

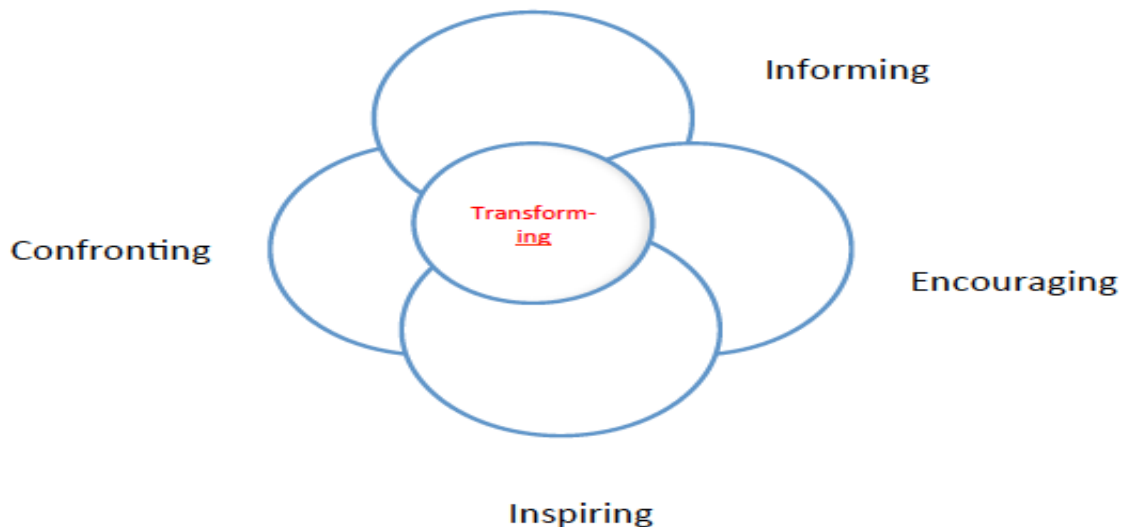


Looking Out My Window, February 18, 2022

Last week, I shared with you my best thoughts on the nature of preaching. Today, the topic goes to intent. What am I up to in preaching? Once, in a conversation with a seminarian, she asked me the difference between preaching and teaching. In a moment of inspiration, I sketched a diagram on a napkin that has evolved into a reflection on the nature of intent in preaching, sort of a phenomenology of intent.

The overall intent is transformation. A homily usually informs and instructs. Sometimes, it seeks to inspire. Sometimes, it involves an element of confrontation. Sometimes, it seeks to console and comfort. Most often more than one of these happens each time. But, the ultimate goal is healing and transformation of the individual and the community.

The more refined version of that napkin sketch looks something like this—four overlapping circles with a fifth, central circle intersecting all four.



Next week—the art of preparation.

God's peace,

*David W. Perbini*

Fr. David