

The John Cardinal Foley Award for Excellence in Communications

*presented annually by Saint Charles Borromeo Seminary
in conjunction with the celebration of World Communications Day*

*to a communications professional whose work exemplifies
the positive potential of mass media to inform, instruct, and inspire others
in the quest to build a more just world.*



PRESENTATION OF THE 2019 CARDINAL FOLEY AWARD

by Bishop Timothy Senior, Rector of Saint Charles Borromeo Seminary

At this, the fourth annual symposium to celebrate World Communications Day, it gives me great pleasure, in the name of Saint Charles Borromeo Seminary, to present this award honoring an alumnus and former faculty member – JOHN CARDINAL FOLEY.

Having served as President of the Pontifical Council for Social Communications from 1984 to 2007, Cardinal Foley was instrumental in the work of connecting digital and human communities, as the Holy Father writes about in this year's message.

One might say that the Cardinal created a social network among television viewers since he is fondly remembered as “the voice of Christmas” for his work on the worldwide broadcast of the papal Masses.

He also foresaw the power of the Internet to bring the Church to the world, and wisely procured for the Vatican its unique Internet address.



Esteemed for his own skills as a journalist, Cardinal Foley would, I imagine, be delighted with the choice we made for this year's honoree.

Our honoree has had a long and successful career that spans the journalistic network, from the *American Spectator* and *National Review*, to the *Far Eastern Economic Review* and the *New York Post*.

His editorial work took on new prominence when he moved to an office at the White House, where he served as chief speechwriter for President George W. Bush from 2006 to 2008.

Today, he is as a member of the editorial board at the *Wall Street Journal*, for whom he also writes the weekly “Main Street” column.

That’s quite an appropriate title for his writings, which in recent months have offered both wit and wisdom on such wide-ranging topics of cultural interest as [impeaching the president](#) or [giving him the Nobel Prize](#), [cheating on college SAT’s](#), and [“why the world needs cowboys.”](#)



Last year, he even came to the defense of his undergraduate alma mater with a common-sense argument as to why Our Lady’s university should keep its [“fighting Irish” image](#).

Whatever the topic, our honoree seems to have embodied the tag line of one of his first employers, namely, that “politics is too important to take seriously.”

But his important work does give us serious insights on social ideas that reflect on, or contribute to, our American values.

Commenting on economics, law, religion, and other matters of cultural concern, he gives us pause to think about how we can all grow better, as individuals and as a society.

And thanks to digital media, his good thoughts now have a global reach:

- His newspaper columns reach nearly 2.5 million subscribers.
- His Twitter feed goes out to more than 9,000 followers.
- And scores of viewers see him engage the issues on C-Span, Fox News, or other television broadcasts.



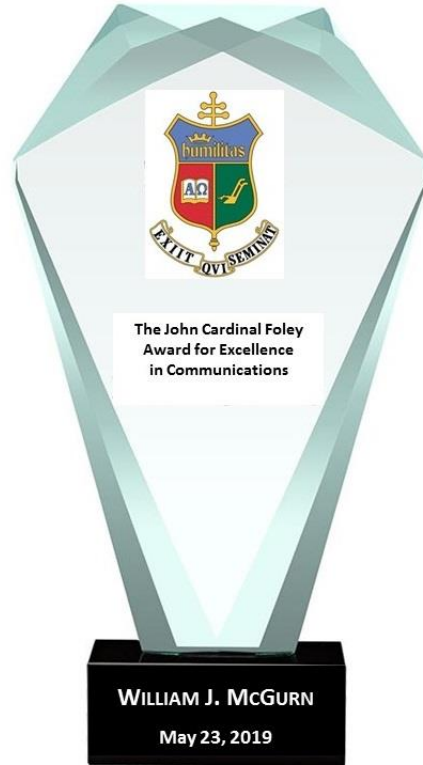
But, as Pope Francis reminds us in this year’s [message for World Communications Day](#), “it is not enough to multiply connections in order to increase mutual understandings.”

Instead, that understanding builds on two responsibilities at the heart of all communications: one to guard and reveal the truth, and the other to respect and promote the humanity of persons in our networks.

The honor we bestow this evening reflects our belief that these two responsibilities are admirably and faithfully fulfilled in the work of this journalist, editor, speechwriter, and commentator.

And so, I ask you all now to join me in congratulating the recipient of the *2019 John Cardinal Foley Award for Excellence in Communications* ...

MR. BILL MCGURN.



PRESENTATION OF THE DONATION

Conferral of the Cardinal Foley Award includes a charitable donation of \$1,000, on behalf of our nominee, to a non-profit organization of his choosing.

This year's donation is to [Villa Walsh Academy](#), a college preparatory Catholic school in Morristown, New Jersey.



Two of Bill's daughters are graduates, and his third daughter is about to complete her sophomore year there.

Sr. Patricia Pompa, the principal, regrets not being able to join us this evening. She writes, with gratitude, that you are "so deserving of this honor not only for (your) giftedness as an outstanding professional journalist, but as a faith-filled humanitarian and devoted family man who is committed to Catholic education."

We couldn't agree more ... and so we will be happy to send this donation to Villa Walsh in your name.

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