

## **“Two Minute Teaching” on the Mass**

02-21-2016 - **The Homily**

After the gospel reading is the homily. In the Emmaus story (*Lk 24:12-25*) the risen Jesus breaks open the Old Testament Scriptures to teach his two disciples. Jesus, in the person of the priest, does the same thing for us today in the homily. A homily is different than a sermon. A sermon can be a talk on different topics while a homily is a talk on the bible readings.

Bishop Ken was the best homilist I ever heard. He had some guidelines: find the “*pearl*” – one idea from the bible readings and talk only about that; the average homily should be about six to eight minutes; speak from the heart what Jesus wants to say to the people; “*land the plane*” – we have all heard homilies that we thought were about to end and then the go on.

It’s not easy to give a good homily. I read and pray over and over the bible readings; consult commentaries; settle on the “*pearl*”, write and rewrite my homily in an outline form; memorize it; do my best and give it over the Holy Spirit to do the rest.