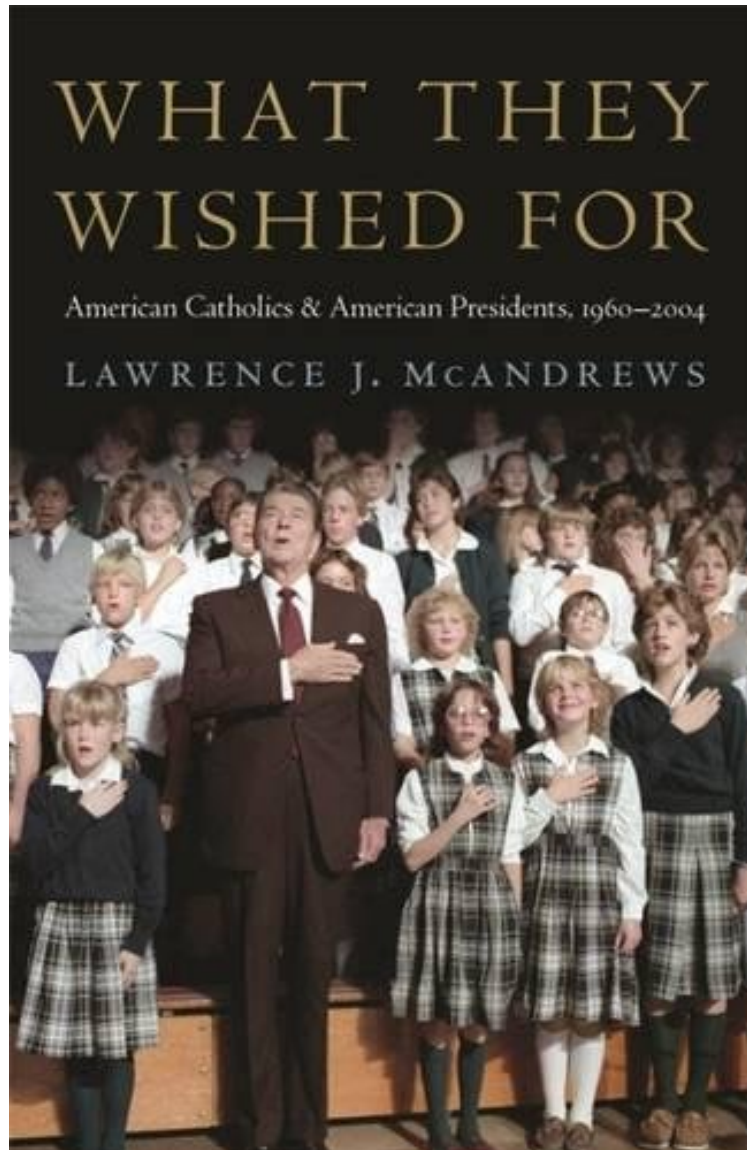


(Free) What They Wished For: American Catholics and American Presidents, 1960-2004

## What They Wished For: American Catholics and American Presidents, 1960-2004

*Lawrence McAndrews*

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#2954747 in Books McAndrews Lawrence J 2014-05-15 2014-05-15 Original language: English PDF # 1 9.00 x 1.60 x 6.101, 1.85 #File Name: 0820346837520 pages What They Wished for American Catholics and American Presidents 1960 2004 | File size: 27.Mb

**Lawrence McAndrews : What They Wished For: American Catholics and American Presidents, 1960-2004**  
before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised What They Wished

For: American Catholics and American Presidents, 1960-2004:

Roman Catholics constitute the most populous religious denomination in the United States, comprising one in four Americans. With the election of John F. Kennedy as president in 1960, they attained a political prominence to match their rapidly ascending socioeconomic and cultural profile. From Vietnam to Iraq, the civil rights movement to federal funding for faith-based initiatives, and from birth control to abortion, Catholics have won at least as often as they have lost. *What They Wished For* by Lawrence J. McAndrews traces the role of American Catholics in presidential policies and politics from 1960 until 2004. Though divided by race, class, gender, and party, Catholics have influenced issues of war and peace, social justice, and life and death among modern presidents in a profound way, starting with the election of President Kennedy and expanding their influence through the intervening years with subsequent presidents. McAndrews shows that American Catholics, led by their bishops and in some cases their pope, have been remarkably successful in shaping the political dialogue and at helping to effect policy outcomes inside and outside of Washington. Indeed, although they opened this era by helping to elect one of their own, Catholic voters have gained so much influence and have become so secure in their socioeconomic status and so confident in their political standing that they closed the era by rejecting one of their own, voting for George W. Bush over John Kerry in 2004.

I know of no book quite like this one; it examines the changing relationship between presidents and Catholics on three major political-religious issues: war and peace; social justice; life and death. The book is a must-read for all those interested in the relationship between religion and politics in recent American history. (Patrick W. Carey author of *American Catholic Religious Thought: The Shaping of a Theological and Social Tradition*) Lawrence J. McAndrews has written a superb study of American Catholicism's influence on the nation's politics. No one has told this story before. A truly original study, based on extensive research, it is a major contribution not only to the history of American Catholicism but also to the nation's political history. (Jay P. Dolan author of *In Search of an American Catholicism: A History of Religion and Culture in Tension*) In a time when many of the American hierarchy's attempts to affect policy in this country seem at best feeble and at worst reprehensible, it becomes important for Catholics to remind themselves of their church's profound impact on the development of American policies, and especially on the commander in chief himself. McAndrews' book does just that. Its weight signals its rich scholarship. . . . [H]is treatment of his subject is both consistent and compassionate. (James P. Cahill *U.S. Catholic* magazine) This detailed and impressive study is ably documented with 100 pages of endnotes, strengthening the book's credibility. (Al Menendez *Voice of Reason*) This engaging book chronicles the complex relationship between the Roman Catholic Church in the US and the American presidency from 1960 to 2004. McAndrews (St. Norbert College) focuses on the church's social teachings concerning war and peace, poverty, and the various life issues, such as abortion. . . . McAndrews does a good job of showing how the church was able to inject moral discourse into the public sphere even when it faced dissent among its own members and a concern for political expediency from presidents. (R. P. Cimino *CHOICE*) Political and religious historians alike will benefit from this book packed with rich archival research. Chapters provide thorough accounts of American Catholics' relationship to particular presidents and offer new insights. . . . [T]his is an indispensable book for understanding that tricky relationship. (Neil J. Young *The Journal of American History*) McAndrews has offered an important contribution to historians' efforts to understand the ways that the U.S. Catholic hierarchy has approached political questions on the national stage in the second half of the twentieth century. (Sharon M. Leon *American Historical*) From the Inside Flap: As a religious bloc, Roman Catholics constitute the most populous religious denomination in the United States, comprising one in four Americans. With the election of John F. Kennedy as president in 1960, they attained a political prominence to match their rapidly ascending socioeconomic and cultural profile. From Vietnam to Iraq, the civil rights movement to federal funding for faith-based initiatives, and from birth control to abortion, American Catholics have won at least as often as they have lost. *What They Wished For* traces the role of American Catholics in presidential policies and politics from 1960 until 2004. Though divided by race, class, gender, and party, Catholics have profoundly influenced issues of war and peace, social justice, and life and death among modern presidents, starting with the election of President Kennedy and expanding their influence through the intervening years with subsequent presidents. Lawrence J. McAndrews shows that American Catholics, led by their bishops and in some cases their Pope, have been remarkably successful in shaping the political dialogue and helping to effect policy outcomes inside and outside of Washington. Indeed, although they opened this era by helping to elect one of their own, Catholic voters have gained so much influence and have become so secure in their socioeconomic status and so confident in their political standing that they closed the era by rejecting one of their own, voting for George W. Bush over John Kerry in 2004." From the Back Cover I know of no book quite like this one; it examines the changing relationship between presidents and Catholics on three major political-religious issues: war and peace; social justice; life and death. The book is a must-read for all those interested in the relationship between religion and politics in recent American history. Patrick W. Carey, author of *American Catholic Religious Thought*:

The Shaping of a Theological and Social Tradition "Lawrence J. McAndrews has written a superb examination of American Catholicism's influence on the nation's politics. No one has told this story before. A truly original study, based on extensive research, it is a major contribution not only to the history of American Catholicism but also to the nation's political history." Jay P. Dolan, author of *In Search of an American Catholicism: A History of Religion and Culture in Tension* The University of Georgia Press Athens, Georgia 30602 [www.ugapress.org](http://www.ugapress.org) ISBN 978-0-8203-4683-0"