

## 4.4 Special Events

*last updated on July 7, 2025*

Through the auspices of the [\*John Cardinal Foley Chair of Homiletics & Social Communications\*](#), the Seminary offers annual programming and special events related to these areas. Annual events include the following:

### THE CARDINALS' FORUM

Named for two academic professorships at the Seminary, this forum inaugurates each year of formation at the Seminary. Its purpose is to demonstrate spirited dialogue on important, and sometimes controversial, topics. Typically, the professors holding the endowed chairs serve as panelists for the discussion; occasionally, special guests with expertise on the topic are invited to join the panel.

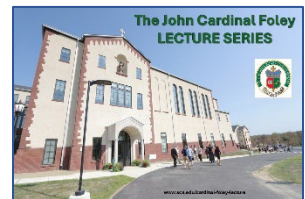
The event, which is open to the public, takes place each August. An [archive](#) of the proceedings is available on the website.



### THE JOHN CARDINAL FOLEY LECTURE SERIES

This public lecture series brings speakers of national and international prominence to the Seminary to offer an academic lecture. Its purpose is to address emerging topics in the realm of "the Church and Social Communications."

The event, which is open to the public, takes place each January, ordinarily on the last Monday of the month. An [archive](#) of the lecture series is available on the website.



### THE JOHN CARDINAL FOLEY SYMPOSIUM

This annual series is held in conjunction with the Church's celebration of World Communications Day. The events feature (1) a public forum to discuss the theme and the papal message for the Day, and (2) the presentation of the annual Cardinal Foley Award for Excellence in Communications to a media professional.

The events, which are open to the public, take place in May, ordinarily on the Thursday before Memorial Day weekend. An [archive](#) of the symposium series is available on the website.



### A FESTIVAL OF THE WORD

The Catholic Preaching Institute hosts an annual **celebration** that showcases the theory and practice of compelling preaching. The festivals will engage church leaders, prominent speakers, local clergy, seminarians, and lay faithful in a variety of events that highlight the ongoing proclamation of the Word of God.

Through these annual gatherings, we will bring to life the Seminary's motto: *exiit qui seminat* ~ "he went forth who sows."

