



INSTITUTE FOR DIACONAL STUDIES ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO

Public Speaking and Homiletics

The INSTITUTE FOR DIACONAL STUDIES (IDS) places emphasis on the preaching nature of diaconal ministry and provides homiletic instruction from aspirancy through the three years of candidacy. The progression: Introduction to Public Speaking/Communications; Proclamation; Exegesis; Preparation and Practica.

GUIDING PRINCIPLE:

- Preaching is an art that is developed from the natural gifts of the preacher. It generally cannot be learned through a reading process but needs to be cultivated by experience. Feedback aids the development of every preacher. Prayer, preparation, and the continuing development of style (natural rhythm, breathing, eye contact, personalization) that is authentic to the individual needs to be constantly reinforced.

OUTCOMES:

- To have knowledge of the specific nature of a homily;
- To have a working knowledge of the pastoral use of the Lectionary;
- To understand the essential part of prayer in preparation;
- To acquire skills in articulating *and* listening that allow the preacher to hear himself as the people in the pews hear him;
- To develop the facility to research and utilize resources (exegesis);
- To have exposure to preparation styles and continue to develop a personal preparation style;
- To prepare and deliver homilies on liturgical participation (Sunday, Baptism, Marriage, Funeral) and participate and critique in all sessions.

ASSESSMENTS:

- Individualized critiques from classmates of presented homilies;
- Personal instructor feedback;
- Weekly reading of assigned texts and assigned papers
- Written homilies.

INSTRUCTOR SUPPORT:

- To reduce fear and anxiety in the beginning preacher;
- To support personal gifts and skills and give honest reassurance and suggestions;
- To prepare candidates for ordained pastoral ministry that involves Sunday and ritualized preaching.

