

**ST. PETER'S SEMINARY/KING'S UNIVERSITY COLLEGE**  
**at *The University of Western Ontario***

**THEOLOGY OF PROCLAMATION 5471A**

**September – December, 2024**

**Thursdays 1-3 p.m., Room 147**

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 5-page Paper on the topic: “What is a liturgical homily?” (20%)**

Drawing from the readings assigned, each student will be required to submit a 3-page paper, 12-point font, double spaced, on their understanding of the liturgical homily. The assignment may be submitted *at a date of your choice*.

### **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 *at a date of your choice*.

### **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 CHURCH'S LEGISLATION ON PREACHING**

Handout

### **PART 4: A THEOLOGY OF LITURGICAL PREACHING**

Theological Reflection on the nature of the preaching act

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.

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

Levada, Cardinal William. "The Homilist: Teacher of the Faith." *Origins* Vol. 37, Number 38, March 6, 2008, pp. 601-608.

Cavadini, John, "Preaching and Catechesis: Mending the Rift between Scripture and Doctrine," in Michael E. Connors (ed.), *We Preach Christ Crucified*. Collegeville, MN.: The Liturgical Press, 2014, pp. 66-82.

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, pp. 17-26).

### **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: THE LISTENER**

### 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 I: The Assembly).

Tisdale, Leonora Tubbs, "Exegeting the Congregation," in Thomas Long and Leonora Tubbs Tisdale (eds.), *Teaching Preaching as a Christian Practice*. Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 2008, pp. 75-89.

## **PART 7: 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 8: PREPARING A HOMILY**

A 12-Step Process for Creating a Homily  
Introductions to the Homily  
Conclusions to the Homily

### Required Reading:

Miller, Charles, "The Four General Ends," in Charles Miller, *Ordained to Preach: A Theology and Practice of Preaching*. Eugene, Oregon: Wipf and Stock Publishers, 2003, pp. 81-94.

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).

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.

Wilhelm, Deborah, ““Murder Your Darlings”: How to Edit for Effective Preaching,” in Michael E. Connors, CSC (ed.), *Effective Preaching: Bringing People into an Encounter with God*. Chicago: Liturgy Training Publications, 2018, pp. 111-122.

## **PART 9: THE DELIVERY OF THE HOMILY**

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

## **PART 10: THE FUNERAL HOMILY**

Required Reading:

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

## **PART 11: THE WEDDING HOMILY**

## **PART 12: PREACHING WITH CHILDREN**

Garrido, Ann M., “Preaching among Children,” *Liturgical Ministry* 15 (Winter 2006), pp 45-50.

## **PART 13: PREACHING ON CONTROVERSIAL ISSUES**

Bouchard, Charles E., O.P., “Text or Topic? Doing or Being? The Challenge of Preaching on Moral Issues,” in Michael Monshau, O.P. (ed.). *The Grace and Task of Preaching*. Dublin: Dominican Publications, 2006, pp. 270-293.

## COURSE TEXTS AND ADDITIONAL REQUIRED READING

Course packet

Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments, *Homiletic Directory* ([http://www.vatican.va/roman\\_curia/congregations/ccdds/documents/rc\\_con\\_ccdds\\_doc\\_20140629\\_direttorio-omiletico\\_en.html](http://www.vatican.va/roman_curia/congregations/ccdds/documents/rc_con_ccdds_doc_20140629_direttorio-omiletico_en.html))

U.S. Bishops, *Preaching the Mystery of Faith: The Sunday Homily*, 2012.

## E. UNIVERSITY INFORMATION

### Support Services

Students who are in emotional/mental health distress should refer to Mental Health@Western: <http://www.uwo.ca/unocom/meantalhealth> for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.

University Students Council provides many valuable support services for students (including the health insurance plan) <http://westernusc.ca/services/>.

Information about Counselling and Student Development, including Accessibility Services (formerly Services for Students with Disabilities) at King's is available at <http://www.kings.uwo.ca/about-kings/who-we-are/administrative-departments/dean-of-students/>

For emotional/mental health assistance see: <http://www.kings.uwo.ca/current-students/campus-services/student-support-services/personal-counselling/>.

The website for Academic Services at King's University College is <http://www.kings.uwo.ca/current-students/academic-support/>.

### Academic Offenses

Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at the following webpage: [http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/appeals/scholastic\\_discipline\\_undergrad.pdf](http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf).

### Policy on Accommodation re: Medical Illness

Students are to see the Policy on Accommodation for Medical Illness: [http://uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/appeals/accommodation\\_medical.pdf](http://uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/accommodation_medical.pdf).