St. Francis' 400-year-old 'Devout Life' relevant today, says priest

CENTER VALLEY, Pa. (CNS) -- Four hundred years after its publication, "Introduction to the Devout Life" by St. Francis de Sales still offers a timely message about living a life of faith and devotion even in the midst of worldly pursuits, according Father Thomas Dailey. "There is a timeless wisdom and gentleness to this man who lived more than 400 years ago," said the priest, an Oblate of St. Francis de Sales, who is director of the Salesian Center for Faith and Culture at DeSales University in Center Valley. "Regardless of one's current state in life, Francis' words are universal and powerful because they offer encouragement, strength and wisdom for a gentle, happy, everyday life," he added. The center and DeSales University, run by the Oblates of St. Francis de Sales, recently celebrated the 400th anniversary of St. Francis' book during the school's annual Heritage Week.