

Diocese of Worcester Permanent Diaconate Program Homiletics Practicum

2018 Spring Semester: March 19, 26, **April 2 (tentative change)**, April 9, 16, 23, 30, May 7, 14 and 21.

Monday Evenings: 7:00p.m. – 9:00p.m. St. Anna Church – 199 Lancaster Street, Leominster, MA.

Instructor: Rev. Father Frederick D. Fraini, III

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Course Format & Description

This ten week course provides students with a further development on the theory and practice of preaching. This course develops the theology and methodology of preaching in varied liturgical seasons throughout the liturgical calendar year. Specifically, the seasons of Lent, Advent, and Ordinary Time will be the primary focus of our attention during this semester. Diaconate candidates will be afforded the opportunity to prepare homilies which will be shared among classmates for feedback. Emphasis will be given to the liturgical and sacramental context within which Catholic preaching takes place.

Mission Statement

Those who teach preaching embrace the homiletic vision proposed in the American Bishops' document, *Fulfilled in Your Hearing: The Homily in the Sunday Assembly* (FIYH). It is believed that the homily is to break open the scriptural word so that the assembly's faith may be reintegrated and renewed so as to name the presence of God in the lives of the people.

Foundational Principles

- The homily, as a part of the liturgy, is addressed to an assembly gathered in faith to worship God.
- The homily is to draw upon the texts of the Bible as they are presented in the lectionary to interpret people's lives.
- The homily draws upon a preacher's capacity to listen to the people, pray the scriptures, and recognize the action of God in his or her own life.
- The homily requires order, clarity, and **convincing** delivery that uses language that is specific, graphic, and imaginative.
- The homily employs the language and heart of a poet and storyteller that invites the assembly to respond to God with heart and mind.

COURSE GOALS

- To embrace the mission statement belief that the homily is to break open the scriptural word so that the assembly's faith may be reintegrated and renewed so as to name the presence of God in the lives of the people.
- To follow the five foundational principles as outlined above on this syllabus.
- To further develop the theology of preaching both in theory and practice.
- To apply basic principles of communications to the preaching event.

- To know the procedure for the construction of a homily during the season of Lent, Advent, or Ordinary Time. To grow in the ability to preach with poise, confidence, and good speaking techniques.

COURSE OUTCOMES

Discipleship

Diaconate candidates will exhibit a commitment to the Church in its mission, manifested in respect for the Word of God, Tradition and the Magisterium of the Church. The candidates should demonstrate an appropriation of the Church's tradition of Pastoral, Liturgical and Servant Leadership.

Formation

Candidates develop a disposition of and skills for human, intellectual, and spiritual development, alongside pastoral application. They will demonstrate an ability to live a life permeated by the charge to: ***"Receive the Gospel of Christ, whose herald you now are. Believe what you read, teach what you believe, and practice what you teach."***

Theological Thinking

- Students should demonstrate a fundamental knowledge of the biblical, historical, systematic, liturgical/sacramental and pastoral theologies of the Church.
- They should engage in critical thinking and ministerial practice which includes:
- Engagement in theological research
- Employment of a variety of theological and pastoral methodologies
- Analysis of a variety of theological texts and traditions
- Synthesis of insights from a variety of theological disciplines for pastoral practice
- Evaluation of theological texts and pastoral situations

Communication

- Demonstrate the ability to read and reflect critically
- Demonstrate the ability to speak both articulately and meaningfully
- Development of a verbal and non-verbal liturgical presence
- Demonstrates an ability to write with clarity and insight and adheres to standards of academic integrity

ASSESSMENT & EVALUATION

This course is pass/fail. Candidate's grade will be based on the completion of:

- Successful Completion of any Required Readings.
- Participation in Class Discussions.
- Successful Delivery of Assigned Homilies.

REQUIRED TEXTS

Candidates should obtain the following texts for the course (all are available at no cost online):

- USCCB, *Fulfilled in Your Hearing: The Homily in the Sunday Assembly* (available at [http://www.usccb.org/cs_upload/8090_1.pdf](http://www.usccb.org/cs/upload/8090_1.pdf))
- USCCB, *Preaching the Mystery of Faith: The Sunday Homily* (available at <http://www.usccb.org/beliefs-and-teaching/vocations/priesthood/priestly-life-and-ministry/upload/usccb-preaching-document.pdf>)
- Pope Francis, Apostolic Exhortation *Evangelii Gaudium* (available at http://w2.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/apost_exhortations/documents/papa-francesco_esortazione-ap_20131124_evangelii-gaudium.pdf)

3/19/2018	<p>Review of the Syllabus Homily Critique Form <i>Insight into the Season of Lent</i> St. Joseph Catastrophe</p>	<p>Assignment: Lenten Homily Preparation Ash Wednesday Homily</p>
3/26/2018	<p>Homily Analysis & Critique</p>	<p>Assignment: Lenten Homily Preparation To be assigned</p>
TBD	<p>Homily Analysis & Critique</p>	<p>Assignment: Lenten Homily Preparation To be assigned</p>
4/9/2018	<p><i>Insight into the Season of Advent</i> Unexpected Catastrophe</p>	<p>Assignment: Advent Homily Preparation To be assigned</p>
4/16/2018	<p>Homily Analysis & Critique</p>	<p>Assignment: Advent Homily Preparation To be assigned</p>
4/23/2018	<p>Homily Analysis & Critique</p>	<p>Assignment: Advent Homily Preparation To be assigned</p>

4/30/2018	<i>Insight into Ordinary Time</i> Unexpected Catastrophe	Assignment: Ordinary Time Homily Preparation
5/7/2018 5/14/2018 5/21/2018	Homily Analysis & Critique Homily Analysis & Critique Homily Analysis & Critique Class Conclusion & Next Semester	Diligent Homily Preparations Diligent Homily Preparations

Please Note: Father Fraini reserves the right to make changes to this syllabus if necessary; any changes will be made in consultation with the candidates as well as the diocesan office of the diaconate. This syllabus and all changes will be available on the St. Anna Parish website. (<http://stannaparish.org>)