

A large, illuminated religious mural on a building facade at night. The mural depicts a central figure with arms raised, surrounded by other figures in a dramatic scene. The building is lit up, and the sky is a deep blue.

BISHOP JOHN M. D'ARCY
PROGRAM *for* PRIESTLY RENEWAL
VIDEO SERIES

Savoring the Mystery:
Renewing Catholic Preaching in an
Age of Disaffiliation



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Welcome



Dear friends,

Welcome to the McGrath Institute for Church Life's Bishop John M. D'Arcy Program in Priestly Renewal Video Series. The program is named after John Michael D'Arcy (1932-2013), the eighth Bishop of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, who had a deep love for the priesthood and who spent a good part of his early ministry in seminary formation and spiritual direction. As a bishop he was deeply committed to the ongoing formation of diocesan priests.

Sponsored by a generous grant from Lilly Endowment Inc., this video series is designed to provide intellectual and pastoral content for the personal use and renewal of priests. This online resource was developed to enable priests to recommit themselves to focus on the quality of their own preaching as an essential part of their vocation to effectively serve the Church.

We hope you enjoy this resource and find it useful!

John C. Cavadini

John C. Cavadini, Ph.D.

McGrath-Cavadini Director of the McGrath Institute for Church Life

Video Hosts



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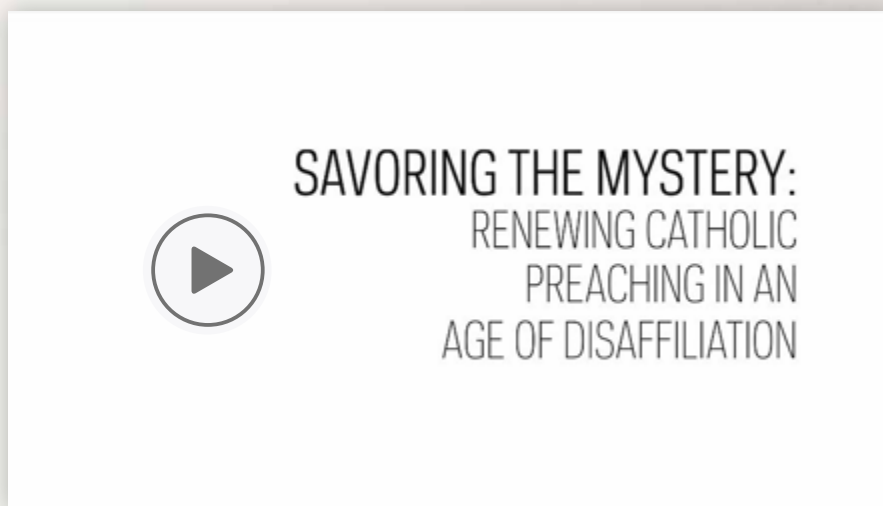
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Introduction

Savoring the Mystery: Renewing Catholic Preaching in an Age of Disaffiliation

- ◆ The following program invites priests to reflect on the quality of their own preaching.
- ◆ The program is designed to be used with a facilitator from the McGrath Institute for Church Life.
- ◆ The videos themselves could be used by dioceses in the context of priest convocations or other opportunities for priestly continuing formation.



INTRODUCTION VIDEO ACCESS: mcgrath.nd.edu/savoringthemystery – 1:23 minutes



Timothy O'Malley, Ph.D.

Professor of the Practice, Theology;
Director of Education, McGrath Institute;
Academic Director, Notre Dame Center
for Liturgy; Editor, *Church Life Journal*

Timothy P. O'Malley, Professor of the Practice, is the Director of Education at

the McGrath Institute for Church Life and Academic Director of the Notre Dame Center for Liturgy. He holds a concurrent appointment in the Department of Theology at the University of Notre Dame.

He received his undergraduate degree at the University of Notre Dame majoring in theology and philosophy. His M.T.S. is in liturgical studies also from the University of Notre Dame. He completed his doctorate at Boston College in theology and education, focusing on an Augustinian approach to liturgical formation.

He researches and teaches at Notre Dame in the areas of liturgical-sacramental theology, marriage and family, Catholic higher education, catechesis, preaching, and spirituality. His teaching and research adapts Romano Guardini's approach to liturgical-sacramental formation in late modernity. He is the author of nine books on topics related to the liturgy, RCIA, the Eucharist, sacramental theology, marriage and family, and liturgical formation.

Dr. O'Malley is presently working on two academic books, one related to Augustine and liturgical formation and the second on liturgy and the transformation of the social order. He is married and has two children, and is originally from Knoxville, TN.

Video 1

What's Wrong with Catholic Preaching? And What Can We Do About It?

This first video offers a diagnosis of what's wrong with Catholic preaching, attentive to both the homilist and the assembly. The solution to Catholic preaching is not merely rhetorical but instead must involve a deeper encounter with Jesus Christ in Sacred Scripture by the priest and assembly alike. In other words, the problem with Catholic preaching is our own failure to treat the homily as an occasion of evangelization and spiritual formation in the context of the Church's worship.



VIDEO 1 ACCESS: mcgrath.nd.edu/savoringthemystery - 30 minutes

Questions:

1. When have you experienced bad preaching? Good preaching? What did you notice about both types of preaching?
2. The crisis of preaching is a spiritual crisis, as much as it is a crisis of rhetoric or method. What do you think about this thesis? What kind of spiritual renewal do you need as a priest to encounter the person of Jesus Christ anew? How about your parish?
3. Based on suggestions in this session on renewing Catholic preaching, what concrete practices might you take up to improve your preaching?



Anthony Pagliarini, Ph.D.

Assistant Teaching Professor,
Department of Theology, University
of Notre Dame

Dr. Anthony Pagliarini grew up in northeastern Pennsylvania (Wilkes-Barre). After earning his B.A. in

Theology and Philosophy at the University of Notre Dame, he taught high school in a Catholic mission parish in Belize. He then moved to Rome to study Theology at the Angelicum and work as a guide in the Vatican Necropolis (the “Scavi”). He spent the following three years in Austria completing graduate work at the International Theological Institute. He then returned to Rome for further study at the Pontifical Biblical Institute and the École Biblique. After completing his SSL, he returned to Notre Dame to begin doctoral work in Old Testament. He now teaches in the Department of Theology and is the Director of Undergraduate Studies. His course offerings include Foundations of Theology, The Catholic Faith, Introduction to the New Testament, Psalms and Wisdom Literature, Prophets, Theology of Creation, and Intensive Intermediate Hebrew. Anthony and his wife Katie live in South Bend with their four children.

Video 2

Encountering Christ in the Scriptures

The second video attends to what we mean by speaking about an encounter with Jesus Christ in the Scriptures. Encountering Jesus Christ in Sacred Scripture is not the same thing as meeting our friend across the street. Instead, it is through the particularities of Scripture that we come to know our Lord. The first task of the homilist and the assembly alike is therefore to contemplate the wondrous presence of our Lord as given to us in Scripture.



VIDEO 2 ACCESS: mcgrath.nd.edu/savoringthemystery – 30 minutes

Questions:

1. In the talk, it was said that "If we try to fit our relationship with Jesus into the kind of relationship we have with others, we'll either despair of not achieving it or else make an idol of our own imaginings." How is the encounter/relationship with Christ distinct? Why might it be more helpful to speak of an ecclesial encounter with Christ?
2. What does it mean to say that God speaks to us in the Scriptures, and not only that he has spoken? Relatedly, how is it that Scripture invites us to speak to God?
3. How does the encounter with Christ in the Scriptures relate to the encounter with Christ that takes place more broadly in the life of the Church? Said differently, how is the one Word of God inseparably present in both Scripture and the Tradition? How do these distinct "fonts" of revelation inform one another?



Fr. Kevin Grove, C.S.C., Ph.D.

Assistant Professor, Department of
Theology, University of Notre Dame

Born and raised in Montana, Fr. Kevin Grove was ordained a Holy Cross priest at Notre Dame in 2010. After doctoral studies at the University of Cambridge

and before joining the faculty at Notre Dame, Fr. Grove was a post-doctoral researcher at L'Institut Catholique in Paris, France, and a fellow at the Notre Dame Institute for Advanced Study. In addition to his research and teaching, Fr. Grove serves pastorally at Notre Dame as an assistant faculty chaplain, chaplain to the Master of Divinity program, and as a pastoral resident for undergraduates in Dunne Hall.

Video 3

Preaching Jesus Christ

The third video addresses the task of preaching Jesus Christ in the world today. This session forms homilists, in particular, to think about their obligation to contemplate the mystery of Christ in the Scriptures and in the lives of the assembly alike. From this contemplation, priests can better announce the saving mystery of Christ for the sake of men and women.



VIDEO 3 ACCESS: mcgrath.nd.edu/savoringthemystery – 30 minutes

Questions:

1. Great preachers like St. Augustine said that in considering the Scriptures, we hear Christ speaking, and speaking in us His body. How by my preaching might I help my parishioners/students to hear Christ's voice in their own? When have I done this well?
2. How does preaching the body of Christ, with Christ as its head, challenge the individualism of our times?
3. In Catholic theology, we believe we are conditioned by what we choose to love. Relearning to love (desire of the eyes for possessions, desire of the flesh for pleasure, and pride for our interior lives) is not a diminishment but a healing of the human person. How does our preaching bring hope to love restored?



Katherine Angulo, M.A.

Program Director,
Thriving in Ministry Initiative,
McGrath Institute for Church Life

As the Program Director of the Thriving in Ministry Initiative, Katherine directs four important outreach efforts supported

by Lilly Endowment, Inc. Katherine works to prepare pastoral leaders for long-term ministry in the Church in the Strong Foundations for Catholic Leaders program; provides intellectual and spiritual renewal for invited diocesan priests in the Bishop John M. D'Arcy Program in Priestly Renewal; and is partnering with Iskali to create cultures of affiliation in the Hispanic Catholic Church in the United States through the Young Adult Innovation Hub. The fourth initiative seeks to re-propose the Holy Family of Nazareth as the foundation for catechetical renewal within the domestic Hispanic Church. This program is being piloted in the Archdiocese of San Antonio, TX and the Diocese of Raleigh, NC.

Born in Mexico and raised in Colombia, Katherine received her B.A. in Modern Languages and her M.A. in Pastoral Ministries. She has more than 24 years of experience in parish and diocesan ministry including the Dioceses of Knoxville TN; Raleigh, NC; and the Archdiocese of Atlanta. Angulo was the creator and editor of *The Mark*, a Catholic teen magazine, and the Executive Producer of the volunteer training program *Called to Accompany/Llamados a Acompañar*. She serves on the Board of Advisors for the Lilly Endowment in Thriving in Ministry Initiatives. She is on the Board of Governors for the Mexican American Catholic College, and on the Board of Advisors for the Nuevo Momento initiative from Boston College.

Video 4

Preaching the Mystery of Christ in the Multicultural Church

The U.S. Catholic Church has long been diversifying, with its Hispanic population undergoing particularly rapid growth in recent decades. This swiftly-changing cultural landscape necessitates the development of a new blueprint for engaging multiple cultures in ways different than anything the U.S. Catholic Church has tried before. This blueprint needs to be developed with the emerging Church of 2050 in mind and heart. One



VIDEO 4 ACCESS: mcgrath.nd.edu/savoringthemystery – 30 minutes

important dimension of Church life that needs particular attention is preaching: formation styles, catechetical techniques, and approaches to evangelization all need to be considered through new lenses. A fundamental understanding of the Church as multicultural needs to be built into everything we do and say, especially in preaching. Our multicultural identity cannot be an afterthought or an add-on to the celebration of the Eucharist. A central question for preachers to ask themselves is: "Am I preaching to a previous version of the Church or to the emerging Church of 2050?"

Questions:

1. Do you have a multicultural reality in your parish that is challenging? If so, what are the gifts your community is offering to you for your preaching?
2. What intersections in preaching do you experience between the realities of new immigrant generations and their parents and grandparents? What has helped you and your community successfully engage and retain Hispanic, Black, Vietnamese, Native Americans and Pacific Islanders (as well as others) in the Church?
3. How do we respond to the increasingly common situation of many parishes with many cultural groups (microcosms of the multicultural universal Church), while not neglecting the needs of the community that preceded the cultural shift?



Kayla August

Ph.D. Candidate,
School of Theology and Ministry,
Boston College

Kayla August is a student at the School of Theology and Ministry at Boston College, where she is pursuing a Ph.D.

in Theology and Education with a focus on preaching, particularly from a lay perspective. She has preached in a variety of places, including Catholic Women Preach Online, McGrath Institute for Church Life's Saturdays with the Saints, and the St. Francis of Assisi Parish in New York's 7 Last Words of Christ prayer service on Good Friday. Her interest in formation is rooted in her experiences as a University Ministry Intern at Loyola University of New Orleans, as well as her professional work as the Assistant Director of Evangelization in the University of Notre Dame's Campus Ministry department, and as the Rector of Lyons Hall on the Notre Dame campus.

Kayla desires to use preaching to impact religious education by inspiring Catholics to deepen their encounters with Scripture, tradition, and how God plays an active role in our daily lives. She also hopes, through preaching, to enliven youth and young adult Catholic communities and inspire marginalized voices—like her own—in the Catholic faith to play an active role in the Church.

Video 5

Preaching from Our Baptism

This fifth video addresses the need of rich parish formation for the kind of everyday preaching that is necessary for evangelization in our day. Kayla August invites priests to understand that their preaching should empower the faithful to preach Jesus Christ in the world, whether on airplanes or in the workplace.



VIDEO 5 ACCESS: mcgrath.nd.edu/savoringthemystery – 30 minutes

Questions:

1. When have you experienced preaching that empowered you to preach Jesus Christ outside of the church walls? What about this preaching moved you?
2. What do you imagine prevents your current congregation(s) from preaching in their own contexts?
3. What adjustments might you make to your preaching to better equip your congregations to preach the Gospel in the world?



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The McGrath Institute for Church Life partners with Catholic dioceses, parishes, and schools to address pastoral challenges with theological depth and rigor. By connecting the Catholic intellectual life to the life of the Church, we form faithful Catholic leaders for service to the Church and the world.



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