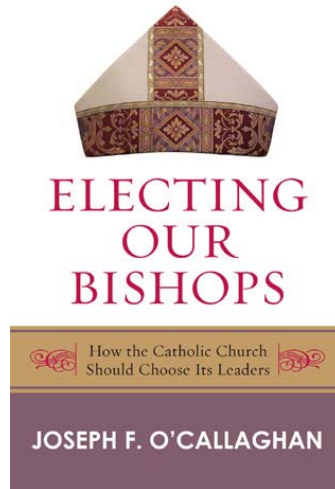


**Electing Our Bishops: How the Catholic Church Should Choose Its Leaders**  
*By Joseph O'Callaghan*



How does one become a bishop in the Catholic Church? *Electing our Bishops: How the Catholic Church Should Choose Its Leaders* explains how history, politics, and religious tradition converge to produce the episcopacy. The book gives an historical overview from the earliest times when bishops were elected by the clergy and people of the diocese to the present day where they are normally appointed by the pope. In light of the current clergy sexual abuse scandal, many distinguished theologians, canonists, and church historians have called for greater popular participation in the selection of bishops, and *Electing our Bishops* discusses ideas for new forms of election that involve both clergy and laity. This book is an important tool for Catholics who want to understand the history and process of the election of bishops as well as how the process might change in the future.

About the Author

**Joseph F. O'Callaghan** is professor emeritus in the department of history at Fordham University. He is past president of the American Catholic Historical Association and is the author of several books, notably *Reconquest and Crusade in Medieval Spain* and *Alfonso X and the Cantigas de Santa Maria: A Poetic Biography*.

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