Dominican School of Philosophy and Theology  
Course Syllabus: HM 1073  
Foundations of Preaching  
Fall 2015

Professor: Father Serge Propst, O.P., Ph.D.
Class Time: Tuesdays, 8:10 to 11:00 am and 12:40 to 3:30 pm
Classroom: Chapel
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Meetings  By appointment

Course Description and Goals
The goal of this Foundational course is to enable the student to develop the skills necessary to prepare and deliver, daily, a five-minute homily on a text of Scripture. To this end, the student will learn the necessary skills of preparing the text of Scripture for proclamation so that its meaning is readily grasped and then preparing and delivering a short homily that will encounter the congregation with Jesus who is made present in the proclamation of the Scriptural text. In conjunction with the above goals, the student will be assisted in developing a theology of preaching and a spirituality that will assist his or her Christian ministry.

Because of the variations in enrollment and the differing needs of the students, this syllabus may be amended in response to the concrete needs of the students. Note: This course is from the Roman Catholic perspective and does not consider other conceptions of preaching held by different Christian denominations. All readings with the exception of a book on public speaking are all primary sources. Note: Episcopal students might want to consult the dean at the Church Divinity School of the Pacific (CDSP) before registering for this course.

Outcomes and Assignments
1. During the course the student will develop and present at least five homilies. The written text of the homily will be due the day before its presentation.
2. After each presentation, the class will critique the act of preaching in a positive way so as to help the presenter improve his or her preaching skills.
3. To assist the students in developing their preaching skills, a lecture on one or more aspects of preaching and its theology/spirituality will be delivered and then discussed in the following class.
4. When necessary, one or more short research papers will be required.
5. At times, a short quiz may be given to ascertain that the students have read and comprehended the required texts.
6. The final grade will depend upon the effort made by the student to improve
their preaching skills, class participation, required research papers and any quiz grades.

**Philosophy**

The primary concern of this course is that the student studies, thinks and prays so as to deepen his or her personal appreciation for the act of preaching. Each student is expected to try to absorb and reflect on what is offered in this course and apply it to his or her own act of preaching.

**Required Texts**

**N.B. All these texts are available on line**

**Basic Texts**

- **Bible:** A Complete Bible with all the books of recognized as canonical by the Roman Catholic Church, Revised Standard Version, Catholic Edition, Jerusalem Bible, New American Bible, etc.
- **The Catechism of the Catholic Church**
- The Second Vatican Council
  - Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy Sacrosanctum Concilium
  - Dogmatic Constitution on the Church Lumen gentium
  - Dogmatic Constitution on Divine Revelation Dei Verbum
  - Pastoral Constitution on the Church in the Modern World Gaudium et spes
  - Decree on the Missionary Activity of the Church Ad gentes
  - Decree on the Ministry and Life of Priests Presbyterorum ordinis

**Papal Magisterium**

- **Paul VI**
  - Encyclical Mysterium fidei
  - Apostolic Exhortation Evangelii nuntiandi

- **John Paul II**
  - Apostolic Exhortation Catechesi tradendae
  - Apostolic Exhortation Pastores dabo vobis
  - Apostolic Exhortation Pastores gregis
  - Apostolic Letter Dies Domini
  - Apostolic Letter Novo millennio ineunte
  - General Audience, 4 October 2

- **Benedict XVI**
  - Apostolic Exhortation Sacramentum caritatis
  - Apostolic Exhortation Verbum Domini
  - Address at Rome’s Diocesan Conference (June 17, 2010)
Francis
Apostolic Exhortation Evangelium gaudium

Liturgical Books
  General Instruction of the Roman Missal
  Introduction of the Lectionary for Mass
  Introduction of the Order of Funerals
  Introduction of the Rite of Marriage

Code of Canon Law

Documents of Congregations of the Roman Curia

  Sacred Congregation of Rites
    Instruction Inter oecumenici (26 November 1964)
    Instruction Eucharisticum mysterium (25 May 1967)
  Congregation for Divine Worship
    Instruction Liturgicae instaurationes (5 September 1970)
    Homiletic Directory (Vatican 2014)
  Congregation for the Clergy
    General Catechetical Directory (11 April 1971)
    Directory for the Ministry and Life of Priests (31 January 1994)
  Congregation for Bishops
    Apostolorum successores (22 February 2004)
  Pontifical Biblical Commission
    The Interpretation of the Bible in the Church, 1994
  United States Conference of Catholic Bishops
    Fulfilled in your hearing: Homily in the Sunday Assembly, 1982
    Preaching the Mystery of Faith, the Sunday homily

Class Calendar and Assignments

This syllabus is very provisional due to the varying number of students and the practical needs that they will encounter in preparing and delivering homilies.

Session 01: September 08, 2015
  Lecture: Introductory material, Charity’s Critique, Paradigm for Catholic worship and ministry, Relation of rhetoric and preaching
  Assignment: Read and study: the following documents
  1. Homiletic Directory (Vatican 2014)
     Prepare the assigned Scriptural text by outlining it, finding related texts in Scripture and be prepared to discuss its obvious meaning.

Session 02: September 15, 2015
**Practicum:** Discussion on the relation of preaching to Scripture in Homiletic Directory, Dei Verbum and Sacrosanctum Concilium. Presentation of the outline of the assigned Scriptural text, the related Scriptural texts and the obvious meaning of the assigned Scriptural text.

**Lecture:** Primacy of Scripture, Nature and Importance of Proclaiming the text

**Assignment:** Read and Study
1. Pontifical Biblical Commission, The Interpretation of the Bible in the Church, 1994

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**Session 03: September 22, 2015**

**Practicum:** Discuss the importance and limitation of the historical-critical method and compare the literal meaning of Scripture with the understanding of Scripture when as used in the documents of the Church.

**Lecture:** The dead page to living Word.

**Assignment:** Read and study:
1. General Audience, 4 October
2. Address at Rome’s Diocesan Conference (June 17, 2010)
Prepare the Scriptural text for proclamation

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**Session 04: September 29, 2015**

**Practicum:** Discussion of the importance of Scripture and Zikkaron. Proclamation of the Scriptural Passage and a critique by the class

**Lecture:** Word Craft, Principles of Public Speaking, Study of the Scriptural Text

**Assignment:** Study and develop an exegesis for the assigned Scriptural text. Read and study you chosen text on the principles of public speaking.

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**Session 05: October 06, 2015**

**Practicum:** Discuss the ways of studying the text of Scripture and the tools to be used. Present the exegesis of the assigned Scriptural text and a critique by the class

**Lecture:** Prayer over Scripture, Resonance and Illustration

**Assignment:** Write a parable or a drama or other illustration of the assigned Scriptural text.

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**Session 06: October 013, 2015**

**Practicum:** Presentation of the illustration of the assigned Scriptural text and a critique by the class

**Lecture:** Haiku as Focusing

**Discussion:** Scripture and Prayer

**Assignment:** Write 10 Haiku on the assigned Scriptural text. Proclaim the Haiku.
**Session 07: October 20, 2015**  
**Practicum:** Discuss the primacy of simplicity and focus. Presentation of the Haiku and a critique by the class  
**Lecture:** Preparation and Delivery  
**Assignment:** Prepare a homily on the assigned Scriptural text.

**Session 08: November 03, 2015**  
**Practicum:** Development and preparation of the homily. Proclamation of and preaching on the assigned Scriptural text and a critique by the class  
**Lecture:** Developing preaching off of non-Scriptural texts  
**Assignment:** Prepare a homily on an article from the Catechism of the Catholic Church

**Session 06: November 10, 2015**  
**Practicum:** Discuss preaching on non-Scriptural texts. Proclamation of a text of Scripture and preaching the homily written for an article from the Catechism of the Catholic Church and a critique by the class  
**Lecture:** Nature of the act of preaching as an encountering Jesus.  
**Assignment:** Prepare the assigned non-Scriptural text, then discern a proper Scriptural text that embodies the meaning of the non-Scriptural text and write a homily for it.

**Session 10: November 17, 2015**  
**Practicum:** Discuss the nature of the act of preaching. Proclamation of the assigned text of Scripture and preaching the homily followed by a critique by the class  
**Lecture:** Nature of the preacher.  
**Assignment:** Prepare a homily on the assigned situation

**Session 11: November 24, 2015**  
**Practicum:** Discuss who is the preacher? Proclamation of a Scriptural text and preach the homily for the assigned situation followed by a critique by the class.  
**Lecture:** Liturgy and preaching  
**Assignment:** Prepare the assigned Scriptural text for proclamation and write a homily for it.

**Session 12: December 01, 2015**  
**Practicum:** Discuss the place of preaching in the liturgy. Proclamation of the assigned Scriptural text and preaching written for it followed by a critique by the class.  
**Lecture:** Spirituality of the preacher  
**Assignment:** Prepare the assigned Scriptural text for proclamation and
write a homily for it.

**Session 13: December 08, 2015**

**Practicum:** Discuss the ways to develop a preacher’s spirituality
Proclamation of the assigned Scriptural text and preaching written for it followed by a critique by the class.

**Lecture:** Mistakes in preaching

**Assignment:** Write a short summary of the course; including, the manner in which you prepare a text of Scripture for preaching, the way in which you develop homily for the text of Scripture and the way in which the course has formed you as a preacher.

**Session 13: December 08, 2015**

**Practicum:** Final review of course.  
**Lecture:** Humility in preaching

**Discussion:** Most common and mistakes made in preaching