

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 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

*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.

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

Language

*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.

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)

Stuhlmüller, 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.

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 1st reading/psalm and 2nd reading]

*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/>

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*) or from the Liturgical Press (*Living Liturgy*).

Feedback

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