

Preaching

The Preaching category of the Parish Pastoral Plan is in the context of liturgy, particularly the Divine Liturgy. It is centered on the Church's divine commission to proclaim and expound on the Gospel. "He who hears you hears me, and he who rejects you rejects me, and he who rejects me rejects him who sent me" (Luke 10:16). Regardless of any other meaning that this category may have, it must first be understood sacramentally (Luke 10:16). It is Christ's Gospel, it is Christ who preaches, and it is He, Himself, who *is* the Gospel, the Word that is preached (1 John 1:1-4; John 1:1-14). The sacramentality of the Church's preaching is most apparent at the Divine Liturgy because Christ is there, sacramentally, in the flesh. The two parts of the Divine Liturgy, the Liturgy of the Word and the Liturgy of the Eucharist, should remind us of the Incarnation. At the Divine Liturgy, the Gospel, the Word that the Church proclaims, is made flesh (John 1:14). It is there that the faithful receive the Word as a sacrament both in the inspired Scripture and in the Holy Eucharist. This is not to suggest that the reading of the Gospel is a sacrament in the same sense that the Holy Eucharist is a sacrament, but only that they are intimately related. It is Christ in the Gospel that is read and preached, and it is Christ in the Eucharist. When hearing the Gospel at the Divine Liturgy, one should think of receiving Christ, the Word, in a similar way as one thinks of receiving Christ in His body and blood. It is the same Christ, during the liturgy, who is mystically present and giving Himself to us in the Scriptures, although in a different manner than His body and blood in the Eucharist. There are, however, other forms of preaching, that of evangelization and catechesis. These are the next two categories of the Parish Pastoral Plan.

Example Goal (what): Increase the relevancy of preaching by seeking out questions concerning the faith and suggestions for preaching topics.

Example Objective (how): Create a webform on the parish web site where anyone may suggest topics and ask questions