



*The Eleventh Annual*  
**John Cardinal Foley Lecture**  
by  
**SR. NANCY USSELMANN, F.S.P.**

@Saint Charles Borromeo Seminary, Overbrook  
January 29, 2024

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

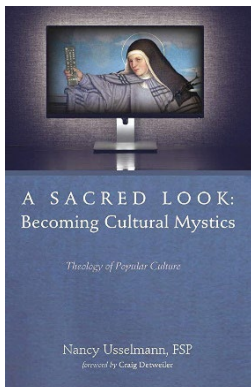
*Good evening and welcome to Saint Charles Borromeo Seminary for the eleventh annual edition of the John Cardinal Foley Lecture, which focuses on The Church & Social Communications.*

This lecture series honors the memory of an alumnus of the seminary who also served on the faculty here. He worked on archdiocesan communications at *The Catholic Standard & Times* for more than twenty years, while also serving for fifteen years as news secretary for the national conference of U.S. Catholic Bishops. 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. Cardinal Foley died here in Philadelphia in 2011.

In his Vatican role, Cardinal Foley often had occasion to speak about the film industry. He once described cinema as “a powerful means of social communication, a privileged voice that reaches every person and that has the power to condition his options and way of thinking” (12/3/02). Calling movies a “new form of iconography” in our time (12/3/03), the cardinal highlighted the value of movies as a means of “historic memory” because they capitalize on “the extraordinary power of the image, (which is) the universal language that is able to reach the heart and cannot leave one indifferent” (11/15/06).

Our speaker tonight hails from the land of Hollywood. Not at all indifferent to cinematic imagery, she regularly pens movie reviews and, in fact, just returned last week from participating, once again, in the acclaimed Sundance film festival. She also judges entries for the prestigious Gabriel Awards, with which the Catholic Media Association annually honors the best in film.

When not watching the big screen, she directs the Pauline Center for Media Studies in L.A., where she devotes her energies to promoting media mindfulness. Through online courses and onsite workshops, as well as in her numerous writings, she brings the truths of our faith to bear upon the multiple forms of social communication being consumed at increasing rates, especially by youth and young adults. Sounds to me like that would make for a powerful formation conference for seminarians!



Tonight, she will speak more broadly to the need for all of us to become “cultural mystics” so that we can communicate Christ’s presence in our digital world. This, indeed, is the good work of the “media nuns” – as her religious congregation of the Daughters of St. Paul are popularly known.

With apologies for not having a red carpet to roll out as a proper runway for our guest from Hollywood, please join me in welcoming our 2024 John Cardinal Foley Lecturer ...

**SISTER NANCY USSELMANN, F.S.P.**

