The workshop series will take place in the Kresge Lounge in Billera Hall, on the main campus of DeSales University in Center Valley, PA. The evening reception will be held in the recently opened Salesian Center for Faith & Culture.

The workshop is open to all interested clergy – diocesan and religious – for just a nominal fee of $25 (to help defray costs!). To register, please complete and return the enclosed card, along with payment (to “DeSales University”), in the envelope provided. For more information, contact the Salesian Center:

- by phone 610.282.1100 ext. 1244
- by email Nancy.OKeefe@desales.edu

Registrations should be made by October 1st.

On the Preacher and Preaching

a continuing education workshop celebrating the 400th anniversary of St. Francis de Sales' teaching

October 8, 2004
2:00 - 6:00 pm
“To preach is the publication and declaration of God’s will, made to all by one lawfully commissioned to that task, to the end of instructing and moving them to serve his divine Majesty in this world so as to be saved in the next.”

THE STORY

Missionary preacher, ecumenical reformer, renowned spiritual director, author of religious classics, founder of a religious order, patron of the press and of the deaf, Bishop and Doctor ... the saintly life of Francis de Sales (1567-1622) remains a spiritual treasure in the history of the Church. Pope Pius XI, praises him “not only for the sublime holiness of life which he achieved, but also for the wisdom with which he directed souls in the way of sanctity” [Rerum omnium perturbationem, 1923, no. 4].

One such soul whom he directed was André Frémyot. At age thirty-one, this son of a famous father, heir to wealth and rank, had been chosen to lead a great French archdiocese (Bourges), although without experience, special training for the priesthood, and perhaps any inclination to it!

On the occasion of Frémyot’s departure to take residence in Bourges, the holy Bishop of Geneva wrote a lengthy letter wishing him well and offering him ideas on the chief duty he would face in his new position. Because of his own abilities as a speaker and writer, and his wealth of experience with persons of every sort, St. Francis de Sales was equipped as few have ever been to write about preaching. The main purpose of the letter is to instruct the new archbishop on how to preach and to encourage him to fulfill his duty in this regard; it also contains sound advice on other ideals and duties of ecclesiastical life.

The text is dated October 5, 1604.

This continuing education workshop celebrates the 400th anniversary of that letter ... and the continuing relevance of St. Francis de Sales’ teaching for preachers today!

“Say marvelous things but do not say them well, and they are nothing. Say only a little but say it well, and it is very much.”

THE WORKSHOP

The day’s events include three (3) short workshop presentations on various aspects of preaching, with emphasis on the Salesian method. Participants are welcome at any/all of the workshops. The day concludes with a light reception for all participants.

2:00 - 2:45 pm Setting the Stage with Stories
Fr. Dan Gambet, OSFS is president emeritus of DeSales University. Known throughout the Lehigh Valley as a raconteur extraordinaire, he will expound on how to introduce a theme through the art of narration so as to get the attention of listeners. He may even have a few good jokes to tell!

3:00 - 3:45 pm A Primer on Sacred Eloquence
Fr. Tom Daley, OSFS is a professor of Theology and the founding director of the Salesian Center for Faith & Culture at DeSales University. An internationally published author and national retreat master, he will present the teaching of St. Francis de Sales in “On the Preacher and Preaching.”

4:00 - 4:45 pm The Liturgical Primacy of Preaching
Fr. Don Heet, OSFS is a clinical associate professor in Theology and Religious Studies at the Catholic University of America. Expert in the area of homiletics, he will elaborate on the central importance of preaching in the celebration of the liturgy in the contemporary Church.

5:00 - 6:00 pm Cocktail Reception