

the second annual
John Cardinal Foley Lecture on Social Communications
by
JOHN L. ALLEN, JR.

Saint Charles Borromeo Seminary, Overbrook
March 10, 2014



INTRODUCTION

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

I'd like to welcome all of you to this, the 2nd annual John Cardinal Foley Lecture. This series was inaugurated last year in conjunction with the establishment of the John Cardinal Foley Chair of Homiletics & Social Communications here at Saint Charles Borromeo Seminary.

Cardinal Foley was a graduate of this very Seminary, where he also taught Philosophy for seventeen years. But his greatest service to the Church is in the realm of media and communications. Following a distinguished career in the Archdiocese of Philadelphia as editor of the *Catholic Standard & Times*, and nationally as the news secretary for the U.S. Conference of Bishops, he was called to Rome to preside over the international work of what is now the Pontifical Council for Social Communications. Under his leadership, that council produced significant documents that brought ethical reflection to bear upon communications, advertising and a new thing at the time called the Internet. In 2007, Pope Benedict XVI created him a Cardinal and appointed him as Grand Master of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem. Cardinal Foley returned to his native Philadelphia and died here in 2011.

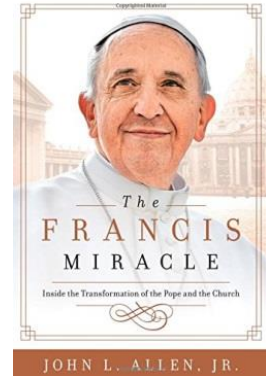


Tonight's lecturer once described Cardinal Foley as "the nicest guy in the Vatican" (*Philadelphia Inquirer*, 11/18/2007). And he says he meant it! Later he described what made the cardinal so remarkable; in his words, "few figures have ever succeeded at putting a 'human face' on the leadership of the institutional church as well as John Foley" ("*All Things Catholic*," 11/21/2007).

Tonight we are fortunate to have as a lecturer in Cardinal Foley's honor a man who might well be the figure who puts the best "journalistic face" on the Church. According to colleagues in the media, he is "the journalist other reporters – and not a few cardinals – look to for the inside story on how all the pope's men direct the world's largest church" (Kenneth Woodward, *Newsweek*).

Having worked for decades as a senior Vatican analyst for CNN and correspondent for the National Catholic Reporter, he is now an associate editor for The Boston Globe, where he spearheads the work of CRUX, an online news portal that provides specialized coverage of the Vatican and the Catholic Church.

Our lecturer has also written 11 books in this field, the latest of which was just released last week and is called *The Francis Miracle: Inside the Transformation of the Pope and the Church* (TME Books, 2015). His core argument is that Pope Francis is “a man on a mission ... to be a change agent, a historic reformer” whose programmatic vision is “fully committed to the more than 2,000 year old faith of the Catholic Church and equally committed to cajoling the Church into a deeper and more positive dialogue with the world around it” (excerpt from the Introduction).



Given his own commitment to the professional ideals of journalism, and his unique perspective from inside the Church, we are delighted to have him share his viewpoints with us this evening. Please join me in welcoming the 2015 John Cardinal Foley Lecturer ...

MR. JOHN ALLEN, JR.