

A Retirement Message from the Editor

The journal *Homiletic* began as a project of the Academy of Homiletics in 1975, under the leadership of Barry Evans. In 1986, the journal moved to Lutheran Seminary, Gettysburg, under the leadership of Richard Thulin, and in 2000, it moved to Perkins//SMU, under the leadership of John Holbert and Alyce McKenzie. I took over the editorship at Vanderbilt in 2008, and when Dale Andrews came to Vanderbilt Divinity School, he agreed to join me and co-edit the journal. This lasted for seven years, from 2011 until his untimely death in June of 2017.

The final print edition of *Homiletic* was the summer issue, 2008. The journal went online, fully juried and open access, with the winter issue, 2008. The online format permitted the journal to publish more scholarly essays and to publish special issues, such as our issues on African American preaching and on postcolonialism and preaching. The mission of the journal as an international publication has grown, and essays and reviews in the journal have received hundreds of thousands of downloads.

As editor, I have experienced the complete support of the Academy of Homiletics at every juncture as we have worked to bring our costs down and adjusted our business model. Vanderbilt Divinity School provided the journal with both a bibliographer and assistant editor for ten years, and continues to provide the journal with online technical and archival support. The journal is now well positioned to self-support and continue to thrive under the leadership of other scholars within our guild.

I could never have edited the journal without the managing editorial services of three of Vanderbilt Divinity School's most outstanding doctoral graduates: Rich Voelz, Sunggu Yang, and Aimee Moiso. During their years as doctoral students, they each coordinated the book review section, edited all essays for consistency of style, and prepared and published issues on our online platform and with ATLA. Aimee Moiso has also provided copy editing services over the past few years, which has saved the journal a considerable amount of money.

I began my editorial work for *Homiletic* many years ago as a review editor, editing a book review section then labelled "Philosophy and Communication." I know firsthand what it takes to organize and edit a review section for the journal. For this reason, I am deeply grateful to our review editors, all of whom have volunteered time and energy so that our book reviews are well-written and submitted on time. *Homiletic* is an important review journal and has become a significant part of our guild's self-reflective and scholarly advancement process.

My students will tell you that my greatest passion lies in reading, critiquing, and supporting scholarship in homiletics. Our discipline is woefully understudied, and I keep a running list of the many unresearched (or under-researched) elements of homiletics awaiting scholarly consideration. It has been a great delight to interact with scholars as they pursue publication in *Homiletic*. Without fail, these interactions have proved mutually beneficial and I will miss them more than any other aspect of my work on behalf of *Homiletic*.

I feel very good at this point about the scholarly future of our guild, and about *Homiletic*'s improved position in relation to that future. Our guild needs well-respected juried journals, and thanks to the efforts of those before me and those who have worked with me, *Homiletic* is now a significant and recognized scholarly publication. I know that the journal will continue this legacy wherever it is housed, and that the Academy of Homiletics will continue to support its mission. It is with deep gratitude that I retire from editing the journal and wish all the best to those who are next in line for this important work.

John S. McClure, Vanderbilt Divinity School