

The John Cardinal Foley Award for Excellence in Communications

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

*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 2018 CARDINAL FOLEY AWARD

by Bishop Timothy Senior, Rector of the Seminary

At this, the third 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 the President of the Pontifical Council for Social Communications from 1984 to 2007, he came to be known as "the pope's executive producer."¹



In that work, then-Archbishop Foley had the opportunity to work with our award winner on ground-breaking broadcasts of *The Today Show* direct from St. Peter's Square.

Following their collaborative effort, tonight's honoree remarked with admiration that "Archbishop Foley is someone who understands his faith, understands the Vatican, and understands American television. And he put the three together, and I think was largely responsible for three extraordinary days of television."²



¹ Bill Roswell, "Broadcast Journalists and the Pope," *Communicator* (October 2007), p. 12.

² Bill Roswell, "Broadcast Journalists and the Pope," *Communicator* (October 2007), pp. 12-13.

With mutual admiration, Cardinal Foley once noted that our award winner has his own trinity of things most important to him: his faith, his family, and his profession – all of which contribute to this evening's honor.³

His faith we share.

His family welcome ... in the person of his son, whom Cardinal Foley affectionately dubbed "Lucky Luke" because he was blessed in the womb by a saint, who later held him in his holy hands at a papal audience. I'm told that his proud papa had three television crews ready there to record that event!⁴



But we know our award winner the most for his professional work as a broadcast journalist. In that role he became "the nation's television friend."⁵

He has had a lasting impact on our culture of communications as the longest serving moderator of the longest running network program in television history. He turned NBC's *Meet the Press* into the highest rated Sunday public affairs production and the most quoted news broadcast in the world.⁶

In Cardinal Foley's estimation, he was the best interviewer on television, probing but always fair, always a gentleman, and always treating his guests with respect.⁷ Here's a brief montage created by NBC⁸ that shows him in action ...



To search for truth responsibly while always showing respect for persons – that is the recipe for a "journalism of peace" as Pope Francis describes it in this year's Message for World Communications Day.



According to the Holy Father, "The best antidotes to falsehoods are not strategies, but people: people who are not greedy but ready to listen, people who make the effort to engage in sincere dialogue so that the truth can emerge; people who are attracted by goodness and take responsibility for how they use language."⁹

³ Bill Roswell, presentation of the Paul White Award from the Radio, Television & Digital News Association (RTDNA) [on YouTube](#) (10/13/18).

⁴ Email correspondence with Maureen Orth (5/16/18).

⁵ From the acceptance speech by Maureen Orth at the presentation of the Paul White Award from RTDNA [on YouTube](#).

⁶ Robert Schmuhl, Introduction to the [2008 Red Smith Lecture in Journalism](#) at the University of Notre Dame.

⁷ Bill Roswell, presentation of the Paul White Award from the Radio, Television & Digital News Association (RTDNA) [on YouTube](#) (10/13/18).

⁸ NBC archival footage created for John Cardinal Foley Communications Award Dinner, 24 May 2018, [on Vimeo](#).

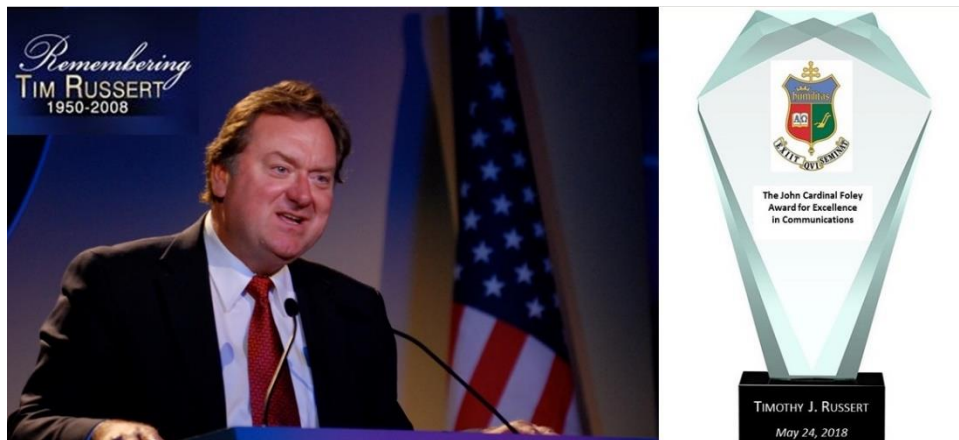
⁹ "The truth will set you free" (*Jn* 8:32). *Fake news and journalism for peace* - [Message](#) of His Holiness Pope Francis for World Communications Day, 24 January 2018.

Among those people that Pope Francis calls "the protectors of news," this year's award winner stands out. He certainly fits the bill as "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."

Long before this award came to be, Cardinal Foley once said of our honoree that everyone in the media should try to be like him and copy him.¹⁰ In what is now the tenth year since his death, we could not agree more.



And so, ladies and gentlemen, please join me as I invite Luke to come forward now ... to accept from us the *2018 John Cardinal Foley Award for Excellence in Communications*, which we present posthumously to his father: **MR. TIM RUSSELT**.



(acceptance speech by Luke Russert)

¹⁰ Bill Roswell, presentation of the Paul White Award from the Radio, Television & Digital News Association (RTDNA) [on YouTube](#) (10/13/18).

PRESENTATION OF THE DONATION

by Bishop Senior, joined by Luke Russert

Conferral of the Cardinal Foley award includes a charitable donation of \$1,000, on behalf of our honoree, to a non-profit organization.

Though she was unable to join us this evening, Tim's wife, Maureen Orth, directs a charitable foundation that works in Columbia to provide modern and high-quality education to children and young people with limited resources, teaching them not only English and computer technology, but also the self-confidence, teamwork and perseverance that will allow them to achieve their dreams and goals.



Luke, we are delighted to support the work of the Marina Orth Foundation and ask you to share this gift with your mother.



**Marina Orth
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