



The
JOHN CARDINAL FOLEY CHAIR
of Homiletics & Social Communications
@ Saint Charles Borromeo Seminary



ANNUAL REPORT, 2024-2025

last updated on 7/1/25

The John Cardinal Foley Chair of Homiletics & Social Communications was inaugurated in 2013-2014 and became a full-time position in 2017-2018 with the appointment of REV. THOMAS DAILEY, O.S.F.S. to the Seminary's faculty. The report below chronicles the programming supported by the Cardinal Foley Chair and the work of Fr. Dailey on behalf of the Chair during the 2024-2025 year of formation.

TEACHING & SCHOLARSHIP

Under the auspices of the Cardinal Foley Chair, Fr. Dailey educates in several ways, including:

Academic Programs:

- seminary courses
 - COM 211 – Social Communications ... *not yet scheduled in the revised College curriculum*
 - PTH 601 – Theology of Homiletics (Fall 2024) for 13 TS students
 - PTH 602 – Contemporary Homiletics (Spring 2025) for 13 TS students
- seminary academic affairs
 - directed one M.A. thesis – by Aaron Zanca
on “Homiletic Formation in the Spirituality of St. John of Avila”
 - evaluator for M.Div. competency exams, oral and written (1/15/25)
 - evaluator for M.A. comprehensive oral exams (3/12/25)
- external collaboration
 - [Center for Church Management](#) in the School of Business at Villanova University – directed a webcast on “Virtual Presence and Communication” on November 6, 2024

Spiritual Formation

- “St. Francis de Sales and the *Introduction to the Devout Life*” – conferences in the Pre-Theology Propaedeutic Year program of Saint Charles Borromeo Seminary (Conshohocken, PA) on October 15 and October 22, 2024

Pastoral/Apostolic Formation:

- investigated a partnership with Dale Carnegie to instruct new seminarians in public speaking

Professional Memberships:

- [Academy of Catholic Theology](#)
- [Catholic Association of Teachers of Homiletics](#)
 - attended annual conference in St. Louis (MO) on December 4-5, 2024
- [Catholic Speakers Organization](#)

Publications:

- [“Preaching and Leadership: How priests can boldly fulfill the Lord’s mandate”](#) – in *The Priest* magazine, published by Our Sunday Visitor, vol. 80/8 (August 2024): 25-31.
- “Hope Springs Eternal: A Salesian Life Lesson for the Jubilee Year” – in the *Indian Journal of Spirituality* (forthcoming 2025)
- “Homily Helps” – in *The Priest* magazine, published by Our Sunday Visitor
 - vol. 80, no. 7 (July 2024), pp 49-53
 - vol. 80, no. 9 (September 2024), pp. 90-93
 - vol. 80, no. 11 (November 2024), pp. 48-53
 - vol. 81, no 1 (January 2025), pp. 50-53
 - vol. 81, no. 3 (March 2025), pp. 50-53
 - vol. 81, no. 5 (May 2025), pp. 49-53
- Commentaries published by Catholic media
 - [“Sacred Heart: Real symbol of what has been and can be again”](#) – in *The Dialog* on 10/30/24
 - [“Let’s forget to hope”](#) – in *The Dialog* on 1/6/25
 - [“Pope Leo XIV calls for a verbal disarmament”](#) – in *The Dialog* on 5/16/25
- *national award from the Catholic Media Association (June 2025)*



The
Dialog
Serving the Catholic Community of Delaware
and Maryland's Eastern Shore

Father Thomas Dailey
“Modern Intelligence needs virtue of reasonable heart”

Category
Newspaper >N513: Best Regular Column > N513e: Best
Regular Column – Spiritual Life

Winner Status:
• Honorable Mention (2)

PROGRAMS & ACTIVITIES

On behalf of the Cardinal Foley Chair, Fr. Dailey engages the public in multiple ways, including:

Sponsored Series:

- The 9th annual *Cardinals' Forum* (September 9, 2024)
 - topic: “The Pastoral Impact of Artificial Intelligence”
 - speakers: Dr. John Haas, Fr. Thomas Dailey, Dr. Nathan Knutson
 - audience: 155 in-person + more than 1,300 online views
 - coverage: > 4,650 social media impressions
 - [archived online](#)
- The 12th annual *Cardinal Foley Lecture on the Church & Social Communications* (February 3, 2025)
 - lecturer: MONTSE ALVARADO (EWTN News)
 - topic: “Calling Others to Christ in a Digital World”
 - audience: 157 in-person
 - coverage: 4 news features + 1,555 social media impressions
 - [archived online](#)
- The 9th annual *Cardinal Foley Symposium* for World Communications Day (May 22, 2025)
 - topic: “Sharing Hope amid the News”
 - town hall discussion with Joe Holden (CBS-3 Philadelphia), Gina Christian (Our Sunday Visitor), and Fran Maier (Ethics & Public Policy Center)
 - presentation of the Foley Award to FRAN MAIER
 - audience: 28 in-person
 - coverage: 4 news items + 830 social media impressions
 - [archived online](#)

Speaking Engagements

- Academic Conferences
- Professional Development
 - “Toward a Homiletic Revival” – workshop presentations for the permanent deacons of the Diocese of Wilmington, at Holy Cross Church (Dover, DE) on July 20, 2024
- Religious Education
 - “Games People Play: On Sports and Spirituality” – presentation to the Oblates of St. Francis de Sales Business Network, at the Union League at Torresdale (Philadelphia, PA) on October 18, 2024
 - “Advent with the Sacred Heart of Jesus” – presentation to the DuPage chapter of Legatus (DuPage, IL) on November 21, 2024
 - “Hope Springs Eternal: A Salesian Life Lesson for the Jubilee Year” – presentation at Our Mother of Consolation parish (Philadelphia, PA) on January 22, 2025

- “The Sacred Heart of Jesus” – keynote presentation for an interscholastic celebration during the Jubilee of the Sacred Heart, at Visitation Academy (St. Louis, MO) on April 8, 2025
- “[Live Today Well](#): Q&A with the Author” – dinner discussion with the Teams of Our Lady chapter from St. Mary Magdalen parish (Media, PA) on April 11, 2025
- Spiritual Enrichment
 - “Hear the Word” – retreat conferences for the permanent deacons of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia, at Malvern Retreat Center (Malvern, PA) on November 1-3, 2024
 - “Lent Every Day: St. Francis de Sales’s Simple Plan for Conversion” – mission talks at St. Francis of Assisi parish (Wichita, KS) on March 2-4, 2025
 - “Let’s Not Disappoint” – retreat conference for faculty at Bishop Shanahan High School (Downingtown, PA) at the Malvern Retreat Center on April 15, 2025
 - “Salesian Life Lessons for the Jubilee on Hope” – retreat conferences for the Association (“Daughters”) of St. Francis de Sales (St. Louis, MO) on April 25-27, 2025

MARKETING & PROMOTION

In the name of the Cardinal Foley Chair, Fr. Dailey interacts with media via multiple formats, including:

Social Communications

- managing the section of the Seminary’s **web site** dedicated to the Cardinal Foley Chair, on which more than **780** elements are posted

<i>pages</i>	<i>archives</i>	<i>documents</i>	<i>promotions</i>	<i>stories</i>	<i>links</i>	<i>galleries</i>	<i>videos</i>	<i>audios</i>
42	76	157	75	78	106	122	108	17

- managing **social media accounts** for the Cardinal Foley Chair, with the following activity

<i>platform</i>	<i>reach</i>	<i>activity</i>
Facebook	528 followers	30 posts this year, with 13,102 views
Twitter (X)	337 followers	15 posts this year, with 590 impressions

Mass Media

Print / Digital

6/26/24	Augustinian.org	news update	Future Saint Father Bill Atkinson Reinterred in St. Thomas of Villanova
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8/21/24	ArchPhila.org	press release	Saint Charles Seminary to Host 2024 Cardinals' Forum
8/23/24	CatholicPhilly.com	calendar	Forum to discuss 'The Pastoral Impact of Artificial Intelligence'
9/21/24	The Augustinian Magazine	story	Fr. Bill Atkinson, O.S.A., Reinterred in St. Thomas of Villanova Church
10/27/24	Our Sunday Visitor	national story	Sacred Heart encyclical hailed as a 'simple and powerful cure' to rekindle love
10/29/24	OSV News		
11/13/24	CatholicPhilly.com	local news	Priest, Lay Writers Pen Weekly Commentaries on Sunday Gospels
1/2/25	CatholicPhilly.com	calendar	EWTN News Leader to Speak in Cardinal Foley Lecture Series
1/3/25	TheDialog.org	regional story	EWTN's Montse Alvarado to speak at Cardinal Foley Lecture series at Gwynedd Mercy University
1/29/25	ArchPhila.org	press release	Saint Charles Borromeo Seminary Welcomes Montse Alvarado of EWTN News to Give the John Cardinal Foley Lecture
1/29/25	American Catholic Tribune	announcement	Saint Charles Borromeo Seminary hosts Montse Alvarado for annual lecture
1/29/25	CatholicPhilly.com	calendar	EWTN News Leader to Speak in Cardinal Foley Lecture Series
2/6/25	CatholicPhilly.com	photo feature	St. Charles Seminary Hosts 12 th Annual John Cardinal Foley Lecture
4/21/25	CatholicPhilly.com	local news	Pope Francis, Supreme Pontiff of Catholic Church, Passes Away
5/7/25	ArchPhila.org	press release	Cardinal Foley Symposium to Gather Expert Communicators for Town Hall Discussion
5/7/25	American Catholic Tribune	announcement	Cardinal Foley Symposium to feature town hall discussion on communications
5/8/25	CatholicPhilly.com	calendar	Cardinal Foley Symposium to Gather Expert Communicators for Town Hall Discussion
5/14/25	The Chestnut Hill Local	local news	A Catholic Surprise on the Hill
5/30/25	CatholicPhilly.com	photo feature	Seminary Hosts Annual Cardinal Foley Symposium
5/30/25	CatholicPhilly.com	local news	Leaders in Media, Church Share How They Tell Stories of Hope
6/3/25	CatholicPhilly.com	local news	How Are You Hearing the Word? St. Charles Seminary Wants to Know
6/30/25	TheDialog.org	story	The Dialog earns four national awards at 2025 Catholic Media Conference in Phoenix

Radio

- local – “The Legacy of Pope Francis for the Church of Philadelphia” (KYW News Radio, 4/23/25)
- national – “As conclave begins, people around the world are betting on who the next pope will be” ([Marketplace](http://Marketplace.org) / NPR, on KYW News Radio, 5/6/25)

Television & Film

- interview with Michael O'Neill for a forthcoming episode of [They Might Be Saints](http://TheyMightBeSaints.com) on ETWN about the Servant of God, Fr. Bill Atkinson, OSA (taped on 5/5/25)

ADMINISTRATION & DEVELOPMENT

Fr. Dailey manages all aspects related to the Cardinal Foley Chair, including:

Committee Work

- directed three (3) meetings of the **Advisory Committee** for the Cardinal Foley Chair to provide insights into planning and marketing processes
- participated in meetings of the **Academic Affairs Committee** of the Seminary's Board of Trustees

Budget & Finance

- managed the **operational** (discretionary) accounts for the Cardinal Foley Chair, resulting in another positive variance for the fiscal year
- secured **donations** to the Cardinal Foley Chair funds held by the Catholic Foundation of Greater Philadelphia

The Catholic Preaching Institute ... serving as project director (half-time) ... **SEPARATELY REPORTED**

- transitioned the Project Manager to Managing Editor (LAURA VERDI)
- hired a new Project Manager (JULIA LEHMAN)
- updated “The Word at Hand” resources, including the web site
- recruited writers and launched the “Hearing the Word” commentary series
- recruited participants and launched the “Disciples of the World” mentoring program
- procured studio equipment for “The Word from the Pulpit” instructional video series
- attended the annual conference for the Compelling Preaching Coordination Program (3/24-26/25)
- completed the semi-annual survey for the Compelling Preaching Coordination Program and wrote the annual report to Lilly Endowment, Inc.

Special Tasks/Projects

- continuing as spiritual advisor and research fellow for the Catholic Leadership Institute
 - served as Episcopal Delegate for the Cause of Beatification & Canonization of the Servant of God, William Atkinson, O.S.A. to direct the Tribunal for the Exhumation and Translation of his Mortal Remains
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