Perspective," *Liturgical Ministry* 1 (1992), 3-9.

PART 6: IMAGES OF THE HOMILIST

- The Herald
- The Teacher
- The Interpreter
- The Witness

Required Reading:

National Conference of Catholic Bishops. *Fulfilled in Your Hearing: The Homily in the Sunday Assembly*. USCCB, Office of Publishing Services. Washington, 1982 (Section II: The Preacher).

Sloyan, Gerard S., "Is Church Teaching Neglected When the Lectionary Is Preached?" *Worship* 61 (March 1987), pp. 126-140.

Waznak, Robert P. *An Introduction to the Homily*. Liturgical Press, 1998 (Chapter 2: The Homilist as Herald, Teacher, Interpreter, and Witness, pp. 31-71).

PART 7: THE NATURE AND FUNCTION OF THE LITURGICAL HOMILY

- A Threefold Division of Preaching
- Terminology: Sermon vs. Homily
- Various descriptions of a homily
- Some Fundamental Assertions About the Liturgical Homily
- What A Homily Is Not

Required Reading:

Burghardt, Walter, S.J. "Do This in Memory of Me: The Homily as Liturgy," in Walter Burghardt, *Preaching: The Art and the Craft*. Paulist Press, 1987, pp. 108-118.

Congar, Yves, O.P. "Sacramental Worship and Preaching," in *The Renewal of Preaching: Theory and Practice* (Concilium 33), 1968, pp. 51-63.

National Conference of Catholic Bishops. *Fulfilled in Your Hearing: The Homily in the Sunday Assembly*. USCCB, Office of Publishing Services. Washington, 1982 (Section III: The Homily).

PART 8: THE LISTENER

Required Reading:

Bausch, William J. *Storytelling the Word*. Twenty-Third Publications, 1996. (Chapter 2: "Who's Out There?", pp. 19-40).

Fitzgerald, George R, C.S.P. *A Practical Guide to Preaching*. Paulist Press, 1980. (Chapter 4: Congregational Analysis: Who, What and Where Are My People?, pp. 63-78).

National Conference of Catholic Bishops. *Fulfilled in Your Hearing: The Homily in the Sunday Assembly*. USCCB, Office of Publishing Services. Washington, 1982 (Section I: The Assembly).

PART 9: THE LECTIONARY

- Ecclesial statements
- Structure of the Lectionary
- Choice of Readings: Options for the Homilist

Required Reading:

Bonneau, Normand. "The Sunday Lectionary: Underlying Principles and Patterns," *Liturgical Ministry* 5 (Spring, 1996), pp. 49-58.

PART 10: PREPARING A HOMILY

- An 11-Step Process for Creating a Homily
- Introductions to the Homily
- Conclusions to the Homily

Required Reading:

Burghardt, Walter, S.J. "Fire in the Belly: From Experience Through Imagination to Passion," *Seminary Journal* No. 3, Winter 1997, pp. 33-42.

Burghardt, Walter, S.J. "The preacher incites people to imagine," *Theology Digest* 43:1 (Spring, 1996), pp. 29-36.

National Conference of Catholic Bishops. *Fulfilled in Your Hearing: The Homily in the Sunday Assembly*. USCCB, Office of Publishing Services. Washington, 1982 (Section IV: Homiletic Method).

Senior, Donald. "Not By Exegesis Alone...From Scholarship to Preaching," *Church* (Fall 1986), pp. 16-20.

Untener, Ken. *Preaching Better: Practical Suggestions for Homilists* (Chapter 8: Preparing a Homily: Just One Pearl...but of Great Price). Paulist Press, 1999, pp. 42-47.

PART 11: THE DELIVERY OF THE HOMILY

- Dealing with nervousness
- Delivery Style
- Preaching location
- Audio/visuals?
- Dialogue homilies?

PART 12: THE FUNERAL HOMILY

Required Reading:

Krieg, Robert A. "The Funeral Homily: A Theological View," *Worship* 58 (1984), 222-239.

Melloh, John Allyn. "Homily or Eulogy? The Dilemma of Funeral Preaching," *Worship* 67 (1993) 502-518.

PART 13: THE WEDDING HOMILY

PART 14: PREACHING WITH CHILDREN

PART 15: PREACHING AND MORAL CONCERNS

Required Reading:

Bouchard, Charles E, O.P. "Authentic Preaching on Moral Issues," in *The Company of Preachers*. Aquinas Institute of Theology Faculty. The Liturgical Press, 1993, pp. 191-209.

Burghardt, Walter J., S.J. "Preaching, Role of," in *The New Dictionary of Catholic Social Thought* (Judith A. Dwyer, editor). The Liturgical Press, 1994, 777-780.

Hamm, Dennis. "Preaching Biblical Justice," *Church* Spring 1996, 17-21.

Rueter, Alvin C. "The Risky but Scriptural Appeal to Self-Interest," in Alvin C. Rueter, *Making Good Preaching Better*. The Liturgical Press, 1997, pp. 24-43.

PART 16: SNIPETS OF WISDOM ON PREACHING

Required Reading:

Burghardt, Walter, S.J. "Preaching: Twenty-Five Tips," *Church* (Winter 1996), pp. 20-23.

Cormier, Jay. "Five Surefire Ways to Bomb This Sunday," *Celebration* (August, 1988), pp. 305-307.

Devries, Kate. "Preaching Well: Pearls of Wisdom," *Church* (Fall 2000), pp. 30-35.

Greely, Andrew. "Priests Should Make Preaching Their Number One Job," *U.S. Catholic* 58, No. 12 (December 1993), pp. 13-14.

O'Malley, William, S.J. "Ten Commandments for Homilists," *Aim: Aids in Ministry* (Summer 1984), pp. 5-7.

Untener, Most Rev. Ken. "The Fundamental Mistakes of Preaching," *New Theology Review* (February 2001), pp. 5-13.

PART 17: THE PERSON OF THE PREACHER

Required Reading:

Burghard, Walter, S.J. "The Lord Opened The Mouth of the Ass," in Walter Burghardt, *Preaching: The Art and the Craft*. Paulist Press, 1987, pp. 42-53.

COURSE TEXTS:

Assigned readings.

E. UNIVERSITY REGULATIONS

Students are responsible for knowing the University's academic policies and regulations and any particularities of their own course of study. These can all be found at the University's website (<http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/appeals/scholoff.pdf>). Ignorance of these policies is not an excuse for any violation thereof. The following policies are particularly important to note:

It is the responsibility of the student to organize his or her work so that the assignments are completed on time. For a serious reason, a student may approach the professor before the due-date, and may be granted an extension at the discretion of the professor. A penalty of 10% of the value of the assignment will be deducted for each day it is overdue without permission.