

# Fathers, Pastors and Kings: Visions of Episcopacy in Seventeenth-century France (Studies in Early Modern European History)

Alison Forrestal

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Fathers, pastors and kings explores how conceptions of episcopacy (government of a church by bishops) shaped the identity of the bishops of France in the wake of the reforming Council of Trent (1545-63). It demonstrates how the episcopate, initially demoralised by the Wars of Religion, developed a powerful ideology of privilege, leadership and pastorate that enabled it to become a flourishing participant in the religious, political and social life of the ancien regime. This is the first publication to analyse the attitudes of Tridentine bishops towards their office by considering the French episcopate as a recognisable caste, possessing a variety of theological and political principles that allowed it to dominate the French church. Fathers, pastors and kings will be indispensable to those interested in the culture of early modern Catholicism and the ancien regime.



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