

**University of Guelph
Department of History**



Major Paper Presentation

Student: Courtney Farquharson	Date: Fri., Apr. 29/16
Time: 1:00 pm	Place: MCKN Ext. 2020

Title:	Conform and Control: The influence of Carlo Borromeo on the Seventeenth-Century French Episcopate
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Abstract:
<p>Carlo Borromeo (1538-84) assumed the role of Bishop of Milan in 1564 and upon arriving in his diocese, implemented reform centred on the control of the laity and popular religion. He enforced a strict top-down reform, which implied that the bishop was the active example and the laity was the subordinate subject. The provisions set out by Council of Trent inspired Borromeo, which stipulated conform to the Catholic Orthodoxy. The Borromean style of reform was popular in France after the religious wars. The Seventeenth-Century French Episcopate needed to establish stability within the church, and the best way to do so was to follow the example set by Borromeo in Milan. This major research paper examines four French bishops, Armand Jean du Plessis (1585-1642), bishop of Luçon (1607-23), François d'Escoubleau de Sourdis (1574-1628), bishop of Bordeaux (1599-1628), Alain du Solminihac (1593-1659), bishop of Cahors (1636-59), and Étienne Le Camus (1632-1707) bishop of Grenoble (1671-1707) and demonstrates the Borromean influence. Each of the four bishops were active in conducting pastoral visits, calling diocesan synods, educating the clergy, and most importantly, enforcing a top-down reform centred on control of the laity and popular religion. This paper analyses the letters and writings from each bishop to demonstrate the influence of Carlo Borromeo on the seventeenth-century French Episcopate.</p>

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