

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 2020 CARDINAL FOLEY AWARD

by Bishop Timothy Senior, Rector of Saint Charles Borromeo Seminary

At this, the fifth 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 telling the “story of stories,” as the Holy Father writes about in this year’s message.

Indeed, as “the voice of Christmas” for the worldwide broadcast of the papal Masses, the Cardinal told the great story of the Nativity to millions of television viewers each year.



He was also a story-teller in his own right, often using humor to bring home his message and to bring his listeners and readers home to Christ and the Church.

As a skilled journalist and lifelong Philadelphia sports fan, I have no doubt that Cardinal Foley would be delighted with the choice we made for this year’s honoree.

Our honoree's career in story-telling is rooted here in Philly, where he wrote about sports for the *Bulletin* and the *Daily News* for more than 30 years. These days he still provides wit and wisdom in telling the story of our Philadelphia Eagles on Comcast SportsNet and 94-WIP sports radio.

Recognized all around his hometown, his narrative talents have also received acclaim across the country. The National Sportswriters and Sportscasters Association named him Pennsylvania Sportswriter of the Year five times, and he won the Associated Press award for column writing three times.

In 1995 he received the Dick McCann Award in recognition of long and distinguished reporting in the field of professional football; and with that, he was inducted into the Pro Football Hall of Fame. Ten years later, he was the first print journalist to be inducted into the Philadelphia Sports Hall of Fame.

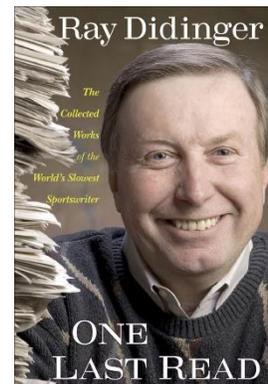
In 1996, he turned to the world of visual story-telling, as a writer and producer for NFL Films. His work there garnered him six Emmy® Awards.

In his spare time – if you could call it that! – he has written eleven books, three of which were bestsellers. He also took his talents to the stage when he wrote the script for “Tommy and Me,” a play about legendary Philadelphia Eagles and Hall of Fame receiver, Tommy McDonald.

Despite that volume of award-winning work, our honoree has always managed to savor the moments and relish the stories. In a business that operates on deadlines, this is a rare virtue! Fittingly, one of his books is sub-titled “the collected works of the world's slowest sportswriter.”

In the fast-paced world of sports networks, most reporters cover games and tell about statistics. Our honoree, by his own admission, wrote about something much larger. He contributed to the story of life, telling us not only about the athletes he covered but also, and more importantly, about our own lives – as two anecdotes from his own hand reveal.

First, he once wrote about his hometown Eagles that ...



They were there every Sunday when I awoke, like the church bells and (the Sunday cartoon) Blondie. Our family would go to mass; then we would go to the Eagles game, and I couldn't tell where the religion left off and the football began. For me, it was all part of the same ritual.

And, second, after the Phillies finally won the World Series in 1980, he was assigned to write a column for a special section of *The Daily News*. But, as he says,

I had used up every quote, every stat, every scrap of information in my notebook.

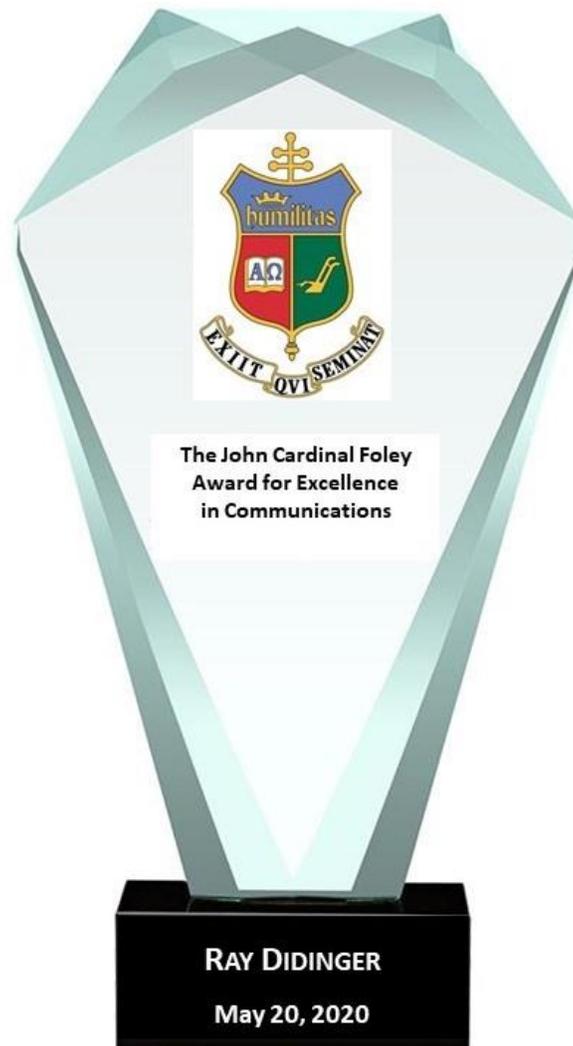
I had nothing left except the mental snapshot of my grandfather ... cheering the final out. So ... I wrote about how my grandfather represented all the loyal Philadelphia fans who had waited a lifetime for that moment. ...

Long after I had forgotten the hits, runs, and errors of that night (when the Phillies won it all), I would remember how it felt. I would remember it through the sight of my grandfather turning toward the press box after the final pitch and looking up with that huge smile on his face. So I wrote that column, and in writing it, I brought my life full circle.

With that remembrance, we come full circle to this annual symposium on World Communications Day. This year we have considered Pope Francis's message on how "life becomes history" through story-telling. The Holy Father says in the introduction to that message that

Amid the cacophony of voices and messages that surround us, we need a human story that can speak of ourselves and of the beauty all around us. A narrative that can regard our world and its happenings with a tender gaze. A narrative that can tell us that we are part of a living and interconnected tapestry. A narrative that can reveal the interweaving of the threads which connect us to one another.

We have been blessed to find that human story, that beautiful narrative, that thread of familiar connections in the many works produced by this year's recipient of the *John Cardinal Foley Award for Excellence in Communications*. Please join me now in congratulating our honoree ...



PRESENTATION OF THE DONATION

by Bishop Timothy Senior, Rector of Saint Charles Borromeo Seminary

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 support the Ray Diding Journalism Scholarship at Temple University's Klein College of Media and Communication.



Mr. Jose Zeron, the major gifts officer for Klein College at Temple, has joined us this evening ... but we don't have a check to give him! We already sent that to Temple back in May!

What we do have for you, Jose, is our confident assurance that if your media students also follow in the footsteps of this year's Foley Award winner, their scholarship will pay great dividends!

* * * * *