



The Seventh Annual
John Cardinal Foley Lecture on Social Communications
by **FR. MIKE SCHMITZ**

St. Martin's Chapel @Saint Charles Borromeo Seminary, Overbrook
January 27, 2020

INTRODUCTION

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

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

My job at these events is to introduce the lecturer. Judging by the fact that we sold out the event with no advertising, it's safe to say that our speaker needs no introduction! Nevertheless, I shall keep talking ... but just to offer just a few words that will put tonight's event into context.

This lecture series honors the memory of Cardinal John Foley, who died in 2011. For those of you did not know him, Cardinal Foley was a priest of this archdiocese. An alumnus of and faculty member here at the seminary, he led archdiocesan communications for more than twenty years as a writer for and editor of *The Catholic Standard & Times* – back in the day when we had print newspapers! In 1984 he was 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.

To carry on that legacy, Saint Charles Borromeo Seminary has established the John Cardinal Foley Chair in Homiletics & Social Communications, the only position of its kind in seminary education anywhere in the world. The focus for this Chair comes from the vision of its namesake. Foreseeing the global power of the Internet, Cardinal Foley also saw its tremendous potential for evangelization, saying “It is impossible to remain with one’s arms crossed contemplating this world that changes so rapidly; it is necessary to remember that God’s voice can be raised above many other voices, as he has always spoken to [people] and tries to reach [them] with all possible means, at times unimaginable” (*Zenit* 6/6/2005).

In this now digital world, our guest speaker has raised his voice for God in unimaginable ways, and always with both bold teaching and zealous enthusiasm. He does have a day job – as director of Youth and Young Adult Ministry for the Diocese of Duluth and as the Newman Center Chaplain at the University of Minnesota at Duluth – where he is the only preacher I know who distributes discussion guides for his homilies! But you’re more likely to know him from his weekly videos and podcasts on Ascension Presents ... or as one of his more than 66,000 followers on Twitter ... or perhaps from one of his almost 1.9 million views on YouTube.

But there’s no media filter tonight ... he’s here with us “live” and in person, and we are so delighted he has joined us. Please now join me in welcoming the 2020 Cardinal Foley Lecturer on the Church & Social Communications ...

FR. MIKE SCHMITZ

