

Preaching the Catholic Social Tradition
Fr. John Floeder – St. Paul Seminary

Course Description:

This course is designed as a seminar to explore ways to integrate the Catholic Social Tradition (CST) with homiletic preaching. Special attention will be directed both to the rationale and the method for preaching the Catholic Social Tradition. The course is primarily oriented toward the art of preaching, rather than to learning the moral content of CST, with which students should already have some familiarity from previous coursework.

Objectives:

- To reflect on the relationship between homiletic preaching and the Catholic Social Tradition
- To reflect on the particular obstacles to preaching CST in the current milieu
- To learn and to practice techniques and fundamental approaches to homiletic form when integrating CST in preaching
- To research CST in specific areas in order to broaden knowledge for effective CST preaching

Required Texts:

Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace, *Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church* (Liberia Editrice Vaticana, 2004). Also available from the Vatican website.

Course readings available on Blackboard.

Course Requirements and Criteria for Evaluation:

- Active participation, as well as constructive peer critique in preaching (5%)
- Three-page paper describing source material and key points of CST informing the First Homily (15%)
- Two homilies to be preached in class according to specified instructions. Details below. (40% for each homily).

Homily Instructions:

- Each homily is to be a Sunday homily **5-8 minutes** long. Homilies will be marked down 5 points out of 40 if the homily goes over 9 minutes.
- For each session dedicated to preaching those not preaching are to listen, comment in writing, and give verbal critique on the homilies.
- Homilies are to be either written out in full or written in outline form and presented to the instructor the day that it is preached. **At the beginning of the text should be a one sentence summary of the message (pearl) of the homily.** While the student may choose whether or not to use the manuscript or notes while preaching, this submission will aid the instructor in evaluating the homily. Homilies will be marked down 5 points out of 40 if the above is not done.
- First Homily
 - The topic will be assigned.
 - The student is free to choose the Scripture text used, so long as it falls in the Sunday lectionary cycle.

- The student is to prepare a three page, double-spaced, Times New Roman, 12 point font paper that briefly outlines the source material consulted in preparation for the homily. This should include relevant Church documents and the salient points that were drawn upon for the homily. Example: For the assigned topic of solidarity the paper should include reference to key documents by John Paul II and the definition of solidarity drawn from those documents.
- Second Homily
 - This homily will be given based upon assigned scenarios.
 - While a paper on the source material is not required, appropriate study is expected.
- Criteria for evaluation of homilies (10 points each for a total of 40 points)
 - Demonstrates understanding of the CST topic (10 points)
 - Integrates and draws from Scripture (10 points)
 - Presents the truth of the topic in a way that is accessible and engaging (10 points)
 - Style and delivery (10 points)

Class Schedule

September 8	Introduction: Foundations for Preaching CST <i>Gaudium et Spes</i> 1-32.
September 15	Role of the Laity vs. Role of the Priest in enacting CST <i>LG</i> 30-42
September 22	Stumbling blocks and suggestions for the preacher – avoiding moralism Cameron, <i>Why Preach?</i> 118-144
September 29	First Homily I (1-5)
October 6	First Homily II (6-10)
October 13	Stumbling blocks for the faithful I Swope, “Abortion: A Failure to Communicate”
October 20	First Homily III (11-15)
October 27	First Homily IV (16-18)
November 3	Stumbling blocks for the faithful II Schindler, “America’s Technological Ontology and the Gift of the Given: Benedict XVI on the Cultural Significance of the <i>Quaerere Deum</i> ”
November 10	Homily Scenarios 1-5
November 17	Homily Scenarios 6-10
November 24	Practical Recommendations for the Faithful – Minnesota Catholic Conference
December 1	Homily Scenarios 10-15
December 8	Homily Scenarios 16-18