Catholicism in the iWorld

ABSTRACT:

"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." (Synod of Bishops, 2012)

Thus, the twofold question: how does the digital world affect a life of faith ... and how does faith impact the iWorld?

This presentation of "CyberTheology" will explore Catholicism in the digital world by considering (1) the novelty of the culture of communications today, (2) the promise and peril of social media, and (3) the consequences for a new e-vangelization.

The take-away from this talk will be a heightened awareness of, and renewed appreciation for, the impact of the Catholic faith in today's world of social communications.

OUTLINE:

1. Characteristics of the iWorld
   - wired ... our culture's nervous system
   - mobile ... becoming nomads on the go
   - connected ... as nodes of information

2. Catholicism in and for the iWorld
   - mission ... the need for discernment
   - evangelization ... the joy of the gospel
   - discipleship ... promoting encounter

3. The Church & Social Communications
   - Pope Francis
   - Vatican media
   - the John Cardinal Foley Chair

THE JOHN CARDINAL FOLEY CHAIR OF HOMILETICS & SOCIAL COMMUNICATIONS

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.

REVEREND THOMAS F. DAILLEY, O.S.F.S.

A priest in the congregation of the Oblates of St. Francis de Sales, Fr. Dailey is the senior-ranking faculty member at DeSales University in Center Valley, PA. There he founded the Salesian Center for Faith & Culture and now holds the Fr. Louis Brisson Chair in Salesian Spirituality. For 2013-14 he was appointed by Archbishop Charles Chaput to inaugurate the John Cardinal Foley Chair of Homiletics and Social Communications at Saint Charles Borromeo Seminary, Overbrook.

He earned a doctoral degree in sacred theology (S.T.D.) from the Pontifical Gregorian University (Rome), where he completed his dissertation on the biblical Book of Job. He has lectured internationally on topics in biblical theology, Salesian spirituality, and Catholic higher education. He has written, edited or translated six books and more than forty articles/chapters in a variety of publications in the USA and abroad. He is currently writing a book on Salesian spirituality under the title Living Today Well. His commentaries have been featured in local newspapers, and he has appeared on radio and television in both regional and national markets.

Fr. Dailey entered the religious congregation of the Oblates of St. Francis de Sales (O.S.F.S.) in 1980, was ordained to the diaconate in St. Peter's Basilica (Rome) in 1986, and was ordained to the priesthood in St. Anthony's Church (Wilmington, DE) in 1987.