

THE CARDINAL'S FORUM
@ Saint Charles Borromeo Seminary
August 28, 2017
on *"The Gift of the Priestly Vocation"*



introduction by

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Welcome to The Cardinal's Forum at Saint Charles Borromeo Seminary!

This event is an annual gathering with which we open the academic year, in the hope of advancing the academic formation of seminary students and providing continuing education for the lay faithful about topics of contemporary concerns.

We call it the "Cardinals' Forum" as reference to the endowed faculty chairs here at the Seminary, both of whom are named in honor of distinguished prelates in or from Philadelphia:

The John Cardinal Krol Chair of Moral Theology was founded in 1990. Archbishop of Philadelphia from 1961 to 1988, Cardinal Krol clearly and unwaveringly proclaimed the moral demands of Christian life. The Krol Chair enhances the Seminary's efforts to promote a better understanding, appreciation and acceptance of Catholic moral teaching.

- Joining our panel this evening is **DR. JOHN HAAS**, the first holder of the Krol Chair and now President of the National Catholic Bioethics Center.

The John Cardinal Foley Chair of Homiletics & Social Communications was begun here in 2013. A priest of the archdiocese, an alumnus and later faculty member of the Seminary, Cardinal Foley served the universal church as President of the Pontifical Council for Social Communications from 1984 to 2007. His work 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 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.

- Our second panelist this evening is **FR. THOMAS DAILEY**, the inaugural holder of the Chair whom we welcome back to Overbrook in this now full-time position.

Completing the panel is our special guest, who, I hope needs no introduction ... **THE MOST REVEREND CHARLES CHAPUT**, Archbishop of Philadelphia.

This evening our panelists will lead us in a discussion of a new Vatican document entitled “The Gift of the Priestly Vocation.” Published last December by the Congregation for the Clergy, this document provides a *Ratio*, or plan, for seminary formation in terms of what it entails, who directs it, and how it is organized and carried out. As stated in the document, the “fundamental idea is that Seminaries should form missionary disciples who are ‘in love’ with the Master, shepherds ‘with the smell of the sheep’ who live in their midst to bring the mercy of God to them” (no. 3). That is obviously important to all of us here at Saint Charles! And because it concerns the vocation of future priest, it is critically important to everyone in the Church.

We’ll be going to explore this new plan tonight in a simple format:

- Each of our panelists will offer brief thoughts on what they find significant about the new document.
- Then I’ll pose a question or two to them to get the discussion going.
- After that we’ll open the floor to all of you to discuss the topic as you’d like.
- We’ll conclude with final thoughts from the panelists and a blessing from our Archbishop.