

# The John Cardinal Foley Symposium

@ Saint Charles Borromeo Seminary



*in celebration of*



**WORLD COMMUNICATIONS DAY**



**Cardinal JOHN PATRICK FOLEY** (1935-2011) was instrumental in advancing the work of communications in the Catholic Church. He made it possible "to see the face of a church capable of speaking to the world with cordialness and to dialogue with it in maximum openness, without ever putting aside the truth or its own reasons" (Archbishop Claudio Maria Celli).

Under his leadership as its president, the Pontifical Council for Social Communications produced significant documents that brought ethical reflection to bear upon communications, advertising, and the then-emerging Internet. The work of that Council has been integrated into the new Dicastery for Communications at the Vatican, which is now responsible for promoting the annual celebration of the **World Communications Day**.

The annual *Cardinal Foley Symposium* honors the enduring contribution of this native son of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia in conjunction with the global celebration. The celebration usually takes place during the last week in May at Saint Charles Borromeo Seminary (Wynnewood, PA). The symposium, open to the public with free admission, features a discussion of the Papal Message for World Communications Day and presentation of the annual Cardinal Foley Award to a professional journalist.

## About World Communications Day

This worldwide celebration is the only “day” called for by the Second Vatican Council (*Inter mirifica*, 1963) and is celebrated on the Sunday before Pentecost (usually in May/June).



- The year’s theme is announced on **September 29**, the Feast of the Archangels Michael, Raphael and Gabriel, who have been designated as the patrons of those who work in radio.
- The Holy Father's message is traditionally published on **January 24**, in conjunction with the Memorial of ST. FRANCIS DE SALES, patron of writers and journalists.

As a way of celebrating this world day in the USA, the John Cardinal Foley Chair in Homiletics & Social Communications hosts an annual symposium at Saint Charles Borromeo Seminary in the Archdiocese of Philadelphia during the last week in May.

## About the Cardinal Foley FORUM

The symposium conducts a forum dedicated to the theme of the year’s celebration. Responding to the theme, and the papal message dedicated to it, professional journalists and/or invited experts engage the public in a discussion of how the values explained by the Holy Father can be applied to, and lived in, the contemporary world of mass media and social communications.

## About the Cardinal Foley AWARD

The symposium concludes with the presentation of "The John Cardinal Foley Award for Excellence in Communications." The award is presented to a communications professional whose work exemplifies the positive potential of mass media to inform, instruct, and inspire others in the quest to build a more just world. Award-winners work in one of the realms of social communications (i.e., journalism, print/web publications, new media, or dramatic productions). The recipient of the award winners is nominated by the Advisory Committee of the John Cardinal Foley Chair and selected by the Archbishop of Philadelphia, with special consideration given to those whose work connects with the theme of World Communications Day.



## About the Cardinal Foley CHAIR



Established at Saint Charles Borromeo Seminary in 2013, the John Cardinal Foley Chair in Homiletics & Social Communications supports the work of the Catholic Church in the realm of social communications by teaching seminary students and church groups, working with staff in parishes and (arch)dioceses, and engaging in dialogue with journalists and media professionals.

*For more information about the Chair and its activities, visit the website at*  
**[www.scs.edu/john-cardinal-foley-chair](http://www.scs.edu/john-cardinal-foley-chair)**

