

## **Preaching Resources**

Please note: not all these sources are written from a Catholic perspective, and I do not necessarily agree with everything that each author has to say. With that in mind, I do think that each author listed has something worth considering as we develop our ministry as preachers. Those marked with an \* are especially recommended.

## **Remote Preparation**

### **Know Thyself**

\*Schlafer, David J. *Your Way with God's Word: Discovering Your Distinctive Preaching Voice*. Boston: Cowley Publications, 1995.

There are some excellent sources for a Catholic theology of preaching:

\*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.

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

It may also be helpful to read on preaching from other perspectives:

Allen, Ronald J., Barbara Shires Blaisdell, and Scott Black Johnston. *Theology for Preaching: Authority, Truth, and Knowledge of God in a Postmodern Ethos*. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1997.

Resner, André. *Preacher and Cross: Person and Message in Theology and Rhetoric*. Grand Rapids, MI: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 1999.

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

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

Some helpful resources on theology and the scriptures:

Brown, Raymond E. *Responses to 101 Questions on the Bible*. New York: Paulist Press, 1990.

Fitzmyer, Joseph A. *Scripture, The Soul of Theology*. New York: Paulist Press, 1994.

Fretheim, Terrence E. and Karlfried Froehlich. *The Bible as Word of God in a Postmodern Age*. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 1998.

Harrington, Daniel J. *How Do Catholics Read the Bible?* New York: A Sheed and Ward Book, Rowman and Littlefield Publishers, Inc., 2005.

Martin, George. *Reading Scripture as the Word of God: Practical Approaches and Attitudes*. Ann Arbor, MI: Servant Publications, 1998.

Schneiders, Sandra M. *The Revelatory Text: Interpreting the New Testament as Sacred Scripture*. Collegeville, MN: A Michael Glazier Book, the Liturgical Press, 1999.

### **Know the Community**

\*Tisdale, Lenora Tubbs. *Preaching as Local Theology and Folk Art*. Fortress Resources for Preaching. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 1997.

Boyle, Elizabeth Michael. *Preaching the Poetry of the Gospels: A Lyric Companion to the Lectionary*. Collegeville, MN: The Liturgical Press, 2003.

\*Jeter, Joseph R. and Ronald J. Allen. *One Gospel, Many Ears: Preaching for Different Listeners in the Congregation*. St. Louis, Chalice Press: 2002.

Webb, Joseph M. *Preaching and the Challenge of Pluralism*. St. Louis: Chalice Press, 1998.

\*Wisdom, Andrew Carl. *Preaching to a Multi-generational Assembly*. Collegeville, MN: The Liturgical Press, 2004.

### *African-American Preaching*

Harris, James Henry. *The Word Made Plain: The Power and Promise of Preaching*. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2004.

Mitchell, Henry H. *Black Preaching: The Recovery of a Powerful Art*. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1990.

## *Preaching in Latino/Hispanic Congregations*

Davis, Kenneth G. and Jorge L. Presmanes, eds. *Preaching and Culture in Latino Congregations*. Chicago: Liturgy Training Publications, 2000.

### **Know the Heart and Mind of the Church**

Most importantly, I would read (and re-read) *\*Fulfilled in Your Hearing* from the U.S. Bishops. This landmark document sets the bar for Catholic preaching in the United States.

Burke, John and Thomas P. Doyle. *The Homilist's Guide to Scripture, Theology, and Canon Law*. New York: Pueblo Publishing Company, 1986.

An excellent collection of official Church teaching regarding the scriptures can be found in *The Bible Documents* from Liturgy Training Publications. I especially recommend reading *\*The Interpretation of the Bible in the Church* from the International Biblical Commission.

### **Proximate Preparation**

#### ***Lectio Divina***

Casey, Michael. *Sacred Reading: The Ancient Art of Lectio Divina*. Liguori, MO: Triumph Books, 1995.

Pennington, M. Basil. *Lectio Divina: Renewing the Ancient Practice of Praying the Scriptures*. New York: Crossroads Publishing Company, 1998.

### **Current Events / Pastoral Preaching**

Aden, LeRoy H. and Robert G. Hughes. *Preaching God's Compassion*. Fortress Resources for Preaching. Minneapolis, Fortress Press, 2002.

\*Foley, Edward. *Preaching Basics*. Chicago: Liturgy Training Publications, 1998.

Rutledge, Fleming. *The Bible and The New York Times*. Grand Rapids, MI: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 1998.

### **Structure (Method)**

Burghardt, Walter J. *Preaching: The Art and the Craft*. New York: Paulist Press, 1987.

\*DeBona OSB, Gueric. *Fulfilled in Our Hearing: History and Method of Christian Preaching*. New York: Paulist Press, 2005.

\*Eslinger, Richard L. *The Web of Preaching: New Options in Homiletic Method*. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 2002.

*Eslinger gives a great overview of contemporary preaching method. If you want to read the original works, they are:*

Buttrick, David. *Homiletic: Moves and Structures*. Philadelphia: Fortress Press, 1987.

Craddock, Fred B. *As One Without Authority*. Revised edition. St. Louis: Chalice Press, 2001.

Craddock, Fred B. *Preaching*. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1985.

Long, Thomas. *The Witness of Preaching*. Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 1989.

Lowry, Eugene L. *The Homiletical Plot: The Sermon as Narrative Art Form*. Expanded edition. Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 2001.

Rueter, Alvin C. *Making Good Preaching Better*. Collegeville, MN: The Liturgical Press, 1997.

## **Language**

Boyle, Elizabeth Michael. *Preaching the Poetry of the Gospels: A Lyric Companion to the Lectionary*. Collegeville, MN: The Liturgical Press, 2003.

\*Ramshaw, Gail. *Reviving Sacred Speech: The Meaning of Liturgical Language*. Akron, OH: OSL Publications, 2000.

\*Taylor, Barbara Brown. *When God is Silent*. Boston: Cowley Publications, 1998.

\*Witherup, Ronald D. *A Liturgist's Guide to Inclusive Language*. Collegeville, MN: The Liturgical Press, 1996.

## **Visual / Imaginal Preaching**

Crowley, Eileen D. *Liturgical Art for a Media Culture*. American Essays in Liturgy. Edward Foley, ed. Collegeville, MN: The Liturgical Press, 2007.

Jensen, Richard A. *Envisioning the Word: The Use of Visual Images in Preaching, with CD-ROM*. Fortress Resources for Preaching. Minneapolis, Fortress Press, 2005.

\*Troeger, Thomas H. *Imagining a Sermon*. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1990.

## **The Liturgy**

Skudlarek, William. *The Word in Worship: Preaching in a Liturgical Context*. Nashville: Abingdon, 1981.

\*Wallace, James A. *Preaching to the Hungers of the Heart: The Homily on the Feasts and within the Rites*. Collegeville, MN: The Liturgical Press, 2002.

I also recommend the annual from LTP (*Sourcebook for Sundays and Seasons*) or from the Liturgical Press (*Living Liturgy*).

## **Commentaries**

*General Commentaries/References:*

In addition to a good Catholic Study Bible (NAB with revised NT & Psalms), and to other translations of the Bible for comparison, consider the following:

A Bible Dictionary, for example:

*The Anchor Bible Dictionary (6 vol)*

Stuhlmuehler, Carroll, et. al., eds. *The Collegeville Pastoral Dictionary of Biblical Theology*. Collegeville, MN: The Liturgical Press, 1996.

General Commentaries, for example:

Bergant, Dianne and Robert J. Karris, eds. *The Collegeville Bible Commentary*. Collegeville, MN: The Liturgical Press, 1989.

Brown, Raymond E., Joseph A. Fitzmyer, and Roland E. Murphy. *The New Jerome Biblical Commentary*. Englewood Cliffs, NJ: Prentice Hall, 1990.

Concordance and Similar, for example:

Throckmorton, Burton H., ed. *Gospel Parallels: A Comparison of the Synoptic Gospels*. Nashville: Thomas Nelson Publishers, 1979.

*Series, Individual Commentaries, and Special Studies:*

I have found the *Sacra Pagina* series from The Liturgical Press to be quite helpful, and use a number of individual commentaries from a variety of authors as needed. Other resources include:

Brown, Raymond E. *An Introduction to the New Testament*. The Anchor Bible Reference Library. New York: Doubleday, 1997.

Malina, Bruce J. and Richard L. Rohrbaugh. *Social Science Commentary on the Synoptic Gospels*. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 1992.

Malina, Bruce J. and Richard L. Rohrbaugh. *Social Science Commentary on the Gospel of John*. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 1998.

Malina, Bruce J. and John J. Pilch. *Social Science Commentary on the Letters of Paul*. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2006.

*Lectionary-Based Resources:*

\*Bergant, Diane with Richard Fragomeni. *Preaching the New Lectionary, Year A, B, C*. Collegeville, MN: The Liturgical Press, 1999-2001.

Matera, Frank J. *Strategies for Preaching Paul*. Collegeville, MN: The Liturgical Press, 2001.

\*Nowell, Irene. *Sing a New Song: The Psalms in the Sunday Lectionary*. Collegeville, MN: The Liturgical Press, 1993.

Pilch, John J. *The Cultural World of Jesus (Cycles A, B, C)*. Collegeville, MN: The Liturgical Press, 1995-1997.

[he also has series that focus on the 1<sup>st</sup> reading/psalm and 2<sup>nd</sup> reading]

Sloyan, Gerard. *Preaching from the Lectionary: An Exegetical Commentary*. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2004.

*\*Websites:*

There are literally thousands of preaching websites out there; these are the ones that I visit as a matter of routine preparation:

The Athenaeum of Ohio: <http://mtsm.org/preaching/index.htm>

Jude Siciliano, OP / The Preachers' Exchange: <http://www.op.org/exchange/default.htm> OR <http://www.preacherexchange.com/>

The Center for Liturgy: <http://liturgy.slu.edu/>

The Text the Week (ecumenical): <http://www.textweek.com/>

Creighton University: <http://onlineministries.creighton.edu/CollaborativeMinistry/daily.html>

## **The Preaching Event**

### **Delivery & Wider Context**

Brown, Kathleen Hope. *Lay Leaders of Worship*. Collegeville, MN: The Liturgical Press, 2004.

\*Mick, Lawrence E. *Presider*. I Like Being in Parish Ministry Series. Mystic, CT: Twenty-Third Publications, 2001.

Rang, Jack C. *How to Read the Bible Aloud: Oral Interpretation of Scripture*. New York: Paulist Press, 1994.

Schultze, Quentin J. *Communicating for Life: Christian Stewardship in Community and Media*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, Baker Book House Company, 2000.

Webb, Joseph M. *Preaching Without Notes*. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 2001.

I also recommend the annual from LTP: *Workbook for Lectors and Gospel Readers*.

### **Feedback**

\*Untener, Ken. *Preaching Better: Practical Suggestions for Homilies*. New York: Paulist Press, 1999.