



INTRODUCTION

by

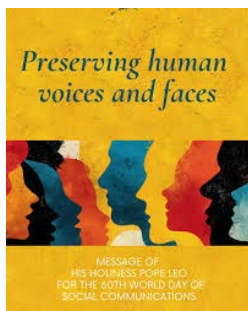
REV. THOMAS DAILEY, O.S.F.S.

*The John Cardinal Foley Chair
of Homiletics & Social Communications*

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

This event is named in honor of an alumnus and former faculty member at this seminary: [CARDINAL JOHN PATRICK FOLEY](#). After working as the editor of the Catholic Standard & Times newspaper here in Philadelphia, he was appointed by Pope John Paul II as president of the then-Pontifical Council for Social Communications. His work there strengthened the Church's place and enhanced its contribution to the world of global communications.

World Communications Day is the only worldwide celebration called for by the Second Vatican Council, and is celebrated annually on the Sunday before Pentecost ... which was this past Sunday (May 17).



Each World Communications Day focuses on a particular theme, about which the Holy Father writes a message to the world. This year's message from Pope Leo IV carries the title of ***“Preserving Human Voices and Faces.”*** In it, the pope addresses the Church's concern for being human in an age of artificial intelligence. That concern will also be the focus of his first encyclical, which is scheduled for publication this Monday (May 25).

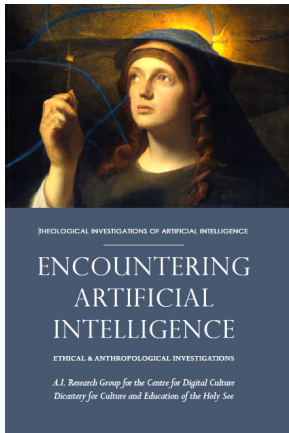
For World Communications Day, Pope Leo clarifies that the challenge we face is not technological, but anthropological. As he puts it,

“The question at heart ... is not what machines can or will be able to do, but what we can and will be able to achieve, by growing in humanity and knowledge through the wise use of the powerful tools at our service.”

Ultimately, he says,

“We need faces and voices to speak for people again. We need to cherish the gift of communication as the deepest truth of humanity, to which all technological innovation should also be oriented.”

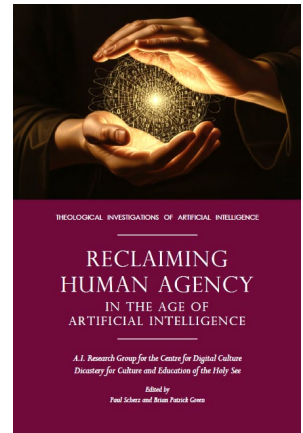
Tonight we hope to do our part to foster that deepest truth through our discussion. To help us with this, we are happy to welcome two scholars who have contributed to the work of the A.I. Research Group for the Center for Digital Culture at the Dicastery for Culture and Education of the Holy See.



They and their colleagues have published two superb studies.

The first (in 2024) offers a thorough guide to encountering anthropological and ethical concerns about artificial intelligence, while the second (in 2025) investigates the need for reclaiming human agency in a time of AI.

Fittingly, both are available online!



Presenting the lecture this evening is **DR. MARIELE COURTOIS**. She comes to us from Kansas, where she is an Assistant Professor in the Theology department at Benedictine College. There she also serves as Director of the Center for Technology and Human Dignity. She earned her Ph.D. in Moral Theology & Ethics from the Catholic University of America and has been a Fellow for the Generations in Dialogue program on transhumanism and medical ethics at the University of Southern California’s Institute for Advanced Catholic Studies.



Responding to the lecture is **DR. CATHERINE MOON**. She did not have as far to travel, as she just completed the academic year at Villanova University, where she serves as the Arthur J. Ennis Teaching Scholar in the Augustine and Culture Seminar Program. She, too, earned a Ph.D. in Moral Theology & Ethics from the Catholic University of America and recently completed a Postdoctoral Research Fellowship at the University of Virginia for the Institute for Advanced Studies in Culture.



After our guests have share their thoughts with us, the audience will have an opportunity to engage in an open discussion them.

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