1. **Course Description**

This course presents the nature and purpose of the liturgical homily. The course will provide instruction on the methods and skills necessary for the development of effective homilies. Emphasis will be given to the interplay between Scripture, preacher and assembly. Students will compose and deliver homilies, which will be critically discussed and evaluated by instructor and students.

2. **Course Objectives**

Course objectives include the following:

- To familiarize the student with official Church documents relative to the homily;
- to offer techniques and methods of homiletical presentation;
- to encourage sound Scriptural exegesis as an indispensable starting point in the preparation of a homily;
- to give students practice in developing and delivering homilies in an atmosphere of support and constructive criticism;
- to enable students to become more proficient at evaluating and learning from their own efforts and those of others in this discipline;
- to familiarize students with resources available for homily preparation;
- to encourage personal reflection on the ministry of preaching.

3. **Required Reading**


4. **Format of Presentation**

- class discussion of the texts
- student preaching
- discussion and evaluation of student homilies
5. **Requirements and Expectations**

Students are expected to

- attend each class meeting;
- complete all reading assignments and actively participate in group discussions;
- deliver homilies,
- evaluate one another honestly.

6. **Evaluation**

Grades are given according to the chart for Graduate students found on page 11 of the *Student Handbook of Academic Policies and Procedures* (Spring 2004 edition). Grades for each homily are based upon the following criteria:

- fulfillment of instruction given for assignment;
- adequacy of research, where applicable;
- adequacy/originality of critical and creative thought;
- evaluation of process, content, approach and techniques used in presentation of assigned topics;
- adequacy, clarity and correctness of written and spoken expression.

Course grade will be based on the following:

- homilies delivered in class (every other week) 80%
- class discussions and written work (at the end) 20%

7. **Class Attendance**

The University requires certification of the attendance of students to fulfill requirements established by several governmental agencies. To satisfy requirements, it is university policy that attendance will be monitored in all classes. Promptness is expected of students. Habitual lateness, leaving early or missing classes will result in a lower grade.

Also, no computers are to be in use in this class and every seminarian will need to bring either a Bible (New American Bible) or a Lectionary to each class.

8. **Schedule of Classes**

*Part A: Introduction and Proclamation of the Readings*

21 January Introduction to the Course and the USCCB document, *Fulfilled in*
Your Hearing.

28 January   Discussion of *Preaching Better. Practical Suggestions for Homilists*
Proclamation of Today’s Readings

**Part B: Practice of Weekday homilies:** Section A meets with Fr. Talar and section B meets with Msgr. Steenson for the first week, then switches: B with Fr. Talar and A with Msgr. Steenson, then alternatingly.

4 February   8 (3 – 4 minute) weekday practice homilies (readings for this Thursday)
11 February  8 (3 - 4 minute) weekday practice homilies (readings for this Thursday)
18 February  8 (3 - 4 minute) weekday practice homilies (readings for this Thursday)
25 February  8 (3–4 minute) weekday practice homilies (readings for this Thursday)

3 March   8 (3 - 4 minute) weekday practice homilies (readings for this Thursday)

**Part C: Same as above for the Sunday homilies. For both weekday and Sunday homilies, the homily will follow the proclamation of the biblical texts and immediate feedback will be given by all participants. All will be expected to prepare a Sunday homily but only 6 will actually preach.**

10 March   Six (7 minute) Sunday homilies (the coming Sunday’s readings)
17 March   Six (7 minute) Sunday homilies (the coming Sunday’s readings)
24 March   Holy Week
31 March   Six (7 minute) Sunday homilies (the coming Sunday’s readings)
 7 April   Six (7 minute) Sunday homilies (the coming Sunday’s readings)
14 April   Six (7 minute) Sunday homilies (the coming Sunday’s readings)
21 April   Six (7 minute) Sunday homilies (the coming Sunday’s readings)
28 April   Evaluation session