



DISCERNMENT NEWSLETTER

February 11, 2026

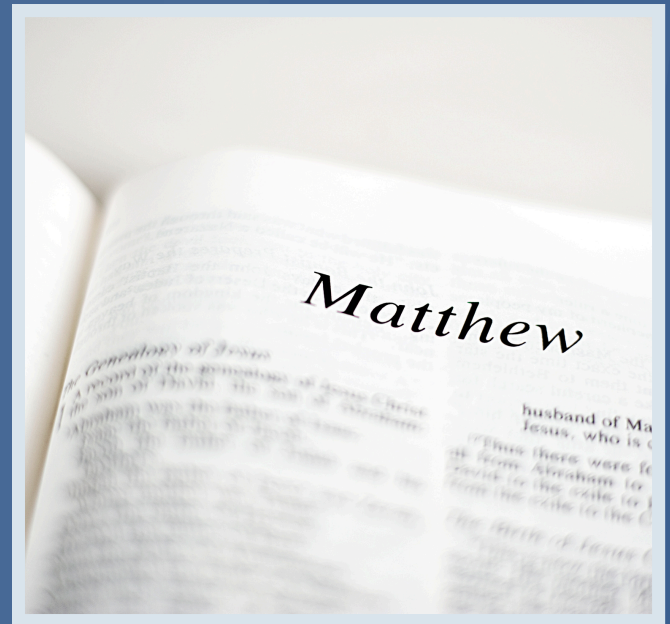
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THEOLOGICAL REFLECTION: PRIEST AS PREACHER OF THE WORD

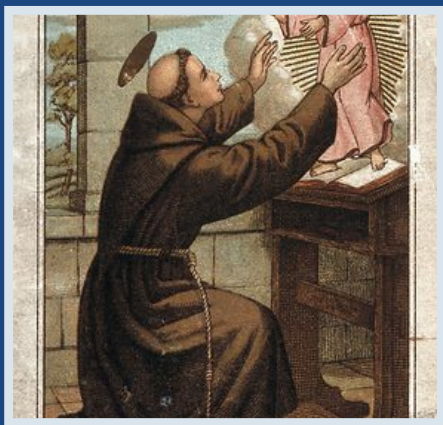
From the very beginning of the Church, the preaching of the Gospel has been central to the mission of the apostles and their successors. The priest is the primary preacher in a parish, entrusted with the homily at Mass. This is not a speech or a lecture; it is a moment of grace where the Word of God is "broken open" and applied to the lives of the faithful.

A good homily nourishes faith, challenges sin and inspires hope. It requires both study—knowing the Scriptures and the teachings of the Church—and prayer, asking the Holy Spirit to illuminate the text and speak through the preacher. As you discern, ask yourself: Do I have a desire to understand the faith more deeply so I can explain it to others? Do I feel a pull to help others see the relevance of Christ's words for their struggles and joys?



SPIRITUAL FUEL: PRAYING WITH SUNDAY'S SCRIPTURES

The best way to prepare to preach is to first be a good listener to the Word yourself. This week, I invite you to practice a simple form of lectio divina (divine reading) with the Gospel reading for next Sunday. **Read:** Look up the Gospel passage online or in a missal. Read it through once, just to get a sense of it. **Meditate:** Read it again slowly. What word or phrase stands out to you? What is Christ saying to you, personally, in this text? **Pray:** Have a conversation with God about what you've heard. Thank Him for a word of encouragement, ask Him for help with a word of challenge. **Contemplate:** Simply rest in God's presence for a few moments, letting His word soak into your heart. This practice trains you to hear God's voice in Scripture, which is the foundation of all authentic preaching.



A SAINT FOR YOUR JOURNEY: ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA

When we think of powerful preaching, one of the greatest models the Church gives us is St. Anthony of Padua. He was a brilliant theologian, but he was known as the "Hammer of Heretics" not because he was harsh, but because his preaching was so clear, so charitable, and so filled with the fire of the Holy Spirit that it could convert even the most hardened hearts.

Legend has it that when the people of a city would not listen to him, he went to the riverbank and preached to the fish, who lifted their heads from the water to listen. St. Anthony teaches us that effective preaching is not about human eloquence but about being filled with the love of Christ and the power of the Spirit. He is the perfect patron for anyone who desires to speak God's truth with love and conviction.

Yours in Christ,

Rev. Brad Morin

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PRACTICAL DISCERNMENT: BECOME AN ACTIVE LISTENER

To be a good preacher, one must first be a good listener. This week, make a conscious effort to listen more than you speak in your conversations. When a friend or family member is talking, put your phone down, make eye contact, and truly try to understand what they are saying, what they are feeling, and what they need.

Pay attention to the questions people are asking about life, faith, and meaning. The most powerful homilies often answer the questions people are already asking in their hearts. This simple exercise will help you develop the pastoral heart that is so essential for a priest who wants to preach the Gospel in a way that meets people where they are.

CLOSING THOUGHTS

The desire to share the Good News is a beautiful sign of a heart that is being moved by God.

Continue to nurture that desire with prayer and study.

As always, I am here to accompany you. Please be in touch if you would like to discuss this or any other aspect of your discernment.