THE JOHN CARDINAL FOLEY CHAIR OF HOMILETICS & SOCIAL COMMUNICATIONS

@ St. Charles Borromeo Seminary
100 E. Wynnewood Road
Wynnewood, PA 19096
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 Legacy

The endowed chair is a faculty position named in honor of John Cardinal Foley (1935-2011). A 1958 graduate of St. Charles Borromeo Seminary, he was ordained to the priesthood for the Archdiocese of Philadelphia in 1962. After having earned a doctoral degree from the Pontifical University of St. Thomas Aquinas (Rome), he completed a master’s degree at Columbia University’s School of Journalism. He served in editorial roles for the archdiocesan newspaper (The Catholic Standard & Times) for nearly twenty years, and as news secretary for meetings of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops for fifteen years. He was appointed by Pope John Paul II as President of the Pontifical Commission (now Council) for Social Communications in 1984 and was consecrated a bishop that same year. Beginning in 1984 (until 2009), he was known the world over as the English voice of the papal midnight Mass at Christmas. He served at the Pontifical Council until 2007, when Pope Benedict XVI named him pro-grand master of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem. He was created a cardinal deacon 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. He promoted a vital internal dialogue within the Church on these issues, and also in broader international contexts, by calling on all communicators to seek for the highest and most noble standards of their profession. … 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 of the Pontifical Council for Social Communications
The Arena

The 2012 Synod of Bishops – on *The New Evangelization for the Transmission of the Christian Faith* – signaled the vastness of this new realm of modern life: “Today, no place in the world is beyond reach and, consequently, unaffected by the media and digital culture, which is fast becoming the ‘forum’ of public life and social interaction.” (*Lineamenta*, no. 6). The task before us now is to see the digital world in the light of faith and explore the value of the new means of communication in light of the Church’s mission to share the Good News.

Today’s world of social communications includes various means by which evangelization can take place (e.g., web sites, mobile applications, social networking platforms). Developing new and improved ways by which 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.

As Pope John Paul II noted in his last apostolic letter, “the Church is not only called upon to use the mass media to spread the Gospel but, today more than ever, to integrate the message of salvation into the ‘new culture’ that these powerful means of communication create and amplify. It tells us that the use of the techniques and the technologies of contemporary communications is an integral part of its mission in the third millennium” (*The Rapid Development*, 2).

The Cardinal Foley Chair is tasked with bringing scholarly insight to bear on that mission in terms of the mutual interface between Theology and Communications.
The Chair

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

The work of the Cardinal Foley Chair is guided by the expertise of academics and professionals in the fields. Under the authority of the seminary’s Rector, an advisory committee meets twice each year to review the activities of the chair, plan the public events associated with the chair, assess the financial needs of the program, and monitor the growth and development of the position. The first advisory committee is in the process of being convoked.

Among the planned activities for the Cardinal Foley Chair in 2013-2014 are:

- Theology on Tap sessions throughout the Archdiocese
- Presentations to (arch)diocesan groups & organizations
- Retreat conferences for diocesan priests and religious communities
- Spirituality conferences for seminarians
- Seminary teaching (elective course and master class)
- Panel presentations for University audiences
- Professional conferences/workshops

Future plans include developing collaborative partnerships with local Catholic universities. Through these partnerships, and supported by growth of the endowment, the Cardinal Foley Chair will expand its work to include:

- Teaching undergraduate and/or graduate courses online;
- Offering public presentations and workshops;
- Publishing scholarly works and maintaining a digital archive;
- Producing audio, video, and/or digital materials;
- Hosting an annual lecture series;
- And sponsoring a national symposium or conference.
The Seminary

Chartered in 1838, the Theological Seminary of Saint Charles Borromeo, Overbrook continues to provide comprehensive formation (human, spiritual, intellectual, and pastoral) for service in the Roman Catholic Church. The Seminary enrolls men studying for the priesthood from (arch)dioceses and religious orders throughout the United States, and educates men in formation for the permanent diaconate in the Archdiocese of Philadelphia. The Seminary also offers education to the broader Church community through its Graduate School of Theology, whose multiple institutes provide a variety of academic and pastoral programs. The Seminary is fully 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.

“The Seminary gives men and women a voice to speak to the world – a twenty-first century gift of tongues – to defend and spread our shared faith. St. Charles Borromeo Seminary is a jewel in the crown of our faith community. It is time to rediscover, or discover for the first time, this holy place of learning.”

**THE MOST REVEREND CHARLES J. CHAPUT, O.F.M. Cap.**
Archbishop of Philadelphia

The John Cardinal Foley Chair of Homiletics & Social Communications – the only chair of its kind in U.S. seminary or university education – looks to shine as a fine gem in that crown!

---

**To schedule a presentation**
by the Cardinal Foley Chair, contact

Shura Sullivan  
Office of the Vice-Rector  
610-785-6271  
ssullivan@scs.edu

**To contribute to the endowment**
of the Cardinal Foley Chair, contact

100 North 20th Street, Suite 301  
Philadelphia, PA 19103-1454  
215-587-5650  
CatholicFoundationPhila.org  
contactus@catholicfoundationphila.org

---

St. Charles Borromeo Seminary / 100 E. Wynnewood Road / Wynnewood, PA 19096 / 610-667-3394