



*The Twelfth Annual*  
**John Cardinal Foley Lecture**  
by  
**MONTSE ALVARADO**

@ Saint Charles Borromeo Seminary, Gwynedd  
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**INTRODUCTION by Rev. Thomas F. Dailey, O.S.F.S.**

*Good evening and welcome to the twelfth annual edition of the John Cardinal Foley Lecture, which focuses on The Church & Communications. We are especially 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 the 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 often had occasion to speak to and with journalists about their work. To an international congress of young journalists in Switzerland in 2001, he offered three pieces of good advice, the last of which was to be people of hope. “Be journalists who always seek to contribute to the building of a better society,” he urged them. “Seek out the signs and the people of hope in society, and make them better known, so that others can know of, and emulate, good example and be inspired by good ideas.”

I’m relatively certain our speaker tonight is far too young to have attended that congress! But she certainly has taken to heart the cardinal’s advice about hope and about building a better society.

She does so currently through her leadership role in Catholic journalism. She is the President and COO of EWTN News, where she oversees digital and print platforms including the *Catholic News Agency*, the *National Catholic Register*, and a lineup of television and radio news programs.

She helped build a better society in her prior work, where she brought hope to countless people seeking religious liberty. The Becket Fund, where she worked for 14 years and eventually became COO & Executive Director, successfully defended before the US Supreme Court the interests of Muslim prisoners, Jewish schools, and Catholic groups such as the Little Sisters of the Poor and Philadelphia’s own Catholic Social Services. This past September, in recognition of her leadership in that realm, the Religious Freedom Institute bestowed upon her their annual Religious Freedom Impact Award.

And last July, some 60,000 Catholics had the opportunity to encounter her as a sign of hope when she served as an emcee of the National Eucharistic Congress in Indianapolis. Tonight, we are blessed to get to know her here, as we now have the opportunity to be inspired by her good ideas, just as the cardinal had advised.

And so, would you please join me in welcoming the 2025 John Cardinal Foley Lecturer ... **MONTSE ALVARADO**.

