



The Sixth Annual John Cardinal Foley Lecture on The Church & Social Communications

by
KIM DANIELS

*Vianney Auditorium @Saint Charles Borromeo Seminary, Overbrook
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INTRODUCTION

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

Good evening and welcome to Saint Charles Borromeo Seminary for the sixth annual John Cardinal Foley Lecture on the Church and Social Communications.

This lecture series honors the memory of Cardinal John Patrick Foley, who died in 2011. For those of you who may not have known him, Cardinal Foley was a priest of this archdiocese. An alumnus of and faculty member here at the seminary, he worked on archdiocesan communications at *The Catholic Standard & Times* for more than twenty years. He was then called to the Vatican to lead communications efforts for the universal Church as president of the Pontifical Council for Social Communications, where he served for twenty-three years. In that time, he brought the Church into the age of the Internet and gave its media a global reach.

Recognizing the power of media to shape worldviews, Cardinal Foley often re-iterated three principles for good communication: always tell the truth, always respect the sacredness of persons, and always promote the common good. When asked, specifically, what the answer is to the media's interest in scandals, he said, "Virtue – and in the absence of virtue, candor – which is another form of virtue."¹ In tonight's lecture on "Communications and the Crisis in the Church," it would do well for all of us to recall that answer in order to move "From Anger to Renewal."

Our guest speaker tonight is rather well-suited to elucidate those virtuous principles of communication in light of the current news climate. She has been described as "savvy and strategic, with a great love for the Church, (one who) combines a lawyer's rigor with a natural penchant for communications."² Her rigor was honed through her studies at Princeton University and the University of Chicago Law School. Her penchant developed in several ways. She founded the U.S. version of "Catholic Voices," an organization that offers training sessions and messaging strategies on Church issues. She served as a consultant to the US Conference of Catholic Bishops, advising conference presidents and committees on matters of religious liberty, immigration reform, and life questions. And nowadays she assists in directing the Initiative on Catholic Social Thought and Public Life at Georgetown University. Given her experience and expertise, Pope Francis appointed her, in 2016, as a Member of the Vatican Dicastery for Communications – one of only three lay persons in the world who serve in this role!

Ladies and Gentlemen, please join me in welcoming this year's John Cardinal Foley Lecturer ... **KIM DANIELS**.



¹ Address at the fourth International Conference on Institutional Communications, ZENIT ([4/26/01](#)).

² Austen Ivereigh, "Second American gets Vatican communication post," CRUX ([7/13/16](#))