

# Finding and Proclaiming the Missionary Aspects of Sacred Scripture

Msgr. Roger Landry • TPMS Missionary Preaching Academy • June 30, 2026



# Fundamental Elements of a Mission Homily



- Some anchor in the **Sacred Scripture of the Day**
- An application to the **missionary dimension of the Church** — which “is” and doesn’t “have” a mission — and **the life of each missionary disciple**.
- An application to the concrete situation of the **mission situation for which you’re appealing**, normally done within a compelling, **well-delivered story** of the people and their needs.
- These applications, like Pius XI indicated 100 years ago, should describe the **grandeur of the missionary vocation**, both of every baptized person, but especially of those who have given their lives explicitly to the mission ad gentes.



# Fundamental Elements of a Mission Homily



- Some mention of the **work of the Pontifical Mission Societies within the USA and the Diocese** and of **World Mission Sunday**, the main mission appeal each year. They are your hosts, together with the parish.
- **An invitation to action and to help** by **prayers, the offering of their sufferings and their financial support**. The more you can convey the **impact of past support** and **how far their dollars can stretch the better**. Ask for what a parish can legitimately give rather than what they can't.
- An application to the **Eucharistic Lord Jesus** who gives all in mission — his Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity — and invites us to “do *this* in memory of him,” namely imitate his loving sacrifice.



# Importance of a Compelling Mission Story



- Jesus regularly used images and stories (parables) to illustrate his teachings and similarly turned to stories of current events.
- **Missionary preachers must be able verbally to help the faithful enter into the lives, joys, challenges, needs and sufferings of the people in the missions.** This is done by crisp stories in which there is a clear point or action item without superfluous tangents that can distract.
- The more crisp stories from the missions that a preacher has, the easier it will be to incorporate one or a couple of them and the better they will be at telling these stories.



# Importance of a Compelling Mission Story



- There are various types of true stories:
  - **Personal stories** that build authenticity and trust.
  - **Stories that inspire** because of the faith, love, virtues and heroism of those in those missions, both missionaries and faithful
  - **Stories that inform** about the concrete needs the people have, with a a sense of how much that help would cost.
  - **Witness stories** that describe the impact previous assistance has had, to inspire people to "see" the work being done and what the possibilities might be for them as a parish or as individuals.
  - **Stories that invoke people's compassion** for the situation of those in the missions and some of their basic struggles in life or in faith that fosters people become Good Samaritans and crossing the road with their prayers.



# Asking for Money



- One of the things that can sometimes intimidate people is asking for money. We shouldn't be ashamed to do so, because we are forming people in their responsibility. But we should propose it to others' freedom, with hope and gratitude, and no sense of manipulation or compelling.
- St. Paul, of course, showed us how to do this in the early Church, inviting people to share in the needs of sister Churches, encouraging generous and cheerful giving.
- 1 Cor 16:1-4 — “In regard to the **collection for the holy ones**, you also should do as I ordered the churches of Galatia. **On the first day of the week each of you should set aside and save whatever one can afford...**”
- Gal 6:10 — “While we have the opportunity, **let us do good to all**, but especially to those who belong to the **family of the faith.**”



# Asking for Money



- 1 Tim 5:17-18 — “Presbyters who preside well deserve double honor, especially those who toil in preaching and teaching. **For the scripture says ... ‘A worker deserves his pay.’**”
- Phil 4:10-18 — “I rejoice greatly in the Lord that now at last you revived your concern for me. ... **It was kind of you to share in my distress.** You Philippians indeed know that at the beginning of the gospel, when I left Macedonia, not a single church shared with me in **an account of giving and receiving**, except you alone. For even when I was at Thessalonica **you sent me something for my needs, not only once but more than once.** It is not that I am eager for the gift; rather, **I am eager for the profit that accrues to your account.**”



# Asking for Money



- 2 Cor 8 and 9 — “We want you to know, brothers, of the grace of God that has been given to the churches of Macedonia, for ... the abundance of their joy and their profound poverty overflowed in a **wealth of generosity on their part**. For ... **they begged us insistently for the favor of taking part in the service to the holy ones**. ... They gave themselves **first to the Lord** and to us through the will of God. ... **May you excel in this gracious act also**. I say this not by way of command, but **to test the genuineness of your love by your concern for others**. ...



# Asking for Money



- “For you know the gracious act of our Lord Jesus Christ, that **for your sake he became poor** although he was rich, **so that by his poverty you might become rich.** ... It is acceptable according to what one has, not according to what one does not have; not that others should have relief while you are burdened, but that ... your surplus at the present time should supply their needs, so that their surplus may also supply your needs. ... So **give proof before the churches of your love** and of our boasting about you to them.”



# Asking for Money



- “Consider this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and **whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully**. Each must do as already determined, **without sadness or compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver**. ... You are being **enriched in every way for all generosity**, which through us **produces thanksgiving to God**. ... Through the evidence of this service, **you are glorifying God** for your obedient confession of the gospel of Christ and **the generosity of your contribution to them and to all others**, while in prayer on your behalf they long for you, because of the surpassing grace of God upon you. **Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!**”



# Sacred Scripture and Preaching



- But I want to speak fundamentally about Sacred Scripture and preaching, because it's the most important of all.
- Saint Jerome, featured on the opening slide, famously reminds us, **"Ignorance of Scripture is ignorance of Christ."**
- To help our people encounter Christ, **we must preach Scripture:** the Old Testament, in which his saving work is concealed; the Gospels, in which the prophecies are revealed; the epistles in which we see the consequences of life in him.
- As we saw last time, **St. Augustine** emphasized, "For a man who has the duty of saying wisely even what he cannot say eloquently, **it is supremely important that he should have the words of Scripture at his fingertips.**" If one doesn't know Sacred Scripture, he says, eloquence is useless and can harm.
- Pope Francis also underlined that Sacred Preaching must be based on the Word of God with which the preacher is intimately familiar, not just intellectually but existentially.



# Sacred Scripture and Preaching



- Christ's words must become our words. '
- We see on the **Road to Emmaus** that Christ's using Sacred Scripture transformed the disciples' hearts from slow to believe to on fire. That's what the Word of God is meant to do.
- Pope Benedict XVI: "The homily is part of the liturgical action and is meant to foster a deeper understanding of the word of God, so that it can bear fruit in the lives of the faithful. The homily is a means of **bringing the scriptural message** to life in a way that helps the faithful to realize that **God's word is present and at work in their everyday lives**. It should lead to an understanding of the mystery being celebrated, serve as a summons to mission, and prepare the assembly for the profession of faith, the universal prayer and the Eucharistic liturgy."



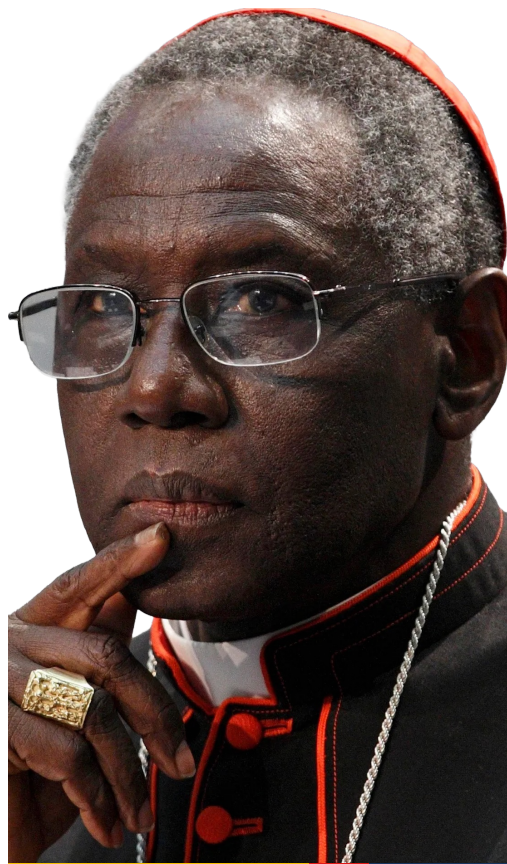
# Sacred Scripture and Preaching



- Pope Benedict XVI: “Consequently, those who have been charged with preaching by virtue of a specific ministry ought to take this task to heart. Generic and abstract homilies that **obscure the directness of God’s word** should be avoided, as well as useless digressions which risk drawing greater attention to the preacher than to the heart of the Gospel message. **The faithful should be able to perceive clearly that the preacher has a compelling desire to present Christ**, who must stand at the center of every homily. For this reason, **preachers need to be in close and constant contact with the sacred text**; they should prepare for the homily by meditation and prayer, so as to preach with conviction and passion.”



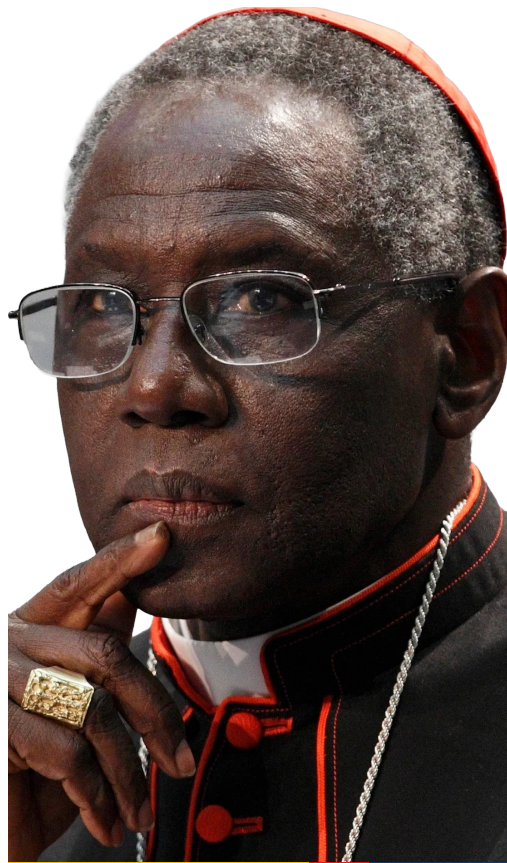
# Sacred Scripture and Preaching



- Cardinal Robert Sarah in his upcoming book *2050*, in a chapter entitled “Mission Work: The Great Definition of Evangelization,” speaks about the importance of the Word of God in the Church’s mission:
- **“Mission therefore requires a twofold disposition: to be nourished by the Word and to allow oneself to be instructed by it.** That is the second tool of mission work: to agree to become a pupil of God, to be enrolled in His school, to let oneself be taught by Him. **Faith** is not a claim. It is receptivity. It is docility. It **is the interior attitude by which we say to God: Speak, Lord, Your servant is listening.**”



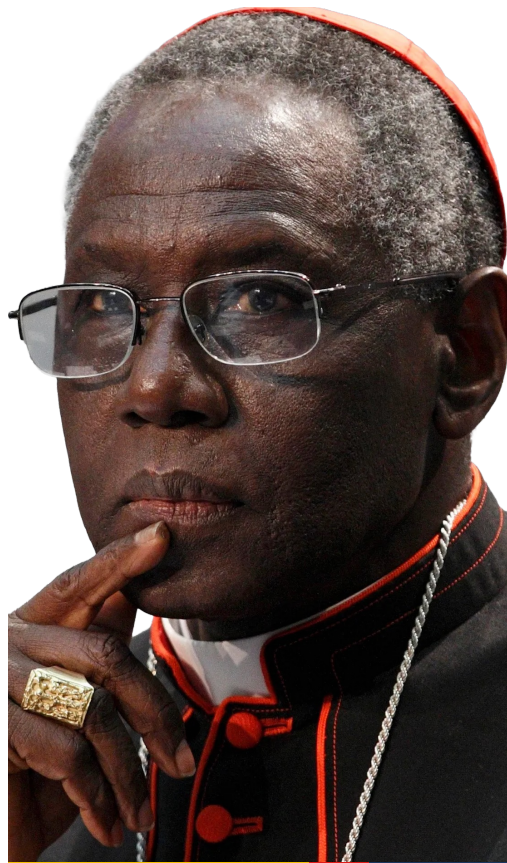
# Sacred Scripture and Preaching



- “**The missionary is** not a commentator on world events. He is **a servant of the Word**. He must be **steeped in Scripture** and drink from the wellsprings of silent prayer, meditation, and contemplation.”
- “**Mission work consists therefore essentially in proclaiming the Word of God**. And this Word, in the Church’s view, is as venerable as the Body of the Lord. The table of Scripture, like the table of the Eucharist, offers one and the same Christ to the faithful. They are not opposed but agree, join together and explain one another.”



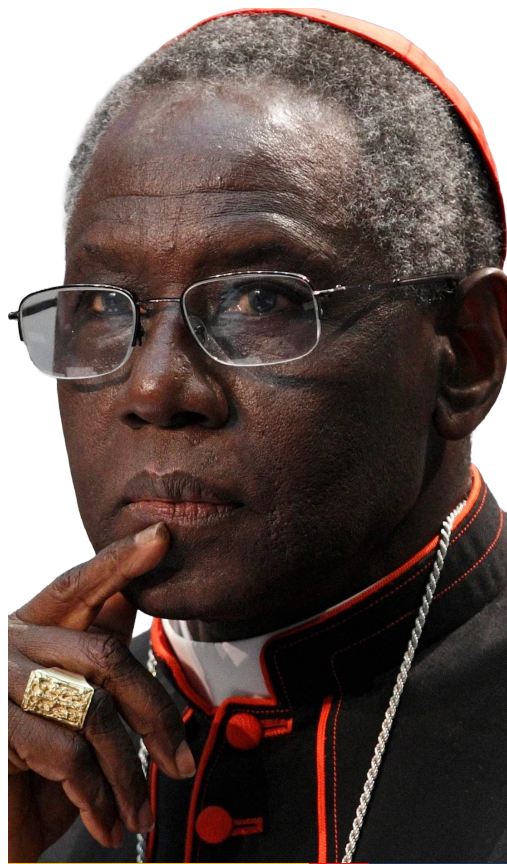
## Sacred Scripture and Preaching



- **“The Christian is called to live a life that is a genuine biblical journey,** just like Abraham, Jesus, Mary, Joseph, or even the prophet Hosea. The Word of God is not a frozen discourse; **it is a sap, a wellspring, a light. It nourishes the soul, orients the heart, opens it to an intimate communion with God.** It founds a relationship, establishes a dialogue, reveals a covenant. **The Master of this School of the Word is Christ Himself.”**



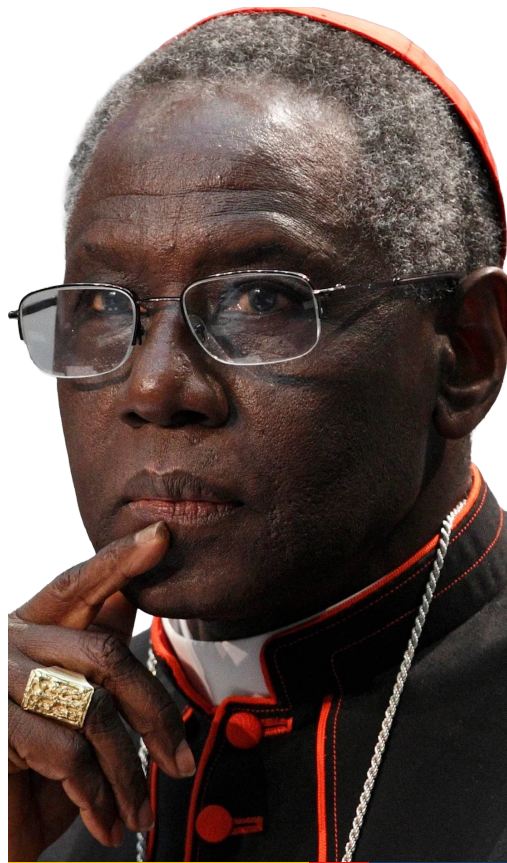
# Sacred Scripture and Preaching



- “Nowadays, when we read the Bible in its numerous translations or when we hear the preaching that follows from it, **sometimes we hear discordant voices**. Too often, clarity gives way to confusion. Too often, worldly interpretations take precedence over revealed truth. **They seek to please, to appeal, to soften the keen edge of the Word**. They sidestep the rigor of the Gospel path, because it is narrow and steep. **The Word of God becomes a pretext**; it is simply raw material shaped according to the moods or ideologies of the moment. They prefer something that is reassuring, pleasing to the ear, flattering. But the Word of Christ cannot be falsified. It is harsh light, fiery speech, a two-edged sword. It demands conversion. It calls for a radical change of life. It does not bow to our desires. It shatters us in order to rebuild us.”



# Sacred Scripture and Preaching



- **“Without this living, intimate experience of the Word, no one can be a missionary.** It is not a matter of transmitting ideas, but of **giving witness.** Mission work springs from the fact that **we have seen with our eyes, heard with our ears, and touched with our hands the Word of God** (see 1 Jn 1:1–3). The Word of Life was made flesh: It is necessary to have contemplated His light in order to witness to Him. **The Bible must become the bedside reading of every Christian.** It is the book with which we must fall asleep—and which must wake us up.”



# Sacred Scripture and Preaching



- In short, we must become convinced, like St. Augustine teaches, of the power of the Word of God.
- James 1:21-22: “Humbly welcome the word that has been planted in you and **is able to save your souls**. Be doers of the word and not hearers only, deluding yourselves.”
- Jn 6:68: “Simon Peter answered him, “Master, to whom shall we go? **You have the words of eternal life.**”
- Mt 4:4: “[Jesus] said in reply, ‘It is written: ‘One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes forth from the mouth of God.’””
- Lk 1:38: “Mary said, ‘Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. **May it be done to me according to your word.**””



# Sacred Scripture and Preaching



- Pope Benedict XVI on the power of the Word of God: “The interpretation of sacred Scripture would remain incomplete were it not to include listening to those who have truly lived the word of God: namely, the saints. **Indeed, *viva lectio est vita bonorum***. The most profound interpretation of Scripture comes precisely from those who let themselves be shaped by the word of God through listening, reading and assiduous meditation.
- “It is certainly not by chance that the great currents of spirituality in the Church’s history **originated with an explicit reference to Scripture. ...**”



# Sacred Scripture and Preaching



- “I am thinking for example of **Saint Anthony the Abbot**, who was moved by hearing Christ’s words: ‘If you would be perfect, go, sell what you possess and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me.’ No less striking is the question posed by **Saint Basil the Great** in the *Moralia*: ‘What is the distinctive mark of faith? Full and unhesitating certainty that the words inspired by God are true ... What is the distinctive mark of the faithful? Conforming their lives with the same complete certainty to the meaning of the words of Scripture, not daring to remove or add a single thing.’ **Saint Benedict**, in his Rule, refers to Scripture as ‘a most perfect norm for human life.’ ...



# Sacred Scripture and Preaching



- “**Saint Francis of Assisi**, ... upon hearing that the disciples of Christ must possess neither gold, nor silver nor money, nor carry a bag, nor bread, nor a staff for the journey, nor sandals nor two tunics ... exulting in the Holy Spirit, immediately cried out: ‘This is what I want, this is what I ask for, this I long to do with all my heart!’ **Saint Clare of Assisi** shared fully in the experience of Saint Francis: ‘The form of life of the Order of Poor Sisters – she writes – is this: to observe the holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ.’ So too, **Saint Dominic** ‘everywhere showed himself to be a man of the Gospel, in word as in deed,’ and wanted his friars likewise to be ‘men of the Gospel.’



# Sacred Scripture and Preaching



- “The Carmelite Saint **Teresa of Avila**, who in her writings constantly uses biblical images to explain her mystical experiences, says that Jesus himself revealed to her that ‘all the evil in the world is derived from not knowing clearly the truths of sacred Scripture.’ **Saint Thérèse of the Child Jesus** discovered that love was her personal vocation by poring over the Scriptures, especially Chapters 12 and 13 of the First Letter to the Corinthians...”



# Sacred Scripture and Preaching



- “**Every saint is like a ray of light streaming forth from the word of God:** we can think of **Saint Ignatius of Loyola** in his search for truth and in his discernment of spirits; **Saint John Bosco** in his passion for the education of the young; **Saint John Mary Vianney** in his awareness of the grandeur of the priesthood as gift and task; **Saint Pius of Pietrelcina** in his serving as an instrument of divine mercy; **Saint Josemaria Escrivá** in his preaching of the universal call to holiness; **Blessed Teresa of Calcutta**, the missionary of God’s charity towards the poorest of the poor, and then the martyrs of Nazism and Communism, represented by **Saint Teresa Benedicta of the Cross** (Edith Stein), a Carmelite nun, and by **Blessed Aloysius Stepinac**, the Cardinal Archbishop of Zagreb.”



# Sacred Scripture and Preaching



- **“Holiness inspired by the word of God** thus belongs in a way to the **prophetic tradition, wherein the word of God sets the prophet’s very life at its service.** In this sense, **holiness in the Church constitutes an interpretation of Scripture** that cannot be overlooked. **The Holy Spirit who inspired the sacred authors is the same Spirit who impels the saints to offer their lives for the Gospel.”**



# Mission Preaching from the Scriptures



- It is, therefore, essential for every Catholic preacher to **preach from the Scriptures** with their full power.
- We will never exhaust the power of Sacred Scripture, especially in one homily however long; but in order **to demonstrate that our preaching comes not from us but from the Word of God**, it is key to show that what we're saying comes from the Scriptures rather than just looks to Scripture for the confirmation of something else we attempt to say.
- There ought to be, at a minimum, **a clear Scriptural anchor** for what we are trying to say, and that should ordinarily come from the four readings from that Sunday or a Solemnity or from the three readings for daily Mass.



# Mission Preaching from the Scriptures



- With those elements in mind, it is good for us to practice finding the Scriptural hooks in every reading and becoming adept at using them to proclaim a missionary appeal based on Sacred Scripture.
- We can focus on finding these anchors as we look at the readings from the Sunday Masses over the next three weeks.



# Mission Preaching from the Scriptures

**July 5, 14<sup>th</sup> Sunday (A), First Reading (Zeph 9:9-10)**

Thus says the LORD:

Rejoice heartily, O daughter Zion, shout for joy, O daughter Jerusalem! See, your king shall come to you; a just savior is he, meek, and riding on an ass, on a colt, the foal of an ass.

He shall banish the chariot from Ephraim, and the horse from Jerusalem; the warrior's bow shall be banished, and he shall proclaim peace to the nations. His dominion shall be from sea to sea, and from the River to the ends of the earth.





# Mission Preaching from the Scriptures

## July 5, 14<sup>th</sup> Sunday (A), Psalm

**I will praise your name for ever,  
my king and my God (Ps 145)**

I will extol you, O my God and King,  
and I will bless your name forever and  
ever.

Every day will I bless you,  
and I will praise your name forever  
and ever.

The LORD is gracious and merciful,  
slow to anger and of great kindness.  
The LORD is good to all

and compassionate toward all his  
works.

Let all your works give you thanks, O  
LORD,  
and let your faithful ones bless you.  
Let them discourse of the glory of  
your kingdom  
and speak of your might.

The LORD is faithful in all his words  
and holy in all his works.  
The LORD lifts up all who are falling  
and raises up all who are bowed  
down.





# Mission Preaching from the Scriptures

## July 5, 14<sup>th</sup> Sunday (A), Second Reading (Rom 8:9-13)



Brothers and sisters: You are not in the flesh; on the contrary, you are in the spirit, if only the Spirit of God dwells in you. Whoever does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him.

If the Spirit of the one who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, the one who raised Christ from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also, through his Spirit that dwells in you.

Consequently, brothers and sisters, we are not debtors to the flesh, to live according to the flesh. For if you live according to the flesh, you will die, but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live.



# Mission Preaching from the Scriptures

## July 5, 14<sup>th</sup> Sunday (A), Gospel (Mt 11:25-30)

At that time Jesus exclaimed:

"I give praise to you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, for although you have hidden these things from the wise and the learned you have revealed them to little ones. Yes, Father, such has been your gracious will.

All things have been handed over to me by my Father. No one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son wishes to reveal him."

"Come to me, all you who labor and are burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am meek and humble of heart; and you will find rest for yourselves. For my yoke is easy, and my burden light."





# Mission Preaching from the Scriptures

**July 12, 15<sup>th</sup> Sunday (A), First Reading (Is 55:10-11)**

Thus says the LORD:

Just as from the heavens the rain and snow come down and do not return there till they have watered the earth, making it fertile and fruitful, giving seed to the one who sows and bread to the one who eats, so shall my word be that goes forth from my mouth; my word shall not return to me void, but shall do my will, achieving the end for which I sent it.





# Mission Preaching from the Scriptures

**July 12, 15<sup>th</sup> Sunday (A),  
Psalm**

**The seed that falls on good ground  
will yield a fruitful harvest. (Ps 65)**

You have visited the land and  
watered it;  
greatly have you enriched it.  
God's watercourses are filled;  
you have prepared the grain.

Thus have you prepared the land:  
drenching its furrows,  
breaking up its clods,  
Softening it with showers,  
blessing its yield.

You have crowned the year with your  
bounty,  
and your paths overflow with a rich  
harvest;  
The untilled meadows overflow with  
it,  
and rejoicing clothes the hills.

The fields are garmented with flocks  
and the valleys blanketed with grain.  
They shout and sing for joy.





# Mission Preaching from the Scriptures

**July 12, 15<sup>th</sup> Sunday (A), Second Reading (Rom 8:18-23)**



Brothers and sisters: I consider that the sufferings of this present time are as nothing compared with the glory to be revealed for us. For creation awaits with eager expectation the revelation of the children of God; for creation was made subject to futility, not of its own accord but because of the one who subjected it, in hope that creation itself would be set free from slavery to corruption and share in the glorious freedom of the children of God.

We know that all creation is groaning in labor pains even until now; and not only that, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, we also groan within ourselves as we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies.



# Mission Preaching from the Scriptures

## July 12, 15<sup>th</sup> Sunday (A), Gospel (Mt 13:1-23)



On that day, Jesus went out of the house and sat down by the sea. Such large crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat down, and the whole crowd stood along the shore. And he spoke to them at length in parables, saying:

“A sower went out to sow. And as he sowed, some seed fell on the path, and birds came and ate it up. Some fell on rocky ground, where it had little soil. It sprang up at once because the soil was not deep, and when the sun rose it was scorched, and it withered for lack of roots. Some seed fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked it. But some seed fell on rich soil, and produced fruit, a hundred or sixty or thirtyfold. Whoever has ears ought to hear.” ...



# Mission Preaching from the Scriptures

## July 12, 15<sup>th</sup> Sunday (A), Gospel (Mt 13:1-23)



The disciples approached him and said, “Why do you speak to them in parables?” He said to them in reply, “Because knowledge of the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven has been granted to you, but to them it has not been granted. To anyone who has, more will be given and he will grow rich; from anyone who has not, even what he has will be taken away. This is why I speak to them in parables, because ‘they look but do not see and hear but do not listen or understand.’ Isaiah’s prophecy is fulfilled in them, which says: “You shall indeed hear but not understand, you shall indeed look but never see. Gross is the heart of this people, they will hardly hear with their ears, they have closed their eyes, lest they see with their eyes and hear with their ears and understand with their heart and be converted, and I heal them.’ “But blessed are your eyes, because they see, and your ears, because they hear. Amen, I say to you, many prophets and righteous people longed to see what you see but did not see it, and to hear what you hear but did not hear it. ...



# Mission Preaching from the Scriptures

## July 12, 15<sup>th</sup> Sunday (A), Gospel (Mt 13:1-23)



“Hear then the parable of the sower. The seed sown on the path is the one who hears the word of the kingdom without understanding it, and the evil one comes and steals away what was sown in his heart. The seed sown on rocky ground is the one who hears the word and receives it at once with joy. But he has no root and lasts only for a time. When some tribulation or persecution comes because of the word, he immediately falls away. The seed sown among thorns is the one who hears the word, but then worldly anxiety and the lure of riches choke the word and it bears no fruit. But the seed sown on rich soil is the one who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and yields a hundred or sixty or thirtyfold.”



# Mission Preaching from the Scriptures

## July 19, 16<sup>th</sup> Sunday (A), First Reading (Wis 12:13,16-19)



There is no god besides you who have the care of all, that you need show you have not unjustly condemned.

For your might is the source of justice; your mastery over all things makes you lenient to all. For you show your might when the perfection of your power is disbelieved; and in those who know you, you rebuke temerity.

But though you are master of might, you judge with clemency, and with much lenience you govern us; for power, whenever you will, attends you.

And you taught your people, by these deeds, that those who are just must be kind; and you gave your children good ground for hope that you would permit repentance for their sins.



# Mission Preaching from the Scriptures



**July 19, 16<sup>th</sup> Sunday (A),  
Psalm**

**Lord, you are good and  
forgiving. (Ps 86)**

You, O LORD, are good and  
forgiving,  
abounding in kindness to all who  
call upon you.

Hearken, O LORD, to my prayer  
and attend to the sound of my  
pleading.

All the nations you have made

shall come  
and worship you, O LORD,  
and glorify your name.

For you are great, and you do  
wondrous deeds;  
you alone are God.

You, O LORD, are a God merciful  
and gracious,  
slow to anger, abounding in  
kindness and fidelity.

Turn toward me, and have pity  
on me;  
give your strength to your  
servant.



# Mission Preaching from the Scriptures

**July 19, 16<sup>th</sup> Sunday (A), Second Reading** (Rom 8:26-27)

Brothers and sisters:

The Spirit comes to the aid of our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes with inexpressible groanings.

And the one who searches hearts knows what is the intention of the Spirit, because he intercedes for the holy ones according to God's will.





# Mission Preaching from the Scriptures

## July 19, 16<sup>th</sup> Sunday (A), Gospel (Mt 13:24-43)



He proposed another parable to them. “The kingdom of heaven may be likened to a man who sowed good seed in his field. While everyone was asleep his enemy came and sowed weeds all through the wheat, and then went off. When the crop grew and bore fruit, the weeds appeared as well. The slaves of the householder came to him and said, ‘Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? Where have the weeds come from?’ He answered, ‘An enemy has done this.’ His slaves said to him, ‘Do you want us to go and pull them up?’ He replied, “No, if you pull up the weeds you might uproot the wheat along with them. Let them grow together until harvest; then at harvest time I will say to the harvesters, “First collect the weeds and tie them in bundles for burning; but gather the wheat into my barn.”” ...



# Mission Preaching from the Scriptures

## July 19, 16<sup>th</sup> Sunday (A), Gospel (Mt 13:24-43)



He proposed another parable to them. “The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that a person took and sowed in a field. It is the smallest of all the seeds, yet when full-grown it is the largest of plants. It becomes a large bush, and the ‘birds of the sky come and dwell in its branches.’” He spoke to them another parable. “The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed with three measures of wheat flour until the whole batch was leavened.” All these things Jesus spoke to the crowds in parables. He spoke to them only in parables, to fulfill what had been said through the prophet: “I will open my mouth in parables, I will announce what has lain hidden from the foundation [of the world].” ...



# Mission Preaching from the Scriptures

## July 19, 16<sup>th</sup> Sunday (A), Gospel (Mt 13:24-43)



Then, dismissing the crowds, he went into the house. His disciples approached him and said, “Explain to us the parable of the weeds in the field.” He said in reply, “He who sows good seed is the Son of Man, the field is the world, the good seed the children of the kingdom. The weeds are the children of the evil one, and the enemy who sows them is the devil. The harvest is the end of the age, and the harvesters are angels. Just as weeds are collected and burned [up] with fire, so will it be at the end of the age. The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will collect out of his kingdom all who cause others to sin and all evildoers. They will throw them into the fiery furnace, where there will be wailing and grinding of teeth. Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Whoever has ears ought to hear.” ...



# Mission Preaching from the Scriptures



- There are two standard applications for every passage of Sacred Scripture: one toward our discipleship as a follower of Jesus; another toward our apostolate, by which we seek to take Jesus and his Gospel and way of life toward others.
- In some passages, the missionary hook is easier to find than others, but insofar as Sacred Scripture always brings us to God and within the Trinity there are the missions of the Son and the Holy Spirit, we can always find it.
- We can choose among the various possibilities as we seek to find the Scriptural hook to preach a missionary homily each week.

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## Welcome!

I warmly welcome you to this website, put together at the insistence and with the assistance of friends.

During my diaconal ordination, Cardinal Edmund Szoka gave me the following instruction from the Ordination Rite as together we gripped the Book of the Gospels:

*"Receive the Gospel of Christ, whose herald you now are.  
Believe what you read.  
Teach what you believe.  
Practice what you teach."*

Those words have never lost their resonance.

Since that day -- October 8, 1998 -- I have tried to live up to that commission to be a "herald of the Gospel," by striving to teach what the Church believes, to practice what I preach to others, and to spread with joy and enthusiasm the truth Christ has entrusted to His church -- in and out of season, in and out of the pulpit.

This website is a chronicle of those attempts. You may also follow postings of articles, homilies and teachings on Facebook, Twitter and Youtube.

You can also subscribe to the podcast of daily homilies, lectures and talks through Apple Podcasts, Google Podcasts and iHeart Podcasts.

It constitutes the "five loaves and two fish" (or even less!) that I have placed into the hands of the Lord as an attempt to feed a hungry crowd, confident that, if He wishes, He can multiply and supplement that meager offering to nourish many more (Jn 6:1-14).

In Christ,  
*Msgr. Roger J. Landry*



### Most Recent Homilies

Building Our Life on the Word of God  
Calling Us to Holiness, 12th Thursday (I),  
Memorial of St. Josemaria Escrivá, June 26,  
2025

Remembering the Lord in the Way He  
Asks, Solemnity of the Most Holy Body and  
Blood of the Lord, June 22, 2025

Christ's Prayers for the Church's Mission of  
Unity, 7th Thursday of Easter, June 5, 2025

The Ascension, St. Peter and Future  
Priests, Solemnity of the Ascension, Altar

### Most Recent Articles

Interview on the Priests' Podcast,  
Published May 15, 2025

A Pope From the Missions, National  
Catholic Register, May 15, 2025

What Our Lord Saw From the Cross,  
National Catholic Register, April 19, 2025

Interview with Father Boniface Hicks, OSB,  
March 18, 2025

The Jubilee of Hope and Holy Week,  
National Catholic Register, March 26, 2025

### Most Recent Talks

Christian Mission and Integral Human  
Development, Acton University, June 26,  
2025

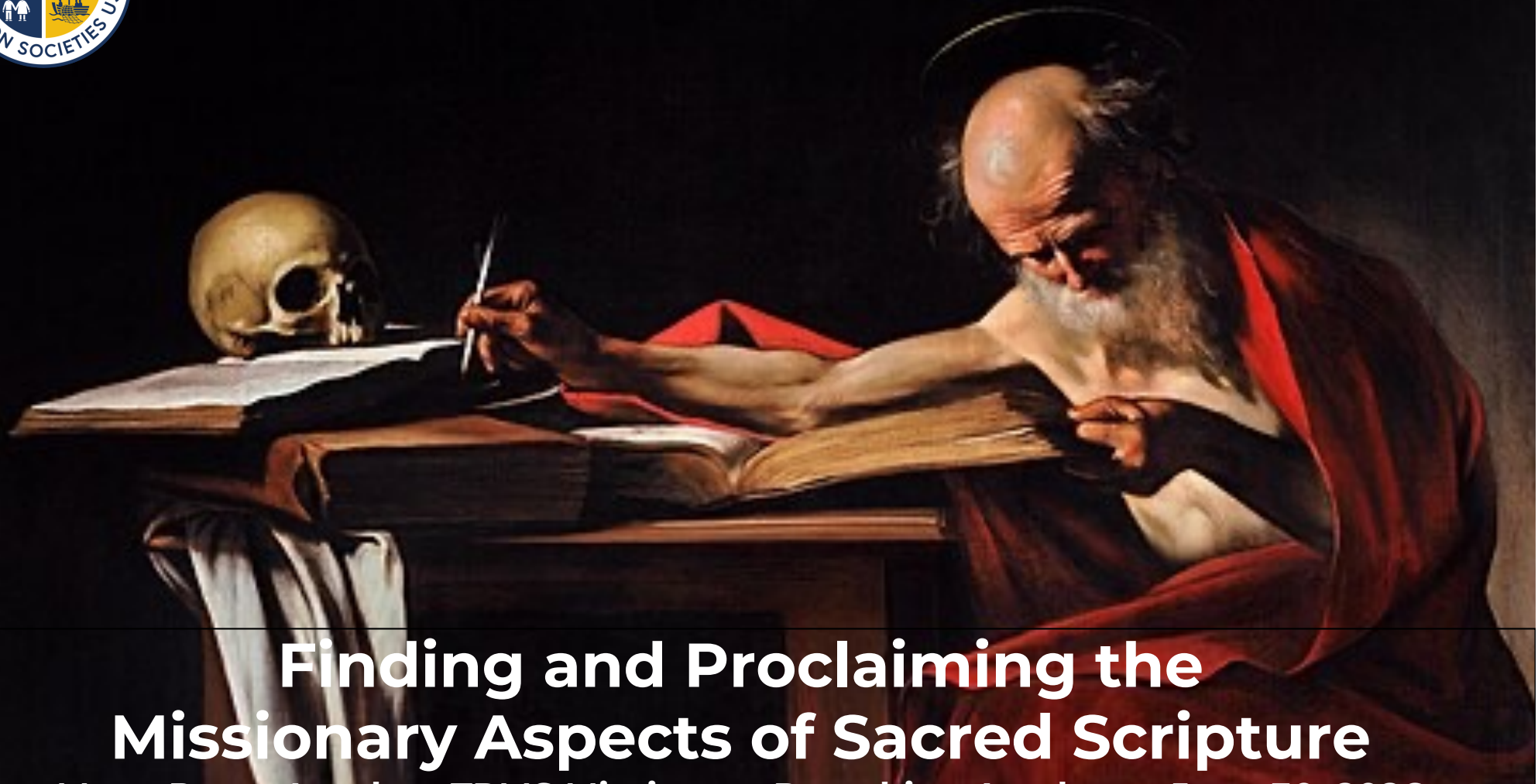
The Entrepreneurial Vocation, Acton  
University, June 25, 2025

The North American Martyrs and Christian  
Heroism, Shrine of Our Lady of Martyrs,  
Auriesville, New York, June 21, 2025

The Missionary Identity and Spirituality of  
the Priest, Diocese of San Angelo Clergy  
Days, June 11-12, 2025



# Questions and Comments



**Finding and Proclaiming the  
Missionary Aspects of Sacred Scripture**