The Chair

The inaugural holder of the Cardinal Foley Chair (2013-2014) is the Rev. THOMAS F. DAILEY, O.S.F.S. A priest in the congregation of the Oblates of St. Francis de Sales (the patron saint of Catholic journalists and writers), he is the senior-ranking faculty member at DeSales University (Center Valley, PA). There he is a professor of Theology, holds the Blessed Louis Brisson Chair of Salesian Spirituality, and directs the work of the Salesian Center for Faith & Culture.

Among the planned activities for the Cardinal Foley Chair are:
- Presentations to (arch)diocesan groups & organizations
- Theology on Tap sessions in the region
- Retreat conferences for diocesan priests and religious communities
- Spirituality conferences for seminarians
- Seminary teaching (elective courses and a master class for deacons)
- Panel presentations for University audiences
- Professional conferences/workshops for national organizations

The Seminary

Chartered in 1838 and now accredited by both the Commission on Higher Education of the Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools, and the Association of Theological Schools of the United States and Canada, SAINT CHARLES BORROMEO SEMINARY has as its primary mission the formation of Catholic men for pastoral service in the Roman Catholic priesthood of Jesus Christ. The seminary also offers accredited academic programs through its Graduate School of Theology and provides formative education for Permanent Deacons of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia.

To schedule a presentation by the Cardinal Foley Chair, contact the Office of the Vice-Rector at the Seminary (610-785-6271).

To contribute to the endowment of the Cardinal Foley Chair, contact the Catholic Foundation of Greater Philadelphia by phone (215-587-5650) or by email (contactus@catholicfoundationphila.org).

THE JOHN CARDINAL FOLEY CHAIR
OF HOMILETICS & SOCIAL COMMUNICATIONS

@ SAINT CHARLES BORROMEO SEMINARY
100 E. WYNNEWOOD ROAD
WYNNEWOOD, PA 19096
The Legacy

The endowed chair is a faculty position created in honor of His Eminence JOHN CARDINAL FOLEY (1935-2011). A graduate of Saint Charles Borromeo Seminary, he was ordained to the priesthood for the Archdiocese of Philadelphia in 1962, where he served in editorial roles for the archdiocesan newspaper (The Catholic Standard & Times) for nearly twenty years. In 1984 he was appointed by Pope John Paul II as President of the Pontifical Council for Social Communications and was consecrated a bishop that same year. Known the world over as the “voice of Christmas” for his broadcast translation of the papal midnight Mass, he served at the Pontifical Council until 2007. Pope Benedict XVI named him grand master of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem and created him a cardinal in the consistory of November 2007.

“In his time as President of this Council, he offered clear and farsighted pastoral wisdom in looking at the Church’s relationship and engagement with the ever-evolving fields of the media, new technologies, the nature of communication and its influence on culture. … The many documents produced by the Council were the fruits of his efforts to shape the Church’s reflection and policy guidance.”

ARCHBISHOP CLAUDIO MARIA CELLI  
President, Pontifical Council for Social Communications

The Mission

The Cardinal Foley Chair supports the work of the Catholic Church in the realm of social communications by teaching seminary students and church groups, working with staff in parishes and (arch)dioceses, and engaging in dialogue with journalists and media professionals.

The Cardinal Foley Chair is tasked with bringing scholarly insight to bear on the evangelical mission of the Church in terms of the mutual interface between Theology and Communications. Guided by an advisory committee of academics and professionals in both fields, this work will be carried out in many ways, including academic courses, public presentations, professional publications, media productions, an annual lecture series, and occasional symposia or conferences.

The Arena

Today’s world of social communications includes various means by which evangelization can take place (e.g., websites, blogs, mobile applications, social networking platforms). Developing new and improved ways to use these media to spread the Gospel is a long-range task for future leaders of the Church.

But the digital world involves much more than technology ... it engages persons today with new models for understanding the world around us, for comprehending what it means to be human, and for generating vibrant social communities. As such, social communications will have long-lasting effects on faith formation, spirituality, ethics, and “church” as we know it.

“(S)ince the very evangelization of modern culture depends to a great extent on the influence of the media, it is not enough to use the media simply to spread the Christian message and the Church's authentic teaching. It is also necessary to integrate that message into the ‘new culture’ created by modern communications.” (JOHN PAUL II, 1990)

“The development of the new technologies and the larger digital world represents a great resource for humanity as a whole and for every individual, and it can act as a stimulus to encounter and dialogue. ... To priests in particular the new media offer ever new and far-reaching pastoral possibilities” (BENEDICT XVI, 2011)

“Let us boldly become citizens of the digital world. The Church needs to be concerned for, and present in, the world of communication, in order to dialogue with people today and to help them encounter Christ. She needs to be a Church at the side of others, capable of accompanying everyone along the way.” (POPE FRANCIS, 2014)

The Cardinal Foley Chair is the only one of its kind in seminary education in the USA! Its distinctive educational work will bring the Church of the 21st century into closer contact with the world … and bring the world to encounter Christ.