

PREACHING: WHAT IS YOUR THEOLOGY OF PREACHING?

Whether explicit or implicit, we have our own “theology of preaching” – and it colors everything that we say and do in the pulpit. In our last issue, I encouraged you to explore the various influences that have made you into the preacher that you are now. Today, I invite you to delve more deeply into your theology of preaching. What is it that you think we are doing when we preach, and why do we do it? Theology is not just about understanding, but about reflecting on what we do and on who we are—on our relationship with God. In other words, theology ought to impact and be impacted by our spirituality. Is there a particular “spirituality” of preaching... or of preachers?

Preaching is a ministry of the Church, not an individual undertaking. As Roman Catholic preachers, therefore, I would suggest that we ought to start with what it is that the Church is asking us to do. To that end, I would recommend a (re)reading of *Fulfilled in Your Hearing*, first published by the U.S. Bishops’ Committee on Priestly Life and Ministry in February of 1982—30 years ago.

The text itself is available on-line (you can link to it from our Preaching Links webpage: <http://www.davenportdiocese.org/lit/litpreach.htm>), and it has also been reprinted—along with commentary—in James Wallace’s *Preaching in the Sunday Assembly* (see below).

Resources:*Church Documents:*

Pope Francis. *Evangelium Gaudii*, 2013. Sections #135-159.

USCCB. *Preaching the Mystery of Faith: The Sunday Homily*. Washington, DC: USCCB Publishing, 2012.

Wallace, James A., ed. *Preaching in the Sunday Assembly: A Pastoral Commentary on Fulfilled in Your Hearing. Commentary and Text*. Collegeville, MN: The Liturgical Press, 2010.

Theology of Preaching:

Allen, Ronald J. *Thinking Theologically: The Preacher as Theologian*. Elements of Preaching Series. Minneapolis, MN: Fortress Press, 2008.

DeBona OSB, Gueric. *Preaching Effectively, Revitalizing Your Church: The Seven-Step Ladder toward Successful Homilies*. New York: Paulist Press, 2009.

DeLeers, Stephen Vincent. *Written Text Becomes Living Word: The Vision and Practice of Sunday Preaching*. Collegeville, MN: The Liturgical Press, 2004.

Hilkert, Mary Catherine. *Naming Grace: Preaching and the Sacramental Imagination*. New York: Continuum, 2002.

Janowiak, Paul. *The Holy Preaching: The Sacramentality of the Word in the Liturgical Assembly*. Collegeville, MN: A Pueblo Book, The Liturgical Press, 2000.

Monshau, Michael, ed. *Preaching at the Double Feast: Homiletics for Eucharistic Worship*. Collegeville, MN: The Liturgical Press, 2006.

Taylor, Barbara Brown. *The Preaching Life*. Boston: Cowley Publications, 1993.

Troeger, Thomas H. *The Parable of Ten Preachers*. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1992.

Wallace, James A., ed. *Preaching in the Sunday Assembly: A Pastoral Commentary on Fulfilled in Your Hearing. Commentary and Text*. Collegeville, MN: The Liturgical Press, 2010.

Waznak, Robert P. *An Introduction to the Homily*. Collegeville, MN: The Liturgical Press, 1998.