Cardinal JOHN PATRICK FOLEY (1935-2011) was instrumental in advancing the work of communications in the Catholic Church. He made it possible "to see the face of a church capable of speaking to the world with cordialness and to dialogue with it in maximum openness, without ever putting aside the truth or its own reasons" (Archbishop Claudio Maria Celli).

Under his leadership as its president, the Pontifical Council for Social Communications produced significant documents that brought ethical reflection to bear upon communications, advertising, and the then-emerging Internet. That Council has been responsible for promoting the annual celebration of World Communications Day.

The annual Cardinal Foley Symposium honors the enduring contribution of this native son of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia in conjunction with the global celebration. Events take place, usually, on the last Thursday in May at Saint Charles Borromeo Seminary (Wynnewood, PA). The symposium begins with a public forum to discuss the theme of World Communications Day. A luncheon follows during which two awards are presented in recognition of significant contributions to the world of mass media and social communications.

The next John Cardinal Foley Symposium takes place on May 26, 2016 from 10:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m.

www.scs.edu/cardinal-foley.awards
About World Communications Day

World Communications Day, the only worldwide celebration called for by the Second Vatican Council (Inter mirifica, 1963), is celebrated on the Sunday before Pentecost (usually in May/June).

- The year’s theme is announced on September 29, the Feast of the Archangels Michael, Raphael and Gabriel, who have been designated as the patrons of those who work in radio.

- The Holy Father's message for World Communications Day is traditionally published on January 24, in conjunction with the Memorial of ST. FRANCIS DE SALES, patron of writers and journalists.

About the Cardinal Foley Forum

On the occasion of World Communications Day, Saint Charles Borromeo Seminary in the Archdiocese of Philadelphia sponsors a public forum dedicated to the theme of that year’s celebration. Responding to the Message for World Communications Day, professional journalists and/or other invited experts engage in a discussion of how the values explained by the Holy Father can be applied to, and lived in, the contemporary world of mass media and social communications. *The seminar is open to the public with free admission.*

About the Cardinal Foley Awards

Two awards are presented annually: one to a communications professional and one to a young adult (or group of young adults). Selection of the award winners is guided by the Advisory Committee of the John Cardinal Foley Chair of Homiletics & Social Communications at Saint Charles Borromeo Seminary and with the approval of the Archbishop of Philadelphia. Guidelines for each award are provided separately. *The luncheon is open to the public, but tickets are required.*

About the Cardinal Foley Chair

Established in 2013, the John Cardinal Foley Chair in Homiletics & Social Communications 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.

*For more information about the Chair and its activities, visit the website at www.scs.edu/john-cardinal-foley-chair*