

THE JOHN CARDINAL FOLEY CHAIR OF HOMILETICS & SOCIAL COMMUNICATIONS



@ Saint Charles Borromeo Seminary

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The Mission



The Cardinal Foley Chair at Saint Charles Borromeo Seminary supports the work of the Catholic Church in the realm of social communications by teaching seminary students and church groups, working with staff in parishes and (arch)dioceses, and engaging in dialogue with journalists and media professionals.

The Legacy

The endowed chair is a faculty position named in honor of **JOHN CARDINAL FOLEY** (1935-2011). A 1958 graduate of the Seminary, he was ordained to the priesthood for the Archdiocese of Philadelphia in 1962. After having earned a doctoral degree from the Pontifical University of St. Thomas Aquinas (Rome), he completed a master's degree at Columbia University's School of Journalism. He served in editorial roles for the archdiocesan newspaper (*The Catholic Standard & Times*) for nearly twenty years, and as news secretary for meetings of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops for fifteen years. He was appointed by Pope John Paul II as President of the Pontifical Council for Social Communications in 1984 and was consecrated a bishop that same year. From 1984 until 2009, he was known the world over as the English voice of the papal midnight Mass at Christmas. He served at the Pontifical Council until 2007, when Pope Benedict XVI named him pro-grand master of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem. He was created a cardinal deacon in the consistory of November 2007.



“In his time as President of this Council, he offered clear and farsighted pastoral wisdom in looking at the Church’s relationship and engagement with the ever-evolving fields of the media, new technologies, the nature of communication and its influence on culture. He promoted a vital internal dialogue within the Church on these issues, and also in broader international contexts, by calling on all communicators to seek for the highest and most noble standards of their profession. ... The many documents produced by the Council were the fruits of his efforts to shape the Church’s reflection and policy guidance.”

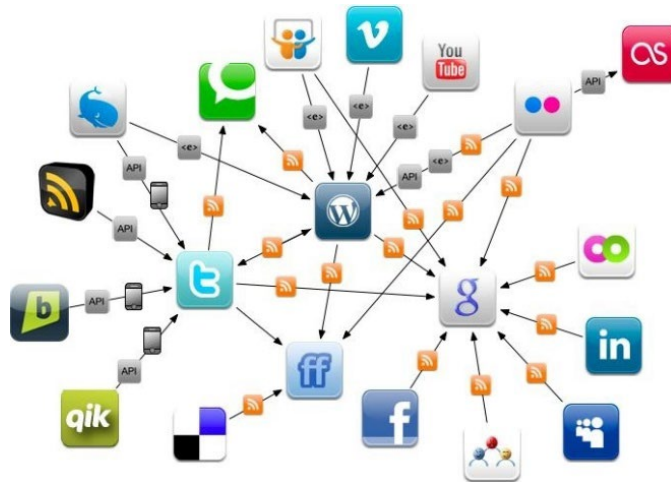
ARCHBISHOP CLAUDIO MARIA CELLI

Former President of the Pontifical Council for Social Communications



The Arena

The 2012 Synod of Bishops – on *The New Evangelization for the Transmission of the Christian Faith* – signaled the prominence of social communications for contemporary life: “Today, no place in the world is beyond reach and, consequently, unaffected by the media and digital culture, which is fast becoming the ‘forum’ of public life and social interaction.” (*Lineamenta*, no. 6). In the years since, the task grows ever more important: to see the digital world in the light of faith and to explore modern communications in light of the Church’s mission to share the Good News.



Today’s world of social communications includes various means by which evangelization takes place (e.g., web sites, mobile applications, photo/video sharing, and social networking platforms). Developing new and improved ways to spread the Gospel via new media is a long-range task for future leaders of the Church.

But the digital world involves much more than technology. It engages persons today with new models for understanding the world around us, for comprehending what it means to be human, and for generating vibrant social communities. As such, social communications will have long-lasting effects on faith formation, spirituality, ethics, and “church” as we know it.

As POPE SAINT JOHN PAUL II noted in his final apostolic letter, “the Church is not only called upon to use the mass media to spread the Gospel but, today more than ever, to integrate the message of salvation into the ‘new culture’ that these powerful means of communication create and amplify. It tells us that the use of the techniques and the technologies of contemporary communications is an integral part of its mission in the third millennium” (*The Rapid Development*, 2).

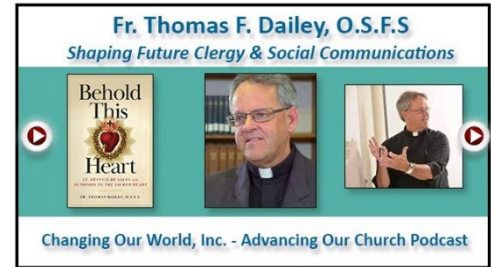
POPE FRANCIS affirms this in his first message for the World Day of Social Communications (2014). There he exhorts us to “boldly become citizens of the digital world,” and he invites us to respond to the “great and thrilling challenge” of the media revolution “with fresh energy and imagination as we seek to share with others the beauty of God.”



The Cardinal Foley Chair is tasked with bringing scholarly insight to bear on that challenge in terms of developing the mutual interface between Theology and Communications.

The Chair

The inaugural and current holder of the Cardinal Foley Chair is the **REV. THOMAS DAILEY, O.S.F.S.** A priest in the congregation of the Oblates of St. Francis de Sales (the patron saint of Catholic journalists and writers), Fr. Dailey previously served at DeSales University where he was a professor of Theology and the founding director of the Salesian Center for Faith and Culture.



The programming of the Cardinal Foley Chair is guided by the expertise of academics and professionals in the fields. Under the authority of the seminary's Rector, an **advisory committee** meets three times each academic year to review the activities of the chair, plan the public events associated with the chair, assess the financial needs of the program, and monitor the growth and development of the position.

The Cardinal Foley Chair engages the theology of social communications through

- teaching in academic and formation programs;
- participating in scholarly and professional conferences;
- contributing essays for publication by archdiocesan news agencies;
- offering public presentations to parishes and diocesan groups;
- and preaching spiritual devotions and retreats.



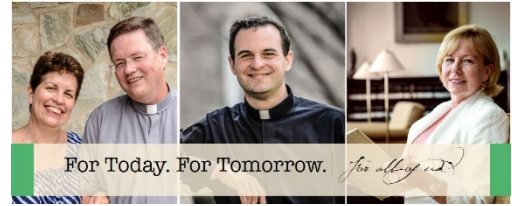
(photo: Gina Christian/OSV News)

Currently, the Cardinal Foley Chair sponsors three **major programs** on an annual basis at the Seminary:

- **The Cardinals' Forum** (August/September) ... an annual gathering at the opening of each year of formation, intended to advance the intellectual formation of seminary students and provide continuing education for the lay faithful about topics of contemporary concerns.
- **The Cardinal Foley Lecture Series** (January/February) ... an annual lecture by a speaker of (inter)national renown focused on current concerns in the realm of the Church and Social Communications.
- **The Cardinal Foley Symposium** (last week of May) ... an annual celebration of World Communications Day, which features a panel discussion on the papal message for the day and the conferral of the Cardinal Foley Award for Excellence upon a professional journalist.

Future plans include developing collaborative partnerships with (inter)national organizations and with local Catholic universities. Through these partnerships, and supported by the growth of the endowment, the Cardinal Foley Chair will expand its work to include:

- teaching undergraduate and/or graduate courses online;
- publishing scholarly works and a digital archive;
- producing audio, video, and/or digital materials; and
- sponsoring a national symposium or conference.



The Seminary

Chartered in 1838, the Theological Seminary of Saint Charles Borromeo continues to provide comprehensive formation (human, spiritual, intellectual, and pastoral) for service in the Roman Catholic Church at both the undergraduate (College) and graduate (Theology) levels. The Seminary enrolls men studying for the priesthood from (arch)dioceses and religious orders throughout the United States and around the world, and educates men in formation for the permanent diaconate in the Archdiocese of Philadelphia. The Seminary also offers education to the broader Church community through its School of Theological Studies, whose multiple institutes provide a variety of academic and pastoral programs. The Seminary is fully accredited by both the Commission on Higher Education of the Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools, and the Association of Theological Schools of the United States and Canada.

“The Seminary gives men and women a voice to speak to the world – a twenty-first century gift of tongues – to defend and spread our shared faith. St. Charles Borromeo Seminary is a jewel in the crown of our faith community. It is time to rediscover, or discover for the first time, this holy place of learning.”

THE MOST REVEREND CHARLES J. CHAPUT, O.F.M. CAP.
Archbishop Emeritus of Philadelphia

The John Cardinal Foley Chair of Homiletics & Social Communications – *the only chair of its kind in U.S. seminary education* – looks to shine as a fine gem in that crown!

To contribute to the endowment
of the Cardinal Foley Chair, contact



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