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



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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 Cantú 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](#).

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