

North American Promoters of Justice, Peace, and Care of Creation

Dominican Reflection on Preaching: A Reflection on Our Experiences of the Preaching Charism
facilitated by Gregory Heille, O.P., Promoter of Preaching, Province of St Albert the Great USA
29 June 2004 in St. Louis, Missouri

There is a profoundly constitutive and intimate relation of action on behalf of justice and peace to preaching. And, yet, in the United States it is difficult to bring the See–Judge–Act and Praxis orientation of action for peace and justice to pulpit preaching, as listeners are strongly influenced by a sacred-secular silent rhetorical contract characterized by the guise of the equal importance and complete separation of church and state, by state rhetoric which refrains from being overly religious, and by solely rhetorical and not overly political participation by organized religion.

[Cf. Roderick P. Hart, *The Political Pulpit* (West Lafayette, Indiana: Purdue University Press, 1977) and “Twenty-five Years after *The Political Pulpit*,” a special issue of *The Journal of Religion and Communication* 25:1 (March 2002).]

The justice promoters have done well in engaging the Dominican charism of contemplation vis-à-vis action for justice and peace. A prime example is the September 2002 Fast for Peace and Nonviolence and “There must be another way” campaign, which received widespread support and solidarity throughout the U.S. Dominican Family (cf. <http://news.op.org/justice/422.html>). A number of other congregational and provincial stances and actions were mentioned, pertaining especially to healing racism and abolition of capital punishment.

It has been more difficult, however, to discern how promoters of justice and promoters of preaching can assist one another in a common project of preaching for peace and justice. Justice packets on preaching to particular social issues do not accommodate easily to lectionary and seasonal liturgical preaching. Yet, preachers can be taught in their preaching preparation to seek out the prophetic dimension which is constitutive to liturgical preaching. Preachers also benefit by immersing themselves in the study of one or two particular social issues, such as are put forward by the justice promoters in their “Call to Action.” As promoters, we are involved together in a common project for preaching peace and justice, in which justice promoters seek to form each member of the Dominican family in a passion for justice and the study of the issues and in which promoters of preaching seek to form each member with an understanding of the prophetic nature of preaching and the study of interpretative tools for preaching the lections of scripture prophetically. This common project might be enhanced by working as promoters of justice and promoters of preaching to jointly sponsor regional conferences on themes pertinent to preaching justice.

A homiletic bibliography on Prophetic Biblical Preaching as a Foundation for Justice is attached.



PROPHETIC BIBLICAL PREACHING AS A FOUNDATION FOR JUSTICE
Gregory Heille, O.P., 314-977-7229, www.ai.edu, heilleg@slu.edu,
North American Promoters of Justice, 29 June 2004, St. Louis

Baumer, Patricia Hughes. "The Need for Lay Preaching" and "Lay Preaching and Canon Law." Partners in Preaching Website at www.partnersinpreaching.org/resources.html.

Brueggemann, Walter. *Cadences of Home: Preaching Among Exiles*. Louisville: Westminster/John Knox Press, 1997.

———. *Hopeful Imagination: Prophetic Voices in Exile*. Philadelphia: Fortress Press, 1986.

———. "Preaching a Sub-Version." *Theology Today* 55, no. 2 (1998): 195-212.

———. *The Prophetic Imagination*. Philadelphia: Fortress Press, 1978.

Burghardt SJ, Walter. *Let Justice Roll Down Like Waters: Biblical Justice Homilies throughout the Year*. New York: Paulist Press, 1998.

———. *Preaching the Just Word*. New Haven, CT: Yale University Press, 1996.

Campbell, Charles L. *The Word Before the Powers: an Ethic of Preaching*. Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 2002.

Carson, Clayborne, and Peter Holloran, eds. *A Knock at Midnight: Inspiration From the Great Sermons of Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr.* New York: Intellectual Properties Management and Warner Books, 1998.

———. "A Knock at Midnight: Inspiration From the Great Sermons of Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr." New York: Time Warner Audio Books. Six audio-cassettes.

Crawford, Evans E., with Thomas H. Troeger. *The Hum: Call and Response in African American Preaching*. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1995.

Davis, Kenneth G. "Cross-Cultural Preaching." *Chicago Studies* 39, no. 3 (2000): 333-53.

Davis, Kenneth G., and Jorge Presmanes, eds. *Preaching and Culture in Latino Congregations*. Chicago: Liturgy Training Publications, 2000.

Fairbanks, Sarah Ann. "Displaced Persons: Lay Liturgical Preachers at the Eucharist." *Worship* 77, no. 5 (2003): 439-57.

Farmer, William R., ed. *Comentario Biblico Internacional: Commentario Catolico y Ecumenico*. Navarra: Edial Verbo Divino, 1999.

———. *The International Bible Commentary*. Collegeville, MN: The Liturgical Press, 1998.

Foley OP, Nadine, ed. *Preaching and the Non-Ordained: An Interdisciplinary Study*. Collegeville, MN: Liturgical Press, 1983.

- Gonzalez, Justo L., and Catherine G. Gonzalez. *The Liberating Pulpit*. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1994.
- Harris, James H. *Preaching Liberation*. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 1995.
- Heille OP, Gregory. "The Word on the Web: An Internet Hotlist of Resources for Preachers." At www.kn.sbc.com/wired/fil/pages/listpreachergr.html. With sections on Bible, Catholic Lectionary—General, Catholic Lectionary—Justice and Spanish, Ecumencial and Revised Common Lectionary—English and Spanish, Organizations and Publications.
- Hilkert OP, Mary Catherine. "God's Words in Women's Words." *America* (1999): 14-18.
- . "Naming Grace: A Theology of Proclamation." *Worship* (1986): 434-49.
- . *Naming Grace: Preaching and the Sacramental Imagination*. New York: Continuum Publishing Co., 1997.
- Howard, Robert R. "African American Preaching: A Bibliography," Parts I, II, and Additions. *Homiletic: A Review of Publications in Religious Communication* XXIII, no. 2 (1998): 21-23; XXV, no. 1 (2000): 25-30; and XXVI, no. 1 (2001): 1-4.
- . "Women and Preaching," Parts I, II, III, IV, V, and Additions. *Homiletic: A Review of Publications in Religious Communication* XVII, no. 2 (1992); XVIII, no. 1 (1993); XIX, no. 2 (1994); XX, no. 1 (1995): 7-10; XXII, no. 1 (1997): 27-29; and XXVI, no. 1 (2001): 4-7.
- Jamieson, Kathleen Hall. *Eloquence in an Electronic Age: The Transformation of Political Speechmaking*. New York: Oxford University Press, 1988.
- Jeter, Joseph R. Jr., *Crisis Preaching: Personal and Public*. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1998.
- Jeter, Joseph R. Jr., and Ronald J. Allen. *One Gospel, Many Ears: Preaching for Different Listeners in the Congregation*. St. Louis: Chalice Press, 2002.
- Johnson, James Weldon. *God's Trombones: Seven Negro Sermons in Verse*. New York: Penguin Books, 1990.
- Kee, Howard Clark, and Irvin J. Borowsky, eds. *Removing Anti-Judaism From the Pulpit*. New York: Continuum Publishing Co., 1996.
- Kurewa, John Wesley Zwomunondiita. *Preaching and Cultural Identity: Proclaiming the Gospel in Africa*. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 2000.
- Lischer, Richard. *The Preacher King: Martin Luther King Jr. and the Word That Moved America*. New York: Oxford University Press, 1995.
- Macpherson, Duncan. *Pilgrim Preacher: Palestine, Pilgrimage and Preaching*. London: Melisende, 2004.
- Malina, Bruce J., and Richard L. Rohrbaugh. *Social-Science Commentary on the Gospel of John*. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 1998.
- . *Social-Science Commentary on the Synoptic Gospels*. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 1992.
- McClure, John S., and Nancy J. Ramsay. *Telling the Truth: Preaching About Sexual and Domestic Violence*. Cleveland: United Church Press, 1998.

- Mitchell, Henry H. *Black Preaching: The Recovery of a Powerful Art*. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1990.
- . *Celebration and Experience in Preaching*. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1990.
- Parachini SNJM, Patricia A. *Guide for Lay Preachers*. The Basics of Ministry Series. Collegeville, MN: Liturgical Press, 2000.
- . *Lay Preaching: State of the Question*. Collegeville, MN: Liturgical Press, 1999.
- Pilch, John J. *The Cultural World of Jesus: Sunday by Sunday, Cycle A*. Collegeville, MN: Liturgical Press, 1995.
- . *The Cultural World of Jesus: Sunday by Sunday, Cycle B*. Collegeville, MN: Liturgical Press, 1994.
- . *The Cultural World of Jesus: Sunday by Sunday, Cycle C*. Collegeville, MN: Liturgical Press, 1997.
- Presmanes OP, Jorge L., and Kenneth G. Davis OFM Conv., eds. "Preaching and Culture: Engaging U.S. Hispanic Congregations." *Chicago Studies* 39, no. 3 (2000).
- Kenneth G. Davis, OFM Conv., "Cross-Cultural Preaching;" Maria Luisa Iglesias, SC, "Participative Preaching: Laity as Co-Authors of the Homily;" Jaime Lara, "Visual Preaching: The Witness of Our Latin Eyes;" Jorge Presmanes, "The Justaposition of Dangerous Memories: Toward a Latino Theology of Preaching Form the Underside of the Diaspora Experience;" Juan J. Sosa, "Preaching and Popular Religion;" Raul Gomez, SDS, "Preaching to the Ritual Masses among Latinos;" Victor Alvarez, "Preaching to Generacion X"
- Sample, Tex. *White Soul: Country Music, the Church and Working Americans*. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1996.
- Smith, Christine M. "Preaching As an Art of Resistance." In *The Arts of Ministry*, ed. Christie Cozad Neuger. Louisville: Westminster/John Knox Press, 1996: 39–59.
- . *Preaching As Weeping, Confession and Resistance: Radical Responses to Radical Evil*. Louisville: Westminster/John Knox Press, 1989.
- , ed. *Preaching Justice: Ethnic and Cultural Perspectives*. Cleveland, OH: United Church Press, 1998.
- . *Risking the Terror: Resurrection in This Life*. Cleveland: Pilgrim Press, 2001.
- . *Weaving the Sermon: Preaching in a Feminist Perspective*. Louisville: Westminster/John Knox Press, 1989.
- Soelle, Dorothy. *The Silent Cry: Mysticism and Resistance*. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2001.
- Turner, Mary Donovan, and Mary Lin Hudson. *Saved From Silence: Finding Women's Voice in Preaching*. St. Louis: Chalice Press, 1999.
- Van Seters, Arthur, ed. *Preaching As a Social Act: Theology and Practice*. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1988.
- Webb, Joseph M. *Preaching and the Challenge of Pluralism*. St. Louis: Chalice Press, 1998.