



# The John Cardinal Foley SYMPOSIUM

@ St. Charles Borromeo Seminary

## PRESENTATION OF THE 2025 CARDINAL FOLEY AWARD

*by Reverend Christopher Redcay,  
Rector-Designate of Saint Charles Borromeo Seminary*

At this, the ninth annual symposium to celebrate World Communications Day, it gives me great pleasure, in the name of Saint Charles Borromeo Seminary, to present this award in the name of an alumnus and former faculty member: CARDINAL JOHN PATRICK FOLEY.

In his work here in Philadelphia and at the Vatican as president of the then-Pontifical Council for Social Communications, Cardinal Foley worked tirelessly to strengthen the Church's place and enhance its work in the realm of global communications. The annual celebration of World Communications Day focuses on that work.



This year's World Communications Day is unique in that it encompasses the Petrine ministry of two popes.



In January, on the feast of St. Francis de Sales, Pope Francis published the message for this global celebration under the title: **“Share with gentleness the hope that is in your hearts.”**

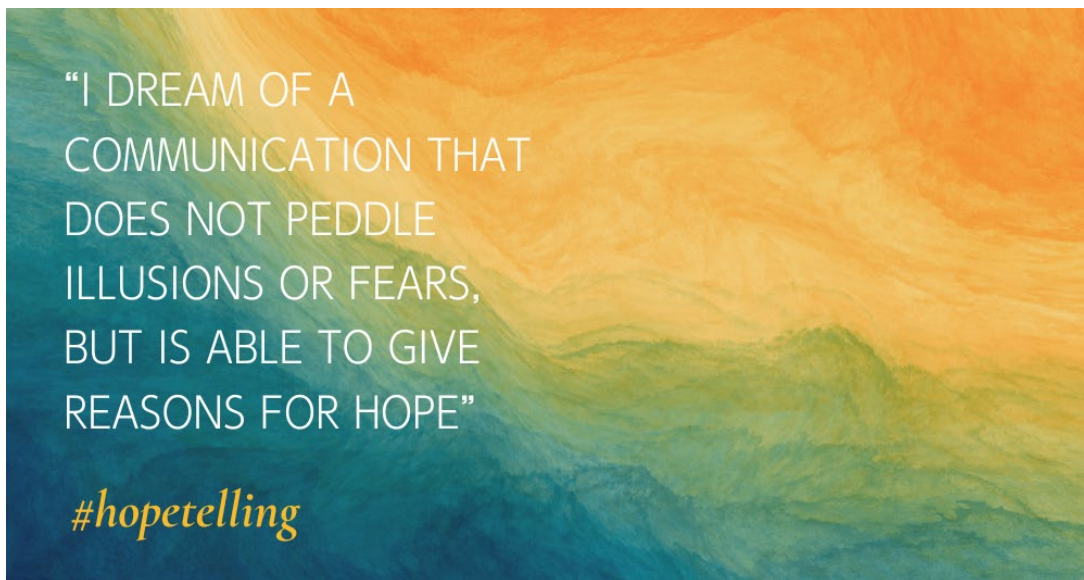
And now, from what the world has already seen and heard, Pope Leo XIV has embraced that message. At his first audience, to representatives of the media, he echoed his predecessor's words when he said:

“let us disarm communication of all prejudice and resentment, fanaticism and even hatred; let us free it from aggression. We do not need loud, forceful communication, but rather communication that is capable of listening and of gathering the voices of the weak who have no voice. Let us disarm words and we will help to disarm the world.”



With a serene countenance and a wry smile exuding tranquility, Pope Leo has begun to fulfill the twofold dream that Pope Francis revealed in his message for this year’s World Communications Day.

“I dream of a communication capable of making us fellow travelers,” he said, “a communication capable of focusing on beauty and hope even in the midst of apparently desperate situations ....” To this he added



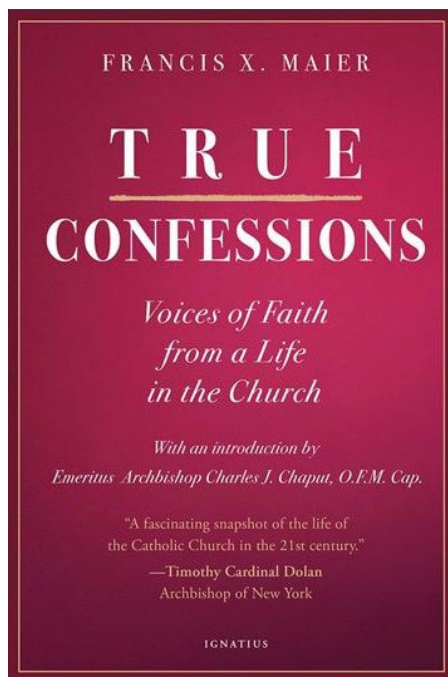
Our awardee this year saw his share of trouble times and desperate situations. After all, he worked for 27 years in senior diocesan service, as chancellor, senior advisor, and special assistant to Archbishop Chaput both in Denver and here in Philadelphia. Prior to that, for 15 years he was editor in chief of the *National Catholic Register*.

And now he serves as a senior fellow in the Catholic Studies Program at the Ethics and Public Policy Center in Washington, DC, where his work focuses on the intersection of Christian faith, culture, and public life.

In addition, he directs fellow travelers on the road to beauty and hope through his national leadership roles with the Napa Institute and with FOCUS, the Fellowship of Catholic University Students, and through his co-founding of the Collegium Institute for Catholic Thought and Culture at the University of Pennsylvania.



Through it all, he, too, brings the dream of hope-filled communication to life. He does so as a devotee of St. Augustine, whom he considers the patron saint of our age ... even without knowing the new pope would be an Augustinian!



In notes in his recent book – *True Confessions: Voice of Faith from a Life in the Church* – that Augustine wrote great works at the end of the Roman world, as it unraveled into confusion (not so different from our own time). Then he points out how ...

“(Augustine) could do that because he had hope. He had hope because he had faith. And he had faith because he pursued and encountered God as a vivid, personal presence in his life; the source of his joy and confidence. And he never let the distractions and anxiety of his times dim that experience.”

Today, we are delighted to affirm that the same should be said about our awardee’s work, which we believe “exemplifies the positive potential of mass media to inform, instruct, and inspire others in the quest to build a more just world.”

Friends, please join me now in congratulating the recipient of the **2025 John Cardinal Foley Award for Excellence in Communications ...**

## MR. FRAN MAIER



---

### PRESENTATION OF THE DONATION

Conferral of the Cardinal Foley Award includes a charitable donation of \$1,000 given on behalf of our award-winner to a non-profit organization. Fran is directing this year's donation to the **Legacy of Life Foundation**, whose headquarters are here in the Archdiocese of Philadelphia.



We are happy to have here with us today the president of the foundation's board, Dr. Les Ruppertsberger, and its founder and current CEO, Marie Joseph. I invite Marie to accept this contribution in Fran's name.

The Seminary is happy to make this donation to support the worthy efforts of the Legacy of Life Foundation as it invests “in educating, inspiring, and supporting women in unplanned pregnancies to find the strength to choose life.”

Know that the check also comes with our continued prayers for your good work.

---