

**PREACHING: THE LITURGICAL BIBLE**

Part of the context of preaching is the liturgy in which the preaching takes place: the season, the feast day, and the liturgical texts. All these are important 'grist' for the mill of homily preparation.

In fact, the GIRM (#65) states: "The Homily is part of the Liturgy and is highly recommended, for it is necessary for the nurturing of the Christian life. It should be an explanation of some aspect of the readings from Sacred Scripture **or of another text from the Ordinary or the Proper of the Mass of the day and should take into account both the mystery being celebrated** and the particular needs of the listeners." When is the last time that you heard any reference to a liturgical text in a homily?

So, how might these resources enrich our preaching?

- They can help us to better define the focus and function of our homily. Especially since texts alone can have multiple layers of meaning, the context of a particular day or season can help highlight one (set of) meaning(s) over others.
- They can provide us with images and metaphors for our preaching. The poetic language of prayer texts (especially the collect and preface) can inform our imaginations.
- They can help to keep us grounded in the here and now, in this place and at this time. As Catholics, we are an incarnational and sacramental people. Preaching in Advent should not sound like preaching in Lent; a homily during Eastertide should not sound like a homily at Christmastime. Wedding or funeral homilies, or a homily at baptism, should not sound like a homily for Sundays in Ordinary Time... or like a homily being preached on the feast of a Saint or Mary.
- They remind us that the proclamation of the Scriptures does not stand alone; it leads to the celebration of a sacrament or sacramental as well as to living out the implications of those in the world.

Resources:

DeBona, Gueric. *Between the Ambo and the Altar: Biblical Preaching and The Roman Missal, Year A*. Collegeville, MN: The Liturgical Press, 2013. [Years B & C forthcoming]

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

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

Skudklarek, William. *The Word in Worship: Preaching in a Liturgical Context*. Nashville, TN: 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.