

## ***Survey on Preaching: practices, attitudes, self-awareness, and identity***

***Please consider all questions in the context of preaching at Sunday / Weekend Eucharist.***

### **Preaching Practices and Activities**

**In an average week, how likely are you to engage in the following?**

Read the scriptures related to the Sunday homily
Pray with the scriptures related to the Sunday homily
Think about the scriptures (those read in preparation for the homily) as you go about other activities
Jot down notes throughout the week specifically related to homily
Meet with other priests/deacons to discuss the scriptures, share ideas, and obtain inputs for your homily
Meet with parish staff to discuss the scriptures, share ideas, and get their inputs and insights
Meet with parishioners (on a scheduled basis) to discuss the scriptures, share ideas, and get their inputs and insights
Consult published scriptural texts and commentaries
Consult websites for exegesis and other scriptural analysis and comments
Consult sample homilies in published form
Use homily subscription services—homily helps
Consult on-line homily help services
Generate an outline of your homily (before you write the homily)
Write your homily
Prepare an outline of your homily (after it is written)
Revise your homily
Practice the delivery of your homily

**In a typical week, how many hours do you devote to homily preparation and development? In other words, how many total hours do you devote to the tasks listed in the grid above?**

**When you preach, which statement best reflects your approach to preaching?**

- I preach from a complete manuscript
- I preach from an outline
- I memorize a homily I have written
- I preach extemporaneously from notes or memory, and I may even make last minute adjustments to what I preach
- Other (please specify)

**Which of the following are you likely to include in your homilies?**

<input type="checkbox"/> Reference to Family	<input type="checkbox"/> Reference to Theater	<input type="checkbox"/> Reference to popular culture
<input type="checkbox"/> Reference to Humor	<input type="checkbox"/> Reference to Films/Movies	<input type="checkbox"/> Your own personal stories – “My own life”
<input type="checkbox"/> Props	<input type="checkbox"/> New & current events	<input type="checkbox"/> The stories or experiences of others
<input type="checkbox"/> Reference to Travel	<input type="checkbox"/> Stories about people – their experiences, joys, hardships,	
<input type="checkbox"/> Citations from scripture itself / from the Sunday readings		
<input type="checkbox"/> Citations from scripture itself / unrelated to the Sunday for which you are developing your homily		
<input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify)		

## Objectives and goals of your homilies

Some priests and deacons have indicated these goals as being important to them when preparing their homilies. How important is each of these goals *usually* to you in preparing your homilies.

<b>Importance to you in preparing homilies</b>
Help parishioners recognize that they are part of the Biblical story and people
Preach a good news message so that people feel good in our world of turmoil
Be short and quick
Practical – speak to people on their level
Preach so that the congregation knows I understand their daily lives.
Leave message open-ended so the congregation can make their own decisions
Preach so that my homilies reveal what I personally believe
Well-prepared so that it will be apparent to my hearers that I've worked hard and that it is an important task for them and me.
Educate and inform my parishioners
Preach on one subject—a clear message
Preach so that my homilies reveal how I live my faith
Provide parishioners with the hope and vision they'll need to go forward into the world
Other (please specify)

## Personality

It is believed that there is a relationship between personality and identity; that one's identity as a preacher will vary according to personality type, along with other factors. The following questions will assist you in attempting to correlate personality types with attitudes and identity.

**How do you see yourself?** Select a box closer to a word if you think the word describes you more; select the box in the middle if you think neither word describes you. The first line on the chart is just an example. If you feel that you are of above average height, you should select a box closer to the word "Tall". If you feel you were of average height, you would select the box in the middle.

**I see myself as ...**

<b>Short</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Tall</b>
Reserved	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Spirited
Guarded	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Approachable
Indifferent	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Compassionate
Relaxed	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Excited
Unscrupulous	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Conscientious
Average	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Outstanding
Worrying	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Care-free
Careful	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Risk taker
Shy	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Life of the party
Serious	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Lackadaisical
Self-Centered	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Empathetic
Avoided	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Well-liked
Indecisive	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Resolute
Unconvincing	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Persuasive
Conventional	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Imaginative

*I see myself as*

Laid-back	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Intense
Vague	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Articulate
Calculating	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Spontaneous
Rigid	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Flexible
Close-minded	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Versatile
Unassuming	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Demanding
Intolerant	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Tolerant
Selfish	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Generous
Docile	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Dominant
Lifeless	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Creative

**Identity**

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**Relative to all other responsibilities you have as a priest or deacon, rank order the five most important responsibilities you have.**

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| ___ Make friendships and socialize with parishioners | ___ Provide counseling                 |
| ___ Prepare and preach homilies                      | ___ Visit the Sick                     |
| ___ Support families at time of death                | ___ Officiate at Weddings              |
| ___ Minister Sacrament of the Sick                   | ___ Visit the homebound                |
| ___ Prepare couples for marriage                     | ___ Socialize with parishioners        |
| ___ Attend parish meetings & functions               | ___ Preside at funerals and committals |
| ___ Preside at liturgies (Other than Mass)           | ___ Conduct adult ed/formation classes |
| ___ Preside at Mass                                  | ___ Hear confessions                   |
| ___ Carry out admin responsibilities                 | ___ Other _____<br>( Please specify )  |

**How strongly do you feel that each image below describes your identity as a preacher?**

Teacher	Disciple
Judge	Pastor
Healer	Human Being
Entertainer	Pilgrim
Herald	Theologian
Evangelist	Mouthpiece for God
Cheerleader	Bearer of Good News
Witness	One who Brings Others Together

## Attitudes

How strongly do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements?

<b>Agreement Statements</b>
I love to do lots of things at once – this is when I perform my best
Every week I set aside a certain time just for myself
Learning is a very important part of my life and vocation
People specifically come to me for my advice because my homilies challenge them
My family upbringing has a huge influence on what it means for me to be a priest/deacon and a preacher
I can do just about anything if I really set my mind to it
I like pushing myself to the limits
I often worry about what others think of me
I've noticed that I frequently find myself worrying about how well I preach
I find the process of preparing and writing a homily to be difficult and very challenging
I care deeply about preaching and I devote myself to the process of developing and writing my homilies
I work on a homily until I believe it is the best it can possibly be
It is important to me that my parishioners like the homilies I preach
I don't do as good a job as I know I should in preparing my homilies
I don't devote as much time to writing my homilies as I should.
When I don't prepare as well as I should, my homilies are still well received by my parishioners, and they still seem to like what I preach
I don't feel like I've mastered the "art" of developing an effective and engaging homily
I don't feel like I can effectively assess the congregation's reaction to my homilies
I frequently worry about how well I minister

How often do you experience these feelings when you are preparing your homilies?

Vulnerable	Overwhelmed
Nervous, worried or anxious	Frustrated
Excited or exhilarated	Hopeful
Gut-wrenched	Challenged
Fearful	Creative
Humbled	Happy
Privileged	

To what extent are you concerned that your homilies/preaching have these effects or impacts on your parishioners?

That parishioners feel good after they've heard me preach
That parishioners have been given something specific to do in the coming week
That parishioners have been challenged and even, occasionally, made to feel uncomfortable
That my preaching was an entertaining experience
That my preaching has a positive / good news message
That I give my parishioners new information and education on Church teaching
That I give my parishioners new information on the scriptures
That I lead them to an encounter with Christ
That I show my parishioners how the scripture message is relevant to them today
That I have been the very best I can be as a preacher
That I have touched someone deeply and made a difference in his or her life
That it helps my parishioners to make sense of suffering

**What does your congregation expect in a homily?**

- That you as their preacher are intellectual
- That you really care about them
- That you give them something concrete to think about and “chew on” for the coming week
- That you preach with substance – no “fluff”
- That you help them grow closer to Christ
- That you are thought provoking
- That you give them a fresh and brand new way to look at the scriptures
- That you reveal something of yourself and your personal relationship with Christ
- That you show them that you are “one of them”

**How often do you feel your homilies receive these kinds of receptions from your parishioners?**

I receive emails and notes from parishioners telling me how much they like my homilies.
Parishioners tell me that I missed them in my homily, that I was aiming too high and they just didn't understand what I was saying
It seems that no matter how hard I try and how hard I work on my homilies, parishioners fail to understand what I am trying to say
Parishioners tell me that my homilies make a real difference to them
Parishioners ask me for a copy of my homily
Parishioners tell me that my homily missed the mark, that it just didn't speak to them today
Parishioners tell me that they felt like I was preaching directly to them today
Parishioners mention to me that they've never heard the Gospel quite like that – today they experienced it in a brand new way
Parishioners say that my homily kept them right on the edge of their seats, really kept them hooked into what I was saying
Parishioners stop to shake hands and greet me after Mass, but they never say anything about my homilies
I can tell when I'm not holding people's attention – they fidget around, it gets noisy, and they seem distracted and impatient
I tend to preach too long
I know when I haven't written a good homily even before I stand in the pulpit to preach
It seems that people drift away and lose attention during my homilies
People tell me things about my homilies that surprise even me
I get energized when I'm preaching – I draw strength and excitement from the people in the congregation
I tend to try to cover too many subjects in my homilies

**How would you say your homilies compare to the homilies of other priests and deacons?**

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Well Above Average	Somewhat Above Average	A Little Above Average	About Average	A Little Below Average	Somewhat Below Average	Well Below Average

## Style

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Below is a list of behavioral traits and style factors that some priests/deacons have said they like to include while delivering their homilies. Rank order the top 5 preaching traits that you feel most describe you when delivering your homilies.

- |                    |                         |  |
|--------------------|-------------------------|--|
| ___ Enthusiastic   | ___ Authentic / Genuine | ___ Non-conventional                             |
| ___ Energetic      | ___ Interesting         | ___ Well-delivered                               |
| ___ Engaging       | ___ Thought-provoking   | ___ Move away from pulpit / ambo                 |
| ___ Exciting       | ___ Change pace / rate  | ___ Raise your voice volume or pitch             |
| ___ Fun-loving     | ___ Good eye contact    | ___ Really care about how well you are preaching |
| ___ Conversational | ___ Life-changing       | ___ Care about how well you are being received   |
| ___ Inspiring      | ___ Well-prepared       |  |

## Influencers

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To what extent has each of the following influenced you as a preacher and your preaching?

What people tell me
What happens to people in my parish
What is happening in our city, our country, our world
Scripture instructors or professors
Preaching workshops or programs I attend
Crises – for example, suicide of a teen in the parish, death of a child, community tragedy, etc.
Important personal experience
Other preachers you have heard on TV, on the internet, other priests and deacons
Books that you've read on preaching
Family – parents and siblings
Family – wife and children (deacons)
Homily preparation and planning groups in which you regularly participate
The people to whom I minister in the parish
The students I teach
The inspiration I receive from the Holy Spirit when praying with and reflecting upon the scriptures

## Assessment of your Seminary Formation as a Preacher

Thinking back on your formation experience in the seminary, and compared with what you think would be *ideal*, how much improvement, if any, is needed in each of the following areas;

Scripture study
Spirituality as a preacher
Public speaking and proclamation of scriptures
Parish preaching internship
Preaching evaluation by homiletics instructor
Evaluation and feedback you received from other classmates and seminarians
Preaching by other seminary faculty and residents
Preaching by homiletics instructor
Understanding of a homily – what it is and what it should consist of
Homiletic method
Opportunities to preach in the seminary
Opportunities to preach in parishes
Different homily forms you studied and practiced
Different preaching styles you've tried

What, if anything, do you think was missing from your seminary formation as a preacher? What could have been added to make this formation better?

<b><i>Which of these best fit when you were first ordained?</i></b>		<b><i>If you were ordained over 5 years ago, which of these best fit now?</i></b>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Bearer of the Good News	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Cheerleader	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Disciple	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Entertainer	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Evangelist	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Healer	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Herald	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Human Being	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Judge	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Mouthpiece for God	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	One who brings others together	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Pastor	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Pilgrim	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Teacher	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Theologian	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Witness	<input type="checkbox"/>

**What are the factors that most contributed to your change in identity?**

- Your good experiences as a preacher
- Your bad experiences as a preacher
- Feedback that you received from members of your congregations
- Changes in your assignments
- Demographics of your congregations
- Feedback you received from other priests / deacons
- Courses, programs or workshops on preaching that you attended
- Books you've read on preaching
- Other preachers you've heard
- Personal desire to be a better and more effective preacher
- Other (specify) \_\_\_\_\_

**If you were given the opportunity, how likely do you think you might be to invest time and effort to improve your preaching preparation, style, delivery, and practices?**

**In what ways have you seen yourself *intentionally* evolve as a preacher over the course of your ministry?**