



# The Difference God Makes: A Catholic Vision of Faith, Communion, and Culture (Herder & Herder Books)

By Francis Cardinal George OMI

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Penned by the leading intellectual in the American Catholic hierarchy, this debut brings together some of the most influential writings on the Catholic vision—not just the Church itself but of the relation and unity of all people. Weaving together intellectual insight and personal wisdom, Francis Cardinal George offers a luminous Catholic vision of communion, illustrating the Church's relation to numerous religions as well as the secular world. The book draws from both the author's observations of Catholicism in cultures around the globe and countless theologians' perspectives—including Popes John Paul II and Benedict XVI, Thomas Aquinas, and Francis of Assisi—and demonstrates how to recognize the self-giving, liberating God who provides freedom from the competitive, oppressive idols of secular modernity. An assortment of fascinating stories is shared, from a poignant moment with a non-Christian in Zambia to the humbling dedication of volunteers who came to observe Pope John Paul II's visit to Mexico City. Confronting controversial issues head-on, this volume will inspire Christians everywhere while also offering non-Christians a renewed understanding of what a Christian lifestyle means for political and personal life today.

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## Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

As archbishop of Chicago, George is pastor of one of the largest Catholic communities in the United States, and as head of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops he presides over a powerful collection of churchmen. George is also one of the most thoughtful men in the American hierarchy, and somehow he found time to gather his ideas in a collection of essays on the role of the Catholic faith in the modern world. The essays generally reflect George's traditional approach and his style—for good and ill. He ranges widely and is always challenging; his writing can be as scholarly as it is spiritual. The work is organized like a catechism, which makes it easy to dip into. George invokes the late Pope John Paul II as his model. Yet this book has more in common with an earlier work on faith in the modern world, *Introduction to Christianity*, also by a well-known cardinal—Joseph Ratzinger, now known as Pope Benedict XVI. (Oct.)

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## Review

"A scholarly and spiritual collection of essays on the role of the Catholic faith in the modern world, from one of the most thoughtful men in the American hierarchy." —*Publishers Weekly*

"Francis Cardinal George is a formidable intellectual presence in the United States. He seeks to provide signposts toward a new Catholic imagination." —Robert Imbelli, *America* magazine

"A manifesto that shows how the authentic Catholic faith can transcend the divisions within the Church and how this experience can guide our path through the 'ambiguities' of our culture." —Monsignor Lorenzo Albacete, author, *God at the Ritz*

## About the Author

**Francis Cardinal George, OMI**, has served as the president of the U.S. Council of Catholic Bishops; vicar general of the Oblates; bishop of Yakima, Washington; and archbishop of Chicago. He was elevated to the College of Cardinals by Pope John Paul II in 1998. He lives in Chicago.

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