



PRESS RELEASE

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UNIVERSITY PRESS BOOKS PROVIDE KNOWLEDGE AND  
PERSPECTIVE ON THE CATHOLIC PAPACY

*Studies of the Lives of the Popes, Papal Transitions, and Vatican  
Politics Available in the Latest Books for Understanding Bibliography*

April 15, 2005 (NEW YORK)— On April 18, 117 cardinals will convene in the Vatican to elect the next pope. The papacy of the Roman Catholic Church is a position of both spiritual and world leadership. While the world honors the passing of Karol Wojtyla, Pope John Paul II, we also await the election of the next pontiff.

There is a rich body of scholarship on the men who have occupied this position, their theological and moral teachings, their political and historical legacies, as well as the history and procedure of popes' elections. The latest *Books for Understanding* bibliography, "The Catholic Pope," serves as a guide to this scholarly and general interest material.

[www.aaupnet.org/news/bfu/pope/list.html](http://www.aaupnet.org/news/bfu/pope/list.html)

The bibliography covers a number of relevant topics:

- **The Lives and Teachings of the Popes**—including several titles on the philosophy and theology of John Paul II, as well as general historical references such as *Saints and Sinners: A History of the Popes*, by Eamon Duffy (Yale University Press).
- **The Pontiff's Election and Papal Transitions**—including the recently released *Heirs of the Fisherman: Behind the Scenes of Papal Death and Succession*, John-Peter Pham (Oxford University Press).
- **Vatican Politics and the Papal State**—including *Inside the Vatican: The Politics and Organization of the Catholic Church*, Thomas Reese (Harvard University Press) and, forthcoming from the Catholic University of America Press in September, *The Consensus of the Church and Papal Infallibility: A Study in the Background of Vatican I*, by Rev. Richard F. Costigan.
- **The Pope's Role in World History and Politics**—including a number of works on the Vatican during the Holocaust and on papal influence in the fall of communism.

The *Books for Understanding* program was created shortly after the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks to help teachers, scholars, journalists, librarians, and booksellers find necessary information. That original list eventually grew to include close to 1000 books from more than 65 university presses, and is still available as an archived list on the Web site. Today, AAUP continues this service for many topics of immediate public interest.

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