



The Thirteenth Annual
John Cardinal Foley Lecture

by

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@ Saint Charles Borromeo Seminary, Gwynedd Mercy University

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INTRODUCTION by Rev. Thomas F. Dailey, O.S.F.S.

Good evening and welcome to the thirteenth annual edition of the John Cardinal Foley Lecture, which focuses on The Church & Communications. We are grateful to our neighbors here at Gwynedd Mercy University for hosting us here, in the Julia Ball Auditorium.

This lecture series honors the memory of an alumnus of Saint Charles Seminary who also served on its faculty.

For those of you who may not know his story, Cardinal John Foley worked on archdiocesan communications at *The Catholic Standard & Times* for more than twenty years. In 1984, he was called to the Vatican to lead communications efforts for the universal Church as president of what was then the Pontifical Council for Social Communications, where he served for twenty-three years. Cardinal Foley later returned to Philadelphia where he died in 2011.

In his Vatican role, Cardinal Foley served the Church during the transition from the papacy of St. John Paul II to that of Benedict XVI, which brought the world's media to St. Peter's square in unprecedented numbers. At such a momentous time, as in all his work, he demonstrated a keen ability to shine the eternal truths of our faith on socially and historically important events in our world.

About that communication skill, Bishop Paul Tighe, who gave this lecture in 2022, once said of Cardinal Foley that "His great sensitivity was finding a language, and a way of speaking, a way of helping (people) to understand the church and to maybe overcome the little misunderstandings that could often color their attitude toward the church."

Tonight's lecturer does similar work, but in a mass media landscape.

Whether from the pulpit, as he did at the National Eucharistic Revival ... or in print, as co-author of *Saint Dominic's Way of Life: A Path to Knowing and Loving God* ... or online, as a former editor at Our Sunday Visitor (the leading Catholic publisher in the USA) ... or even through the popular *Godsplaining* podcast which he hosts together with three of his Dominican brothers ... no matter the forum, our speaker preaches the Good News in a way that influences generations of every age.

His media savvy, his engaging style, his religious charisma – all contributed to his recent appointment as the first ever General Promoter of Social Communication(s) for the worldwide Order of Preachers.

We're delighted he could finally make it from Rome to the Archdiocese of Philadelphia. On this, his Irish namesake's big day (!), would you please join me in welcoming the 2026 John Cardinal Foley Lecturer ...

FR. PATRICK MARY BRISCOE.

