

St. Vincent de Paul Regional Seminary

EXECUIVE SUMMARY OF THE QUALITY ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM Homiletics

The Executive Summary is being written in light of: (A) the original QEP submitted to SACS; (B) the recommendations from the report of the on-site visitation team of February 22-25, 2010, especially SC CS 3.3.2, Recommendation #4 and Recommendation #5; (C) suggestions of the on-site visitation team as articulated in that same report; (D) the institution's Response of July 25, 2010 to the Visiting Committee Report; (E) and the follow-up of the seminary to implement the QEP.

Since the institution's response to SACS CS 3.3.2 Recommendations #4 and #5 several strategies and changes have been made to implement the QEP; these include:

- I. *Student Learning Outcomes*: (1) the MDiv *SLOs* have been reduced from fifteen to six; (2) the *SLOs* initially recommended in the QEP have been reduced from seven to two, at the suggestion of the on-site visitation team; (3) the two *SLOs* of the QEP are part of the six *SLOs* of the MDiv degree program. The revised *SLOs* have been approved by the faculty council and will be submitted to the Board of Trustees for approval at its February 25, 2011 meeting.
- II. Curriculum revision by the faculty council, part of the QEP timeline, is a year ahead of schedule. Changes and implementation began in August 2010 instead of August 2011. Changes include: (1) the addition of HOM501E Introduction to Homiletics in the second semester of the second year; (2) the inclusion of a section of a new first year course, THY609E Introduction to Liturgy, on the proclamation of the Word (Scripture) – corresponding to the second *SLO* in preaching regarding “delivery,”; moving HOM610E from second year to third year of the MDiv degree program, and from 2 credit hrs to 3 credit hrs.
- III. Standing Faculty Committee. The faculty council voted to make the QEP committee a standing faculty committee and changed the name to the “Student Preaching Committee (SPC).” The on-site visitation team suggested a name change. This committee reports to the faculty council at its monthly meetings, submits an annual report to the faculty council of the progress of the QEP, and recommends changes to the faculty council in the homiletics program based upon ongoing evaluation. Also, an evaluation and review of the QEP will be conducted by Fr. Dan Harris, an external consultant, professor of Homiletics in the DMin Preaching Program at Aquinas Institute, St. Louis, MO, in the Spring 2012.
- IV. The SPC has simplified the assessment process relative to student preaching, by basing a direct means of assessment of student preaching on examples or artifacts of such preaching (i.e., a delivered homily), rather than the work in every course that a student is taking. This is a significant change from the original QEP.
- V. The SPC is in the final stages of completing a standardized rubric in homiletics corresponding to the two *SLOs* in preaching. The seminary has purchased LiveText as an assessment tool for both the MDiv. and MATS degree programs. The full implementation of LiveText using the homiletics rubrics will be in August 2011 in keeping with the timeline of the QEP (cf. page 33 of the original QEP).

The seminary believes that these strategies, changes, and additions reflect its commitment to the QEP and its successful implementation.