

[Vatican](#)



San Jose Bishop Oscar Cantale and theologian Cathleen Kaveny (NCR screenshot/YouTube)



by Shannon Evans

Spirituality and culture editor

[View Author Profile](#)

sevans@ncronline.org

Follow on Twitter at [@shannonkayevans](#)

[Join the Conversation](#)

Send your thoughts to *Letters to the Editor*. [Learn more](#)

September 1, 2022

[Share on Bluesky](#)[Share on Facebook](#)[Share on Twitter](#)[Email to a friend](#)[Print](#)

Pope Francis on Aug. 27 [elevated San Diego's Bishop Robert McElroy to the rank of cardinal](#), along with 19 other Catholic prelates from around the world.

NCR columnist Michael Sean Winters, who believes [McElroy's appointment holds "enormous significance" for the church](#), sat down in Rome with San Jose Bishop Oscar CantÃ³ and theologian Cathleen Kaveny [to discuss the importance](#) of Francis' strategic decision to promote McElroy to this esteemed position.

More background reading:

- In [his first homily as a cardinal](#), McElroy emphasized that humility is one of the chief challenges and callings of the Christian life.
- Contrary to recent remarks by some U.S. Catholic leaders, [McElroy believes Francis has a "deep" understanding of the church in the United States](#).
- As reported by EarthBeat, [McElroy has been among the most outspoken U.S. bishops in addressing climate change](#) and environmental justice.
- Winters says [McElroy is particularly well poised to address the issue of religious liberty](#) given his expertise in U.S. Catholic history.
- [Watch on TikTok](#) as Winters share his perspective on the tradition of cardinals and what the new Cardinal McElroy calls affective collegiality.
- View NCR's full coverage of the consistory [here](#).

Advertisement