

**THE CARDINAL'S FORUM**  
@ Saint Charles Borromeo Seminary

**August 30, 2018**

*“Young People, the Faith & Vocational Discernment”*



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introduction by

**Rev. Robert A. Pesarchick**

***Vice-President for Academic Affairs***

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*Welcome to the third annual Cardinal's Forum at Saint Charles Borromeo Seminary!*

This is the special gathering with which we begin another year of intellectual formation for seminary students and offer continuing education for the lay faithful about topics of contemporary concern.

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 the Archdiocese of 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, where he championed the Church’s engagement with all types of media and their influence on persons and cultures. 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**, who inaugurated this 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 the theme of the upcoming **Synod of Bishops** in October, on **"Young People, the Faith and Vocational Discernment."**

A Synod, generally speaking, is a gathering of bishops representing the Catholic episcopate from around the world. Together with the Holy Father, participants in the Synod have an opportunity to interact with each other and to share information and experiences, in the common pursuit of pastoral responses to the situation of Young People in the world today (<http://www.synod2018.va>).

In his address to the young people from around the world who met at the Vatican in March to discuss this theme, Pope Francis highlighted two focal points for the Synod:

First, he said, "The upcoming Synod proposes in particular to develop the conditions for the young to be accompanied with passion and competence in vocational discernment, that is, 'to recognize and accept the call to the fullness of life and love'" (n. 2).

And, second, he said, "The next Synod will also be a call to the Church, to rediscover a *renewed youthful dynamism* (n. 3)."

In the pope's view, that dynamism comes with regaining "the enthusiasm of faith and the taste for searching" and from rediscovering "in the Lord the strength to recover from failures, to go forward, to strengthen our confidence in the future. And we need to dare to set out on new paths." To do that, he notes, "intense dialogue will be of great help" in order to "tune in to the same wavelength as the younger generations" (n. 4).

We have that younger generation in our midst this evening, represented by the men who have just begun this year of formation in the seminary and by our many guests. We're going to try to tune in to your wavelength tonight by following a simple format:

- Each of our panelists will offer brief thoughts on what they find significant about the theme of the Synod.
- After that we'll open the floor to all of you to pose some thoughts or raise some questions or discuss the topic however you think we should.
- We'll conclude with final thoughts from the panelists and a blessing from our Archbishop.

So, let us begin ...