



The Fifth Annual
John Cardinal Foley Lecture on Social Communications
by
BISHOP ROBERT BARRON

St. Martin's Chapel @ Saint Charles Borromeo Seminary, Overbrook
January 29, 2018

INTRODUCTION

by **Rev. Thomas F. Dailey, O.S.F.S.**

Good evening and welcome to Saint Charles Borromeo Seminary for the annual John Cardinal Foley Lecture on Social Communications.

Judging by the capacity crowd here in the chapel this evening, and the hundreds of people we had to turn away, our speaker clearly needs no introduction. Nevertheless, I shall keep talking ... but just to offer just a few words that will put tonight's event into context.

This lecture series honors the memory of Cardinal John Foley, who died in 2011. For those of you who may not have known him, Cardinal Foley was a priest of this archdiocese. An alumnus of and faculty member here at the seminary, he worked on archdiocesan communications at *The Catholic Standard & Times* for more than twenty years. He was then called to the Vatican to lead communications efforts for the universal Church as president of the Pontifical Council for Social Communications, where he served for twenty-three years. In that time, he brought the Church into the age of the Internet and gave its media a global reach.

To carry on that legacy, Saint Charles Borromeo Seminary has established the John Cardinal Foley Chair in Homiletics & Social Communications, the only position of its kind in seminary education anywhere in the world. The focus for this Chair comes from the vision of its namesake. Cardinal Foley had the foresight to realize "that the means of social communication contribute to determining culture. Not just respecting it," he said, "but determining it" (*L'Osservatore Romano*, [4/11/08](#)).

Our guest speaker tonight has certainly capitalized on that truth, with evangelizing work that is shaping Catholic culture for generations to come. He is the founder of Word on Fire Catholic Ministries and now an auxiliary bishop of Los Angeles. He is host of two major film series and study programs on Catholicism. He is a #1 best-selling author on Amazon. He has more than 1.5 million followers on Facebook (where this lecture tonight is being livestreamed). His YouTube videos have been viewed more than 25 million times, and just last week that YouTube channel received the "Silver Play Button," a special award for having more than 100,000 subscribers.

But you probably already know all that, which is why you're here! And we certainly are delighted that he is, too.

So please join me in welcoming, as the fifth John Cardinal Foley Lecturer ...
His Excellency, BISHOP ROBERT BARRON.

