

Dominican School of Philosophy and Theology  
Course Syllabus: HM 1073  
Foundations of Preaching  
Fall 2017

<b>Course</b>	HM – 1073 Fundamentals of Preaching
<b>Professor:</b>	Father Serge Propst, O.P., Ph.D.
<b>Class Time:</b>	Tuesdays, 8:10 to 11:00 am and 12:40 to 3:30 pm
<b>Classroom:</b>	Chapel
<b>Contact Information:</b>	<u>Home phone</u> 510 596 1823 <u>Cell phone</u> 510 205 2219 <u>Email</u> <a href="mailto:sergepropst@hotmail.com">sergepropst@hotmail.com</a> <u>Address</u> St. Albert's Priory 5890 Birch Court Oakland CA 94618 <u>Meetings</u> 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.

**This Syllabus is provisional!**

### **Expectations and Assignments**

1. During the course the student will develop and present at least three, hopefully more, homilies. The 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.

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**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 sincerely try to absorb and reflect on what is offered in this course and apply it to their own act of preaching

**Required Texts** (All these texts are on line, in the GTU library or will be given out by the professor)

Benedict XVI, “Sacramentum caritatis”  
Benedict XVI, “Verbum Domini”, 2010.  
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.  
Code of Canon Law  
Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments, Sacred Congregation of Rites, Instruction Eucharisticum mysterium (25 May 1967)  
Congregation for Divine Worship, Instruction Liturgicae instaurationes (5 September 1970)  
Congregation for the Clergy, General Catechetical Directory (11 April 1971)  
Congregation for the Clergy, Directory for the Ministry and Life of Priests (31 January 1994)  
Congregation for Bishops, Apostolorum successores (22 February 2004)  
Homiletic Directory, Vatican City, 2014  
Francis, Apostolic Exhortation, Evangelium gaudium  
General Introduction to the Lectionary, second edition  
General Instruction of the Roman Missal  
John Paul II, “General Audience”, 4 October 2000  
John Paul II, Apostolic Exhortation, Pastores dabo vobis  
John Paul II, Apostolic Exhortation, Pastores gregis  
John Paul II, Apostolic Letter, Dies Domini  
John Paul II, Apostolic Letter, Novo millennio ineunte  
Paul VI, “Evangelii Nuntiandi”, 1976  
Pontifical Biblical Commission, “The Interpretation of the Bible in the Church”, 1994  
Rozakis, Laurie E., “The Complete Idiot’s Guide to Public Speaking (2<sup>nd</sup> Edition), 1999 or similar book on the principles of public speaking. Your choice. (See the GTU Library)  
Sachs, John R, S.J., “Holy Spirit in Christian Worship” in the “The New Dictionary of Sacramental Worship”, editor Peter E. Fink, S.J., The Liturgical Press, Collegeville, Minnesota.  
The Catechism of the Catholic Church

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The Documents of Vatican II  
USCCB, “Fulfilled in your hearing: Homily in the Sunday Assembly”,  
National Council of Catholic Bishops, 1982  
USCCB, Preaching the Mystery of Faith, the Sunday homily

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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 05, 2017

**Lecture:** Introductory material, Charity's Critique, Paradigm for Catholic worship and ministry, Relation of rhetoric and preaching

**Assignment:** Read and study: the following documents from the Second Vatican Council: "Dei Verbum" and "Sacrosanctum Concilium".

Prepare the assigned Scriptural text by outlining it, finding related texts in Scripture and be prepared to discuss its obvious meaning.

Session 02: September 12, 2017

**Practicum:** Discussion on the relation of preaching to Scripture in "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 Pontifical Biblical Commission, "The Interpretation of the Bible in the Church", 1994

Session 03: September 19, 2017

**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: John R Sachs, S.J., "Holy Spirit in Christian Worship" in the "The New Dictionary of Sacramental Worship", editor Peter E. Fink, S.J., The Liturgical Press, Collegeville, Minnesota.

Prepare the Scriptural text for proclamation

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Session 04: September 26, 2017

**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 your chosen text on the principles of public speaking.

Session 05: October 03, 2013

**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.

Session 06: October 10, 2017

**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 17, 2017

**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: October 31, 2017

**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

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Session 06: November 7, 2017

**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 14, 2017

**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 21, 2017

**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: November 28, 2017

**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 05, 2017

**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.

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Session 13: December 12, 2017

**Practicum:** Presentation of required paper and discussion.

**Lecture:** Humility in preaching

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