



The Ninth Annual
John Cardinal Foley Lecture

by
BISHOP PAUL TIGHE

@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 ninth annual John Cardinal Foley Lecture on The Church & Social Communications.

This lecture series honors the memory of Cardinal John 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.

Our speaker tonight followed in Cardinal Foley's footsteps as Secretary of that same Council before moving on to his present position as Secretary of the Pontifical Council for Culture. He and Cardinal Foley share that broader, "cultural" concern for communications. As the Cardinal once claimed, "the means of social communication contribute to determining culture. Not just respecting it," he said, "but determining it" (*L'Osservatore Romano*, [4/11/08](#)). And our speaker tonight has been a champion of the Church's presence in the digital realm, as a way to help it be at its best, through conversations and relationships that factor prominently in shaping our culture of communications.

Having known and worked with him for more than a decade, I think it's safe to say that no one has promoted the Church's engagement in the culture of digital communications more than tonight's speaker. He played an instrumental role in planning for the Secretariat of Communications at the Vatican, in creating a digital presence for Vatican agencies, in bringing together bloggers from around the world, in representing the Holy See at numerous international gatherings about technology, and, yes, even by convincing the Pope to get on Twitter!

More importantly, his is a well-reasoned and theologically informed voice for respecting and sustaining the ecology of social communications, which is never simply a technological realm for getting words out, but a world in which we can, and should, foster the dignity of persons and build the human community.

To learn how each of us, and all of us in the Church, play a vital part in sharing faith and promoting encounter in the digital world, please welcome, from the Vatican by way of the Emerald Isle, the 2022 John Cardinal Foley Lecturer ... **His Excellency, BISHOP PAUL TIGHE.**

