

Pave the Way Foundation to Reveal WWII Documents from Vatican Secret Archives

New York February 11, 2010- Pave the Way Foundation (PTWF) is a non-sectarian organization founded to remove obstacles between religions, foster cooperation and to end the misuse of religion for private agendas. In the furtherance of our mission we have recognized the papacy of the war time Pope Pius XII (Eugenio Pacelli) as a source of friction impacting over one billion people. Controversy abounds on whether he did enough to prevent the slaughter of Jews at the hands of the Nazis. The reality of war and the direct Nazi threat against the Vatican state and Pius XII personally meant that any live-saving actions had to be conducted in secret. PTWF requested and has been granted permission by the Vatican to digitize and reveal worldwide the 5125 descriptions and copies of documents from the closed section of the Vatican Secret Archives, years March 1939-May 1945. Previously published and mostly ignored, the Actes et documents du Saint Siège relatifs a la Seconde Guerre Mondiale (Actes) will shortly be available on our website www.ptwf.org and the Vatican website www.vatican.va for worldwide scrutiny and study online, free of charge.

Our research has revealed that five years after Pius XII's death, the KGB hatched a plot to discredit their enemy, the Roman Catholic Church, called "Seat 12." A dirty trick, which condemned Pope Pius XII for his "silence" during the Holocaust in the form of Rolf Hochhuth's fictitious 1963 play The Deputy. The result was the worst character assassination of the twentieth century. Pope Paul VI in 1964 requested that a team of three Jesuit historians, Fr. Pierre Blet, Fr. Burkhard Schneider, and Fr. Angelo Martini, conduct intensive research to identify relevant documents from the war years from the closed section of the Vatican Secret Archives. A few years later Fr. Robert Graham joined the group. The first volume was published in 1965, the last in 1981.

In 1999, Edward Cardinal Cassidy called for a special commission of Jewish and Catholic Scholars to come together to study these documents. This positive advance unfortunately ended July 21, 2001 in failure, partly because the scholars simply did not read the languages of the collection. They issued a list of 47 questions and demanded the opening of the yet un-catalogued archives 1939-1958.

In the furtherance of our mission to publicly disclose as many documents as possible to help to move this obstacle between Jews and Catholics into the light of documented truth, PTWF sought to gain permission to digitize this collection, making it broadly available for study.

Gary Krupp, President of Pave the Way Foundation said, “this effort is simply to show clear evidence of Pope Pius XII’s efforts to mitigate suffering during the war and that the “black legend,” which besmirched his name, is simply not true. This access we are providing is not meant to be a substitute for the full access to the war year’s archives, but will absolutely show the unique efforts of Pope Pius XII and the dangers he was forced to operate under a direct threat from the Nazi regime. Ironically, the Vatican Secret Archives up to 1939 were opened over 2 years ago, which show 65% of Pacelli’s ministry have simply been ignored by the critics who call for the war years to be opened.”

Pave the Way Foundation warmly thanks the Vatican Secretary of State and the Libreria Editrice Vaticana for their confidence in us by allowing us this unprecedented privilege. We sincerely hope that international historians will carefully scrutinize these records. We expect the digitization process of over 9000 pages will take about 4 weeks to complete when we will announce their posting on our website. Meanwhile, we already have thousands of documents and eyewitness videos available online for study today. We request that the French, Italian and German scholars consider helping us by translating documents into English and forward this work to Pave the Way Foundation so that we can make the information available to more scholars for research. We also would like to receive any comments, positive or negative, relative to the content of these documents.

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