

## Rubric to Inform the Use of Scripture in Study and Ministry

The student ought to demonstrate the following skills:

1. *Pastoral or Ecclesial Context*

Criteria for choosing a particular Scripture. Students should be able to articulate their criteria for choosing a particular Scripture text. These choices should demonstrate a good fit between the Scripture text and the present pastoral context that the student is addressing. In other words, they must be able to identify the “ecclesial” reality or challenge in the text for today’s hearers.

2. *Historical Context*

Historical consciousness. Students should be able to demonstrate awareness of the historical setting of the pericope, as well as the history (time and space) reflected in the content of the text. This consciousness would obviously come from reading appropriate Scriptural commentaries. (This avoids a characteristic of fundamentalist readings: ripping a text out of its historical context, and making it say what one thinks it should.)

3. *Literary Context*

Attention to structure and context. Where is the pericope in relation to the rest of the book from which it is selected? What is the sequence of the overall text? What is the internal structure of the pericope they have selected? (This also avoids the characteristic of fundamentalist readings: ripping a text out of its textual environment, and making it say what one thinks it should.)

4. *Theological Context*

Awareness of the senses of Scripture. What does a literal reading reveal? (The literal reading comprises an integration of questions 2 and 3 above). How does this text call the reader to conversion? What does the text tell us about the mystery of Christ?

5. *Personal or Spiritual Context*

Awareness of self in relation to the text. How does this text speak, challenge, engage me, the reader as an individual, who is also a catechist, pastoral theologian, or preacher? How can my response help or hinder my use of Scripture in this particular ministerial situation? What do I want the text to say? Have I actually listened to what the text is saying?

6. *Scholarly Context*

Quoting what others say about this Scripture. If I do this, have I chosen a source that implements the criteria in points 1-5? When quoting this source, have I honestly documented and accurately quoted it?