

WHAT ARE OUR HOPES?

Through the Notre Dame Preaching Academy, we work to create communities of learning about liturgical preaching, consonant with the Catholic theology of homiletics and drawing upon best practices in the field.

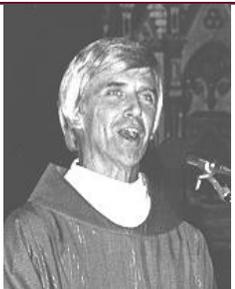
Right now in the Catholic world, Pope Francis has refocused the Church on preaching, both by his homiletic example and by his words in *Evangelii Gaudium* and other documents. The Catholic community in the U.S. may be more focused on preaching at this moment than it has been at any other time since the Second Vatican Council. The time is ripe to make a difference.

HOW MUCH DOES IT COST?

The Marten Program at Notre Dame, through the generosity of the Lilly Endowment and the Marten family, will underwrite the costs of the program, room and board for all preachers. Participating (arch)dioceses agree to fund the travel for the three trips (two to South Bend, one to a warm location, probably Florida). In addition, participants will receive a \$1000 stipend for fruitful participation, half in December and the other half at the end. A Notre Dame Preaching Academy certificate will also be given upon successful completion of the program.

Fr. William Toohey, C.S.C., was the first homiletics instructor at the University of Notre Dame. A renowned preacher and social activist, Father Toohey was the Director of Campus Ministry at Notre Dame from 1970 until his untimely death in 1980.

Photo courtesy of UND Archives.



**Would you like to be
more effective in your preaching?
Are you looking for practical ways
to help your people
encounter God?**

**Do you sense a gap
between the pulpit and the pew?
Do you want to pull closer together
for the glory of God?**

**Many clergy say
that the first thing
to disappear after ordination
is the opportunity for
prayer and study.
How can you foster
the intentionality to flourish
in your homiletic life?**

**For more information about
the Notre Dame Preaching Academy,
please contact:**

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The Rev. William A. Toohey, C.S.C.

Notre Dame Preaching Academy

**Information for 2017
Peer-Learning Group
Participants**



WHAT IS THE GOAL?

The goal of the Notre Dame Preaching Academy is to help participants become more effective Sunday liturgical preachers within their local communities.

WHAT ARE THE COMMITMENTS?

- ◆ Commit to one year of intensive formation in preaching. This begins and ends with a gathering of your cohort in the summers on the beautiful Notre Dame campus. The spring orientation will be in your home diocese; a mid-winter preaching workshop of 3-4 days will take place in a warm location.
- ◆ Meet with your peer-learning group eight times, ideally once per month for two hours in the fall and spring semesters.
- ◆ Preach or bring a video of your preaching for group evaluation once per semester. Give your group members substantive feedback.
- ◆ Devote 3-4 hours to reading/viewing and written reflection in preparation for each monthly group meeting.
- ◆ Commit to a preliminary self-evaluation, a midyear evaluation, and a final self-evaluation, to be shared with the Preaching Academy leadership.
- ◆ Once per month, arrange for parishioners to give you feedback on your preaching.
- ◆ Online discussion forums about the learning material will be available to foster interaction with other cohort members. This element is optional but encouraged.
- ◆ Provide one recorded homily (video or online) for evaluation by a homiletic expert.

The University
of Notre Dame,
through the
John S. Marten Program
in Homiletics and Liturgics,
has initiated
an ambitious program
of renewal in
Roman Catholic preaching.

Through this
Lilly Endowment-funded
endeavor,
we are forming
cohorts of
peer-learning groups
of 8-10 priests
in dioceses around the country.

We seek dedicated men
who passionately want
to bring their people
into an encounter with God
through the Sunday homily.

**“The homily is the touchstone
for judging a pastor's
closeness and ability
to communicate to his people.”**

Pope Francis,
Evangelii Gaudium #108

DEEPENING PREACHING THROUGH CONSTRUCTIVE FEEDBACK

Researchers tell us that people tend to see what they have always seen and do as they always have done. This can also be true with preaching.

We grow as preachers by inviting others to help us to see and hear how we are doing from a fresh perspective. The Preaching Academy is an opportunity for growth through receiving honest evaluations from others. Each participant, in turn, provides such help to his brother priests.

In addition, the feedback process will help you to reflect on these questions:

◆ **Where are you?** Using original short- and long-term assessment tools, together we will evaluate the strengths and needed growth areas of your preaching. Congregational tools for assessment will also help you to get a stronger sense of the way your listeners grow in faith through your preaching; the process will also educate parishioners how to more fruitfully listen to homilies.

◆ **Where do you want to be?** Through a process of prayer, envisioning, self-assessment, peer support and critique, and homiletic expert evaluation, determine how you hope to grow.

◆ **How do you get there?** Each semester, you will set goals for small and manageable steps to improvement. This individualized plan will be based on your own assessed needs in relationship with your own particular parish or community. Your peer-learning group will then help you to reach your goals.