



The John Cardinal Foley SYMPOSIUM

@ St. Charles Borromeo Seminary

INTRODUCTION TO THE PANEL DISCUSSION

by Reverend Thomas Dailey, O.S.F.S.

The John Cardinal Foley Chair of Homiletics & Social Communications

Welcome to Saint Charles Borromeo Seminary for our ninth annual Cardinal Foley Symposium, which we host in conjunction with the celebration of World Communications Day.

World Communications Day is the only worldwide celebration called for by the Second Vatican Council, and is celebrated on the Sunday before Pentecost ... so we're a little early this year!



Each World Communications Day focuses on a particular theme, about which the Holy Father writes a message to the world. For 2025, that message was promulgated by Pope Francis and has as its title: ***“Share with gentleness the hope that is in your hearts.”***

In that message, the pope reminds us that “Hope is a hidden virtue, tenacious and patient. For Christians, it is not an option but a necessary condition.”

He invites us, by way of media and communications, to get in touch with the best part of (our)selves and enter ... into the stories told. “Communicating in this way,” he says, “helps us to become ‘pilgrims of hope’, which is the motto of the present Jubilee (year).”

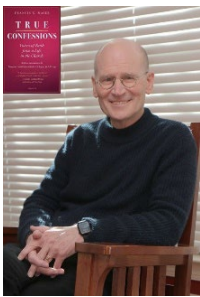
To help us get in touch with hope amid today's news, we've invited prominent journalists to share some thoughts from the viewpoint of areas in which they work.



As chief investigative reporter for CBS News Philadelphia, JOE HOLDEN has reported on all kinds of news in our area. He will speak about sharing hope here at home.



In addition to her work as a national reporter for Our Sunday Visitor, GINA CHRISTIAN also keeps the world of social media abreast of what's happening in Ukraine. So, she'll speak to the possibility of sharing hope in a war-torn world.



Our third panelist is the Senior Fellow in the Catholic Studies Program at the Ethics and Public Policy Center in Washington. Formerly the senior advisor and special assistant to Archbishop Chaput, FRAN MAIER will be receiving this year's Cardinal Foley Award for Excellence in Communication. He'll speak with us about sharing hope in the Church.

Our format today is fairly simple:

- Each of our panelists will speak to the topic for 10 minutes or so, to give us multiple perspectives on the subject of sharing hope.
- Then, for about 45 minutes, we'll all have a chance to discuss the topic. We invite you, briefly, to share your own thoughts with regard to what our panelists have said and/or to pose questions that our panel can answer, individually or collectively. The goal is for all of us to “enter into the story” and consider how we might become pilgrims at hope.
- Finally, we'll give our panelists the opportunity to close the symposium, as I invite each of them to offer a 5-minute conclusion.

So, let's begin ...