



The
JOHN CARDINAL FOLEY CHAIR
of Homiletics & Social Communications

@ Saint Charles Borromeo Seminary



ANNUAL REPORT, 2025-2026

last updated on 6/29/26

The John Cardinal Foley Chair of Homiletics & Social Communications at Saint Charles Borromeo Seminary was inaugurated in 2013-2014 under the direction of Fr. Thomas Dailey, O.S.F.S., who was appointed to the faculty full-time in 2017.

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 2025-2026 year of formation.

TEACHING & SCHOLARSHIP

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

Academic Programs:

- seminary courses
 - PTH 601 – Theology of Homiletics (Fall 2025) for 12 TS students
 - PTH 602 – Contemporary Homiletics (Spring 2026) for 12 TS students
- seminary academic affairs
 - evaluator for M.Div. oral competency exams (*date moved to August*)
 - evaluator for M.A. oral comprehensive exams (3/18/26)

Spiritual Formation

- “St. Francis de Sales and the *Introduction to the Devout Life*” – conferences in the Pre-Theology Propaedeutic Year program (Conshohocken, PA) on 9/3/25 and 10/24/25

Professional Memberships:

- Academy of Catholic Theology
- Catholic Association of Teachers of Homiletics
- Catholic Speakers Organization

Publications:

- “[Hope Springs Eternal: A Salesian Life Lesson for the Jubilee Year](#)” – in the *Indian Journal of Spirituality* (2025)

- “Homily Helps” – in *The Priest* magazine, published by Our Sunday Visitor
 - vol. 81, no. 7 (July 2025), pp 48-53
 - vol. 81, no. 9 (September 2025), pp. 82-85
 - vol. 81, no. 11 (November 2025), pp. 48-53
 - “[Pastoral Ministry by way of the Sacred Heart](#)” – in *Homiletic & Pastoral Review* (May 26, 2026)
 - Commentaries published by Catholic media (see below under “Mass Media”)
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PROGRAMS & ACTIVITIES

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

Sponsored Series:

- The 10th annual *Cardinals’ Forum* (August 26, 2025)
 - topic: “Is Unity in the Church Really Possible?”
 - speakers: Dr. John Haas, Dr. Nathan Knutson, and Brendan Towell
 - audience: 150 in-person + more than 160 online views
 - news/media: 2 news features + 4,658 social media impressions
 - [archived online](#)
- The 13th annual *Cardinal Foley Lecture on the Church & Social Communications* (postponed on January 26, 2026 ... re-scheduled to March 17, 2026)
 - lecturer: FR. PATRICK MARY BRISCOE, O.P.
 - topic: "Mercy and Mission: Continuity and New Accents from Francis to Leo XIV"
 - audience: 142 in-person + more than 774 online views
 - January news/media: 3 news features + 4,690 social media impressions
 - March news/media: 3.952 social media impressions
 - [archived online](#)
- The 9th annual *Cardinal Foley Symposium* for World Communications Day (May 20, 2026)
 - topic: “Media and Artificial Intelligence Literacy”
 - lecture by DR. MARIELE COURTOIS (Benedictine College),
with a response by DR. CATHERINE MOON (Villanova University)
 - presentation of the Cardinal Foley Award to TRACY DAVIDSON (NBC-10 News)
 - audience: 53 in-person + online tribute + online video
 - news/media: 1 news features + 600 social media impressions
 - [archived online](#)

Speaking Engagements

- Academic Conferences
 - panelist for a discussion on “what we are learning about how listeners improve sermons” at the annual conference of the Compelling Preaching Coordination Program in Indianapolis (IN) on March 24, 2026

- Professional Development
 - ongoing formation session for the clergy of the Diocese of Youngstown (OH), via ZOOM on October 28, 2025
 - catechetical workshop(s) in the [Sophia Institute for Teachers](#), for religious educators in the Diocese of Allentown (PA) on March 21, 2026

- Religious Education
 - talk on artificial intelligence for the Wilmington (DE) chapter of Legatus, on December 9, 2025
 - talk on homiletics for the [Serra Club of Philadelphia](#), via ZOOM on January 20, 2026
 - talk on Salesian spirituality for alumni and benefactors of St. Francis de Sales High School, in Naples (FL) on March 3, 2026

- Spiritual Enrichment
 - retreat conferences for the priests of the Diocese of Greensburg (PA), at Indiana University of Pennsylvania (Indiana, PA) on September 15-19, 2025
 - “I believe it was one of the best retreats for us as a presbyterate in my 55 years as a priest.”
(REV. MSGR. JAMES GASTON, Director of Clergy Formation)
 - talk for the Women’s Evening of Reflection at St. Katharine of Siena parish (Wayne, PA) on October 2, 2025
 - retreat conferences for the Nuns of the Visitation of Holy Mary in Tyringham (MA) on November 18-21, 2025
 - micro-retreat talks for Catholic communicators sponsored by [KP Consulting](#) in St. Louis (MO) via ZOOM on January 26, 2026
 - “We packed a lot of great thinking into a short 90 minutes. I am particularly grateful to Fr. Dailey for offering his time to be with us today and for providing us with such a thorough and thought-provoking summary of ideas.” (KATIE PESHA, Founder)
 - guest speaker during the St. Blaise / St. John Neumann Men of Malvern retreat at the Malvern (PA) Retreat House on January 31, 2026
 - conferences in the twilight retreat for faculty at Fr. Judge High School, at the Sisters of the Holy Redeemer (Huntingdon Valley, PA) on February 6, 2026
 - parish forum on causes of beatification & canonization at St. Thomas the Apostle (Glen Mills, PA) on February 11, 2026

- keynote talks for the annual [parish leader conference](#) in the Diocese of Wichita (KS) on April 17-18, 2026
- talk for a [legacy conference](#) sponsored by the Catholic Foundation of Greater Philadelphia at the Malvern (PA) Retreat House on May 21, 2026
- conferences as director of the St. Pius X Men of Malvern retreat at the Malvern (PA) Retreat House on May 22-24, 2026

MARKETING & PROMOTION

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

Social Communications (with digital expertise provided by JULIA LEHMAN)

- managing the section of the Seminary’s **web site** dedicated to the Cardinal Foley Chair, on which more than **870** elements are posted (data current as of 6/28/26)

pages	archives	documents	promotions	stories	links	images	galleries	videos	audios
42	84	187	84	83	90	12	152	116	18

- managing **social media accounts** for the Cardinal Foley Chair, with the following activity (data current as of 6/28/26)

platform	reach	activity
Facebook	535 followers	35 posts this year, with 16,157 views (up 60%)
Twitter	340 followers	22 posts this year, with 2,665 impressions (up 21%)

Mass Media

Print / Digital

6/30/25	TheDialog.org	story	The Dialog earns four national awards at 2025 Catholic Media Conference in Phoenix
8/14/25	CatholicPhilly.com	calendar	Seminary to Host 2025 Cardinal’s Forum on Church Unity
8/22/25	Catholic Church of Philadelphia	press release	Seminary to Host the 2025 Cardinals’ Forum
9/23/25	CatholicPhilly.com	news	‘Festival of the Word’ Aims to Connect Scriptures to Preaching
1/12/26	CatholicPhilly.com	calendar	Seminary to Host 2026 Cardinal Foley Lecture on Media & Papacy
1/13/26	Catholic Church of Philadelphia	press release	Saint Charles Borromeo Seminary Welcomes Father Patrick Mary Briscoe, O.P. to Give the John Cardinal Foley Lecture
1/13/26	American Catholic Tribune	story	Saint Charles Borromeo Seminary announces annual John Cardinal Foley Lecture featuring Father Patrick Mary Briscoe
1/14/26	Chestnut Hill Local	story	Chestnut Hill sermon series reaches across denominational lines

1/29/26	TheDialog.org	opinion	AI is not our friend, but Pope Leo XIV can be! <i>(also published as a reflection for World Communication Day)</i>
	Vatican Dicastery for Communication	link	
3/4/26	CatholicPhilly.com	calendar	Seminary to Host 2026 Cardinal Foley Lecture on Media & Papacy
3/6/26	TheDialog.org	opinion	Transfiguration: More glory than fury
4/1/26	Catholic Advance	interview	conference - <i>“From the Heart of Jesus: The Source of Every Gift”</i>
4/27/26	CatholicPhilly.com	calendar	Cardinal Foley Symposium to explore AI, Media on May 20
4/29/26	CatholicPhilly.com	calendar	Legacy Conference to Explore Catholic Estate Planning Stewardship
5/1/26	Catholic Advance	story	Stewardship integrating evangelistic emphasis
5/15/26	TheDialog.org	opinion	Spiritual consciousness in a world of “genuine” AI
6/3/26	DeSales Weekly	opinion	Really Celebrating Summer
6/12/26	The Dialog.org	<i>unpublished</i>	<i>on the Church and USA 250</i>

Radio

Television & Film

- interview on EWTN television program (*They Might Be Saints*) about the Servant of God, Fr. Bill Atkinson, OSA (awaiting broadcast)

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
- participated in one (1) meeting of the **Academic Affairs Committee** of the Seminary's Board of Trustees
 - term of office expired 12/31/25 after fifteen (15) consecutive years on the committee

Budget & Finance

- managed the **operational** (discretionary) accounts for the Cardinal Foley Chair
- secured **donations** to the Cardinal Foley Chair funds held by the Catholic Foundation of Greater Philadelphia as follows

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

- updated “The Word at Hand” resources, including the web site
- recruited writers and launched year II of the “Hearing the Word” commentary series
- launched the annual “Festival of the Word” celebration

- completed and evaluated the first edition of the “Disciples of the Word” mentoring program
- launched the annual “Word on the Streets” ecumenical series
- attended the annual conference for the Compelling Preaching Coordination Program (3/23-25/26)
- completed the semi-annual survey for the Compelling Preaching Coordination Program and wrote the annual report to Lilly Endowment, Inc.

Special Tasks/Projects

- facilitated the introduction of a formation conference by staff of the Dale Carnegie Institute
 - collaborated with Chancery officials in preparation for the introduction of a Cause of Beatification and Canonization in the Archdiocese of Philadelphia
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