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John W. O'Malley is University Professor in the Theology Department of Georgetown University, Washington DC. A historian by trade, he has written extensively on the religious culture of early modern Europe. His best known book is "The First Jesuits" (Harvard UP, 1993), which won the Jacques Barzun Prize for Cultural History from the American Philosophical Society. It has been translated into 10 languages. Two of his most recent books are "What Happened at Vatican II" (2008) and "Trent: What Happened at the Council" (2013), both published by Harvard.

John O'Malley has held a number of distinguished fellowships and received a number of prestigious awards. In 2002, for instance, he was awarded the lifetime achievement award from the Society for Italian Historical Studies, in 2005 the same award from the Renaissance Society of America, and in 2012 the same award from the American Catholic Historical Association. In 1995 he was elected to the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and in 1997 to the American Philosophical Society, of which he is currently a vice-president.