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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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