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Talking 'Simply Catholicism' with America's most complicated cardinal

by John L. Allen Jr.

NCR Today

Chicago's George says both liberals and conservatives focus too much on bishops, not enough on Christ

By JOHN L. ALLEN JR.

Rome

Historically, American cardinals have rarely been preoccupied with the intellectual life. By reputation, they're known more as pragmatists — bricks-and-mortar men, or pastors, or political powerbrokers — as opposed to the European model of the theologian-bishop. Chicago's Cardinal Francis George, however, has long been an exception, and his new book *The Difference God Makes: A Catholic Vision of Faith, Communion and Culture* (Crossroad) offers a classic illustration of the point.

Read Allen's full interview with Cardinal George here: **[Cardinal George's plan to evangelize America](#)**

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