

## Gary L. Krupp Awarded the Servant of Peace Award at the United Nations

New York, NY (PRWEB) March 23, 2006 -- Gary L. Krupp KCSG, founder of the Pave the Way Foundation of New York City, has been nominated for the Servitor Pacis (Servant of Peace) Award by the Vatican's ambassador to the United Nations and the President of the Path to Peace Foundation. The Servitor Pacis Award is bestowed upon those who devote their lives to the greater good in finding solutions to achieve peace. Mr. Krupp is being recognized for his diligent and tireless work helping to bridge the gap between the world's great religions through cultural, technological, and intellectual exchanges.

The Path to Peace Foundation is a charitable organization established by the Permanent Observer Mission of the Holy See to the United Nations. The purpose of the foundation, headed by Archbishop Celestino Migliore, is to spread the message of peace.

In response, Mr. Krupp stated, "I am most honored by this recognition by the Path to Peace Foundation. This award strengthens my drive to bring the world's religions together to agree that religious intolerance has no place in our world, and that we would do better to focus on what unites us and learn about our fellow man's religious beliefs."

The award will be bestowed on Mr. Krupp at the United Nations in New York City on June 13, 2006 at a formal reception. H.E. Renato Cardinal Martino, President of the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace, at the Vatican will be traveling to the US to attend the event. On July 29, 2000 Pope John Paul II had invested Mr. Krupp as a Knight Commander in the Pontifical Order of St. Gregory the Great. Mr. Krupp was the seventh Jewish man in history to receive this Knighthood of the Vatican City State. In July 2005 he was invested as an Officer Brother of the Most Venerable Order of the Hospital of St. John of Jerusalem, an order of the Anglican Church by approval of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. In September 2002 Mr. Krupp received the Jewish National Funds Tree of Life award.

### About Pave the Way Foundation:

Pave the Way Foundation is dedicated to bridging the gap between religions through cultural, technological, and intellectual exchanges. The Foundation has a simple yet monumental vision: To enable all the world's religions mutually realize that extremism, politics and personal agendas must not be allowed to poison the true benevolent message common to all faiths. Bigotry and hatred must be abolished by the faithful embracing their similarities and savoring their differences. More information on the Foundation can be found at [www.ptwf.org](http://www.ptwf.org).

### About The Path to Peace Foundation:

Due to the need for expanded humanitarian and conciliatory activities, which go beyond the strictly diplomatic parameters of the Holy See Mission to the United Nations, the Apostolic Nuncio and Permanent Observer of the Holy See to the United Nations established the Path to Peace Foundation in 1991. The Foundation directs its activities primarily to the international stage of the United Nations. Its principal purpose is the spreading of the message of peace by which the Catholic Church, through the words and activities of the Pope and of the Holy See, strives to "guide our steps into the path of peace" (Luke 1:79)



**ADDRESS OF JOHN PAUL II  
TO THE MEMBERS  
OF THE "PAVE THE WAY FOUNDATION"**

*Tuesday, 18 January 2005*

*Dear Friends,*

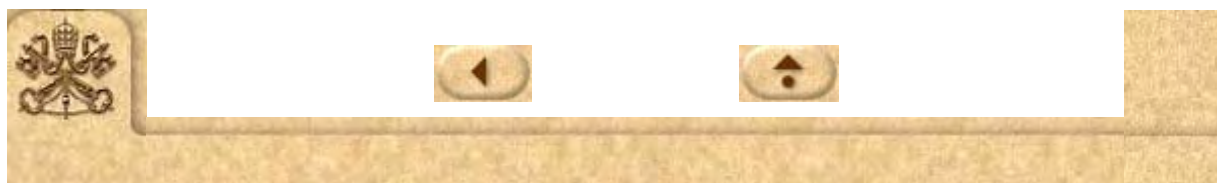
With affection I greet the members of the "Pave the Way Foundation" on your visit to the Vatican, and I thank Mr. Krupp for the kind words which he has addressed to me on your behalf.

This year we will be celebrating the fortieth anniversary of the Second Vatican Council's Declaration *Nostra Aetate*, which has significantly contributed to the strengthening of Jewish-Catholic dialogue. May this be an occasion for renewed commitment to increased understanding and cooperation in the service of building a world ever more firmly based on respect for the divine image in every human being.

Upon all of you, I invoke the abundant blessings of the Almighty and, in particular, the gift of peace.  
*Shalom aleichem.*

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***ADDRESS OF HIS HOLINESS BENEDICT XVI  
AT THE CONCLUSION OF THE SYMPOSIUM  
ORGANIZED BY THE "PAVE THE WAY FOUNDATION"***

*Hall of the Swiss, Castel Gandolfo  
Thursday, 19 September 2008*

*Dear Mr Krupp,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,*

I am happy to meet with you at the conclusion of the important symposium organized by the *Pave the Way Foundation*. I know that many eminent scholars have participated in this reflection on the numerous works of my beloved predecessor - the Servant of God Pope Pius XII - accomplished during the difficult period around the time of the second world war. I warmly welcome each of you especially Mr Gary Krupp, President of the Foundation, whom I thank for the kind words expressed on your behalf. I am grateful to him for informing me how your work has been undertaken during the symposium. You have analyzed without bias the events of history and concerned yourselves only with seeking the truth. I also greet those accompanying you on this visit, as well as your family members and loved ones at home.

The focus of your study has been the person and the tireless pastoral and humanitarian work of Pius XII, *Pastor Angelicus*. Fifty years have passed since his pious death here at Castel Gandolfo early on the ninth of October 1958, after a debilitating disease. This anniversary provides an important opportunity to deepen our knowledge of him, to meditate on his rich teaching and to analyze thoroughly his activities. So much has been written and said of him during these last five decades and not all of the genuine facets of his diverse pastoral activity have been examined in a just light. The aim of your symposium has been precisely to address some of these deficiencies, conducting a careful and documented examination of many of his interventions, especially those in favour of the Jews who in those years were being targeted all over Europe, in accordance with the criminal plan of those who wanted to eliminate them from the face of the earth. When one draws close to this noble Pope, free from ideological prejudices, in addition to being struck by his lofty spiritual and human character one is also captivated by the example of his life and the extraordinary richness of his teaching. One can also come to appreciate the human wisdom and pastoral intensity which guided him in his long years of ministry, especially in providing organized assistance to the Jewish people.

Thanks to the vast quantity of documented material which you have gathered, supported by many authoritative testimonies, your symposium offers to the public forum the possibility of knowing more fully what Pius XII achieved for the Jews persecuted by the Nazi and fascist regimes. One understands, then, that wherever possible he spared no effort in intervening in their favour either directly or through instructions given to other individuals or to institutions of the Catholic Church. In the proceedings of your convention you have also drawn attention to his many interventions, made secretly and silently, precisely because, given the concrete

## pave the way foundation

Daily update · September 27, 2018

NEWS

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The Krupps are the founders of the **Pave the Way Foundation** (PTWF), a non-profit dedicated to improving relations between different religions.



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## NEWS

# Jewish husband and wife to be first married couple knighted by the Vatican



Zelda Caldwell | Sep 26, 2018



Gary and Meredith Krupp PTWF with Pope Francis



*The founders of the Pave the Way Foundation have sought to improve relations between religions*

On October 1, Pope Francis will officially name Gary and Meredith Krupp, as Knight of the Grand Cross and Dame of the Grand Cross, honors conferred by the Vatican's Order of St. Gregory the Great. The Krupps are the founders of the Pave the Way Foundation (PTWF), a non-profit dedicated to improving relations between different religions.

The recognition marks the first time since Order of St. Gregory the Great was created in 1831 that a husband and wife will be knighted together.

As founders of the Pave the Way Foundation, the Krupps have sought to break down obstacles between adherents of different religions and encourage inter-religious dialogue through cultural exchanges, talks, pilgrimages and work with young people.

The organization has condemned extremist violence carried out in the name of religion, and has called on all religions to do the same.

In addition, the foundation has worked to facilitate improved relations between the Vatican and the State of Israel, and has fought for the rights of Christians working and living in the Holy Land.

The Pave the Way Foundation has also been behind recent historical research on Pope Pius XII, who has been called "Hitler's Pope" for his alleged Nazi sympathies.



*Read more:*

**New evidence emerging that disproves image of Pius XII as "Hitler's Pope"**

Evidence that has emerged as a result of the research has gone far to rehabilitate Pope Pius' reputation. Mark Riebling's book, *Church of Spies*, for example, made use of primary sources discovered by the foundation's research to assert that Pius took part in a plot to assassinate Hitler. Other research has revealed that the pope was directly involved in sheltering Jews in Rome from the Nazis.

In 2000 Pope John Paul II made Gary Krupp a Knight Commander of the Order of St. Gregory for his work in acquiring medical equipment for the Casa Sollievo della Sofferenza Hospital in Italy. He was only the seventh Jewish person to receive the honor.

Two years later, Krupp founded the Pave the Way Foundation, which he dedicated to improving relations between the Catholic and Jewish religions.



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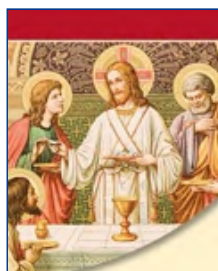
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03 February 2020, 10:00 a.m.

**Light in the dark!**

**The Vatican reminded the United Nations of its  
help for the persecuted Jews during the  
Holocaust. Guest contribution by Yuliya Tkachova**

New York (kath.net) January 27, 2020 was celebrated worldwide as the 75th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz and the commemoration of the six million victims of the Holocaust. For the new nuncio and permanent representative of the Holy See to the United Nations, Archbishop Gabriele Caccia, it was even more: it was time to recall the numerous attempts by the Catholic Church to overcome anti-Semitism and the Jews in this darkest hour of their story. "We never say again, we say we remember, but we also have to act here and today," he told almost 500 diplomats, Dignitaries and representatives of various religious communities for the opening of the three-hour commemoration "Remembering the Holocaust" in the UN Trusteeship Council Chamber in the headquarters of the United Nations in New York, right next to the conference room of the UN Security Council. In order to adequately document "The efforts of the Holy See and the Catholic Church to save lives", he had invited eight international experts who found evidence of the activities of the World War II Pope Pius XII and his helpers in numerous historical archives. He used the worldwide network of the New York-based "Pave the Way Foundation" by the Jew Gary Krupp,



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In his opening lecture, Krupp recalled how he first learned about the Holocaust when his father, a World War I veteran, told him about the liberation of the Buchenwald concentration camp and showed him pictures of the bodies. "Throughout his life he warned me to do everything I could to ensure that this never happens again." For decades, Krupp believed the "black legend" of the "silence of the Pope" until he met eyewitnesses in Italy. Today he knows that Pius XII. In Rome alone, 6381 Jews were hidden in 696 monasteries, church institutions and private apartments. "It is an unfortunate irony

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"The implications of the MGH study are not covered"

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Parisian Archbishop

of fate that this one man in occupied Europe, who did more than anyone else to prevent these terrible crimes, became a scapegoat for everyone else," said Krupp.

Prof. Edouard Husson from the Cy Cergy University in Paris examined the origins of National Socialist ideology and anti-Semitism, which the Catholic Church condemned from 1928 as "heresy" (heresy).

Prof. Ron Rychlak from the University of Mississippi quoted witnesses, including the former head of the Romanian secret service, Mihail Pacepa, who spoke of a targeted campaign by the Soviet secret service with the aim of helping the Catholic Church and Pius XII. to defame. With the play by the German scandal dramatist Rolf Hochhuth, the "Fakenews" campaign, which went so far as to imply a secret sympathy for the Nazis, the Pope, who defied Hitler.

The German historian Michael Hesemann showed that Eugenio Pacelli maintained personal friendships with Jews long before he was elected pope and even supported the Zionist movement. As early as 1917, when he was a nuncio in Munich, he campaigned to prevent the impending massacres of Jewish settlers in Palestine, which was then occupied by the Ottoman Empire. When he was elected Pope in 1939, Jewish newspapers explicitly portrayed him as a "loyal friend of the Jews" and opponent of the Nazis. In fact, Pacelli, who had been following Adolf Hitler's rise in Munich since 1923, described National Socialism as "probably the most dangerous heresy of ours in 1925 Zeit "and the" Führer "a few years later as" criminals "and" abysmally bad people ". After Kristallnacht, Hesemann used documents to show that he discovered in the Vatican Secret Archives wanted Pacelli, now Cardinal Secretary of State of Pius XI, to enable 200,000 Jews - almost all of the Jews in the German Reich - to flee abroad; however, the company failed due to the lack of willingness to cooperate among the global community, which was not prepared to issue them with so many visas. That Pius XII. protested openly three times against the Holocaust, but did not name the perpetrator or victim by name, according to Hesemann, the only purpose was not to provoke the Nazis to tighten the measures. After all, the Vatican secret diplomacy managed to save between 830,000 and 960,000 Jews from certain death in the German extermination camps through over 40 diplomatic interventions. now Cardinal Secretary of State of Pius XI., 200,000 Jews - almost all of the Jews in the German Reich - are able to flee abroad; however, the company failed due to the lack of willingness to cooperate among the global community, which was not prepared to issue them with so many visas. That Pius XII. protested openly three times against the Holocaust, but did not name the perpetrator or victim by name, according to Hesemann, the only purpose was not to provoke the Nazis to tighten the measures. After all, the Vatican secret diplomacy managed to save between 830,000 and 960,000 Jews from certain death in the German extermination camps through over 40 diplomatic interventions. now Cardinal Secretary of State of Pius XI., 200,000 Jews - almost all of the Jews in the German Reich - are able to flee abroad; however, the company failed due to the lack of willingness to cooperate among the global community, which was not prepared to issue them with so many visas. That Pius XII. protested openly three times against the Holocaust, but did not name the perpetrator or victim by name, according to Hesemann, the only purpose was not to provoke the Nazis to tighten the measures. After all, the Vatican secret diplomacy managed to save between 830,000 and 960,000



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calls a "prophecy"  
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second act

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Jews from certain death in the German extermination camps through over 40 diplomatic interventions. Enable 000 Jews - almost all of the Jews in the German Reich - to flee abroad; however, the company failed due to the lack of willingness to cooperate among the global community, which was not prepared to issue them with so many visas. That Pius XII. protested openly three times against the Holocaust, but did not name the perpetrator or victim by name, according to Heseemann, the only purpose was not to provoke the Nazis to tighten the measures. After all, the Vatican secret diplomacy managed to save between 830,000 and 960,000 Jews from certain death in the German extermination camps through over 40 diplomatic interventions. Enable 000 Jews - almost all of the Jews in the German Reich - to flee abroad; however, the company failed due to the lack of willingness to cooperate among the global community, which was not prepared to issue them with so many visas. That Pius XII. protested openly three times against the Holocaust, but did not name the perpetrator or victim by name, according to Heseemann, the only purpose was not to provoke the Nazis to tighten the measures. After all, the Vatican secret diplomacy managed to save between 830,000 and 960,000 Jews from certain death in the German extermination camps through over 40 diplomatic interventions. That Pius XII. protested openly three times against the Holocaust, but did not name the perpetrator or victim by name, according to Heseemann, the only purpose was not to provoke the Nazis to tighten the measures. After all, the Vatican secret diplomacy managed to save between 830,000 and 960,000 Jews from certain death in the German extermination camps through over 40 diplomatic interventions. That Pius XII. protested openly three times against the Holocaust, but did not name the perpetrator or victim by name, according to Heseemann, the only purpose was not to provoke the Nazis to tighten the measures. After all, the Vatican secret diplomacy managed to save between 830,000 and 960,000 Jews from certain death in the German extermination camps through over 40 diplomatic interventions.

Prof. Luigi Napolitano presented details of such rescue operations. He found stamps and forms in the Vatican archives with which men of the Church forged documents to enable Jews to flee or find a safe hiding place during the German occupation. An open protest was threatened to the Nazis several times. "But it was a weapon with only one bullet. If he had protested, he would no longer have threatened it and could have done nothing. "

Jewish historian Prof. Limore Yagil of the Sorbonne in Paris, advisor to the Yad Vashem Holocaust Memorial, meticulously outlined the efforts of the French bishops to help Jews flee or hide from French Catholic families - over 200,000 survived in this way. Again and again these bishops and the tireless "Jewish Father" Benoit sought advice and help from the Pope. "The church was more hierarchical then than it is today, after the Council," she said. "It would have been impossible to take such actions without backing from Rome."

Mark Riebling, author of the bestseller "The Pope's Spies", demonstrated that Pius XII. Collaborated with the German resistance since October 1939 - a conspiracy aimed at killing Hitler. "The men of this network, from which Count Stauffenberg also emerged, kept warning him not to protest, because Hitler would have used this as an excuse to smash the Catholic Church in Germany. They needed the church, however, as a network for the resistance, and the Pope as their contact to the Allies and as

an advocate for the democratic post-war Germany they had planned. " One result of these efforts, in which Catholics and Protestants were involved, was ecumenical dialogue in the post-war period, but also the "Nostra Aetate" declaration of the Second Vatican Council,

Johan Ickx, head of the Vatican State Secretariat's Historical Archive, spoke of what historians will find when, as announced by Pope Francis, on March 2, 2020, a good dozen Vatican archives stocked their holdings on the Pius XII pontificate. - a total of over 15 million pages of documents. It would show that bishops and nuncios, who have long been honored as "righteous among the peoples" (Gentiles who saved the Jews) at the Yad Vashem Holocaust Memorial, can only be honored in close consultation with and on the instructions of Pius XII. have acted. "So here we have the absurd situation that the employees were honored, but not their manager who gave them the job."

The seven historians who spoke at the United Nations are also waiting impatiently for the "big day". "It is time that the truth about Pius XII becomes indisputable, that his opponents can no longer hide behind the excuse 'we are waiting for the archives to open'," explains Michael Hesemann, who wrote in 2018 for his book "The Pope and Holocaust" "has already evaluated 5,300 documents previously published by the Vatican and 77,000 pages that have been put online by" Pave the Way "(ptwf.org). "Pope Pius XII. was a light in the darkness that enveloped most of Europe at that time. He acted wisely and managed to save almost a million Jews, whose descendants now make up a third of all Jews, while the nations of the world mostly watch idly.

The entire three-hour memorial event was filmed and can be viewed on the UN WebTV website: <http://webtv.un.org/search/remembering-the-holocaust-the-documented-efforts-of-the-holy-see-and-the-catholic-church-to-save-lives/> / 6127031085001 /? term = 2020-01-27 & sort = date

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*Newyorkese, imprenditore nel campo della diagnostica medica, è impegnato con la sua fondazione in vari progetti di cooperazione culturale in Occidente e in Terra Santa... Convinto che, tra ebraismo e cristianesimo, qualcuno debba «spianare la strada»...*

# GARY KRUPP

## Un ebreo in Vaticano

DI MANUELA BORRACCINO

(24)

**Q**uando, nel gennaio 2005, portò in Vaticano 160 personalità del mondo ebraico per ringraziare Giovanni Paolo

Il «per tutto quello che aveva fatto per riavvicinare la Chiesa cattolica al popolo d'Israele», in quello che divenne un incontro storico con il Papa polacco pochi mesi prima della sua morte, erano in pochi a sapere chi fosse questo imprenditore newyorchese, fra gli unici tre ebrei all'epoca (ora sono sette), insignito nel 2000 dell'Ordine pontificio di san Gregorio. Oggi, dopo che l'impegno con la sua Fondazione «per rimuovere gli ostacoli non teologici fra le religioni» ha portato Gary Krupp ad ingaggiare una dura battaglia per «ristabilire la verità storica su come Pio XII salvò oltre 800 mila ebrei» dalla furia nazista, persino il *New York Times* si è trovato un anno fa a dedicargli un articolo in prima pagina. Un segnale che neppure i principali media potevano più permettersi di ignorare il carismatico 64enne filantropo ebreo

«appassionato di papa Pacelli» che annovera solide amicizie tra uomini d'affari e politici americani, incontra regolarmente ministri e rabbini israeliani e fa parte da 11 anni della Famiglia pontificia.

**FIGLI DELL'UNICO DIO.** Nato nella Grande Mela da una famiglia ebraica, Krupp racconta come sia stata l'educazione laica e rispettosa del pluralismo impartita dalla madre ad aver gettato il seme che lo ha portato a fondare nel 2002 la *Pave the Way Foundation*. «Quando ero piccolo - spiega - mia madre mi insegnò come ognuno di noi può pregare Dio in modo diverso, ma come tutti crediamo in un unico Dio. E questo, insieme all'amicizia con i nostri vicini di casa cattolici irlandesi, ha fatto sì che crescessi senza alcuna paura o rifiuto dei cristiani, come avviene per molti ebrei osservanti». Nel corso della sua vita, che lo ha portato a dirigere un'azienda di attrezzature mediche molto in vista a New York, è cresciuta l'ammirazione per il lavoro umanitario che la Chiesa

cattolica compie nel mondo.

Alla fine degli anni Ottanta giunse anche in Vaticano la fama di questo imprenditore, assai stimato dalla diocesi di New York, che aveva aperto a Long Island e nel Bronx i primi centri di diagnostica che eseguivano Tac e risonanze magnetiche, ed era il principale fornitore di apparecchiature del centro di dialisi della metropoli. Fu così che nel 1989 venne contattato dall'allora presidente dell'ospedale fondato da padre

### INCONTRO

Benedetto XVI  
con Gary Krupp



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## Spianare la strada al dialogo

**SCHEDA**

Fondata nel 2002 da Gary Krupp e dalla moglie Meredith, la *Pave the Way Foundation* è un'organizzazione aconfessionale nata per «spianare la strada» (questa la traduzione del nome) nei rapporti fra le religioni, con l'obiettivo di dare vita a progetti di cooperazione educativa e culturale fra esponenti di fedi diverse contro l'estremismo violento perpetrato in nome di Dio. Tra i progetti avviati dalla fondazione c'è anche la digitalizzazione da parte di una ditta israeliana di una serie di manoscritti antichi e frammenti archeologici custoditi negli archivi della Custodia di Terra Santa. Il sito [www.pavethewayfoundation.org](http://www.pavethewayfoundation.org) è diventato anche una fonte di informazioni sul papato di Pio XII, con video e testimonianze di protagonisti del salvataggio di numerosi ebrei operato dalla Chiesa cattolica durante la seconda guerra mondiale.

Pio a San Giovanni Rotondo, mons. Riccardo Ruotolo. «Grazie alla mia esperienza e alle mie relazioni – ricorda – riuscii a dare una mano». In poco più di un decennio Krupp ha fornito gratuitamente alla Casa Sollievo della Sofferenza attrezzature per un valore complessivo di oltre 25 milioni di dollari, che nel 2000 gli valsero l'investitura di Cavaliere dell'Ordine equestre di san Gregorio il Grande.

**CREARE LEGAMI.** «Il grande onore che mi è stato fatto da Giovanni Paolo II ammettendomi con pochissimi altri ebrei alla Famiglia pontificia – spiega – mi ha incoraggiato a rafforzare i legami tra cattolici ed ebrei e fra la Chiesa cattolica e lo Stato di Israele». Così

è nata la *Pave the Way Foundation*, organizzazione aconfessionale per la collaborazione fra le religioni, alla quale aderiscono espo-

nenti di varie fedi. Dopo aver accarezzato l'idea di convincere Israele a restituire alla Chiesa cattolica il Cenacolo di Gerusalemme (un tentativo risultato per ora infruttuoso), Krupp è riuscito in un'altra *mission impossible*: nel 2006 la Biblioteca apostolica ha autorizzato un prestito al Museo statale di Israele di manoscritti di Maimonide, tra i tesori del Vaticano. L'anno dopo Krupp ha convinto un miliardario libanese a staccare un assegno a sette cifre per donare alla Santa Sede il prezioso Papiro Bodmer, presumibilmente il più antico Vangelo del mondo, risalente all'incirca al 150 d.C.. Ed altri progetti culturali sono in corso con il patriarcato ortodosso di Atene, con la Custodia francescana di Terra Santa, con il Gran Rabbinate di Israele.

### IL PAPA CHE SALVÒ GLI EBREI.

La battaglia più aspra è iniziata quando Krupp ha cominciato ad interessarsi alle periodiche polemiche sul ruolo di papa Pacelli nel salvataggio degli ebrei durante la seconda guerra mondiale. «Io stesso ero cresciuto con l'idea che

non avesse fatto nulla per salvare gli ebrei: non c'era nessuno più anti-Pio XII di me», dice oggi con un sorriso. «Potete immaginare la sorpresa quando ho scoperto che le idee nelle quali ero vissuto erano false».

Negli ultimi tre anni Krupp ha raccolto e filmato testimonianze di superstiti salvati dal clero e di sacerdoti che avevano ricevuto precise istruzioni da parte della Santa Sede per mettere in salvo il maggior numero possibile di israeliti, come il diplomatico vaticano mons. Giovanni Ferrofino (oggi quasi centenario) che su incarico del Papa riuscì a procurare il salvacondotto per 10 mila ebrei che trovarono scampo nella Repubblica dominicana. Ha organizzato un convegno a Roma, osteggiato dalla Comunità ebraica capitolina, per divulgare i risultati di queste indagini. Ma soprattutto ha reso disponibile sul sito della fondazione gran parte della documentazione disponibile su Pacelli.

Parte dell'*establishment* ebraico non lo ama. Altri lo accusano di muoversi con dilettantismo nei campi minati della ricerca storica e dei rapporti fra gli Stati. Lui fa spallucce: «Non sono uno storico professionista. Sono solo un cittadino in cerca di verità». Parlano le prove raccolte: lo ha ripetuto a gennaio, invitato dall'Olimpo della stampa Usa, il *National Press Club* di Washington, a dire la sua su Pacelli dopo che, in seguito all'articolo del *New York Time*, le visite al sito della fondazione sono in continua, inarrestabile crescita. ▶

(25)





# A special LI link to Benedict

Jewish papal knight from Wantagh says retired pontiff was 'very special'

BY GRANT PARPAN  
grant.parpan@newsday.com

While most Long Islanders woke up Saturday to news from the Vatican about the retired pontiff's death, the Vatican awakened Gary Krupp with the news.

Krupp, a 75-year-old Jewish papal knight who met with Pope Benedict XVI on 19 occasions, had a close and unique connection to the man. So much so that the Wantagh resident got calls from Rome notifying him of Benedict's passing Saturday.

"He was just a fantastic, very shy, very pensive, brilliant, scholarly . . . he was a very special person," Krupp said.

Krupp, who a New York Times columnist once de-

scribed as "the Vatican's most outspoken Jewish ally," heads Pave the Way Foundation, a nonsectarian organization whose mission is to identify and eliminate nontheological obstacles between religions.

His most notable work with the Vatican centered on whether Pope Pius XII, the pontiff during World War II, did enough to save Jews from the Holocaust.

Krupp said his organization's work extended beyond Catholicism and Judaism to many other religions, but was not religious work.

"We deal with obstacles and problems and so it's unusual," he said. "We don't deal with religion ever. That's like walking in deep mud."



Gary Krupp, of Wantagh, meets with Pope Benedict XVI on April 14, 2008.

Krupp received the honorary title as Commendatore Gary Krupp, Knight Commander of the Pontifical Equestrian Order of St. Gregory the Great from Pope John Paul II in 2000.

A retired medical equipment dealer, he was awarded his title after persuading manufacturers to donate more than \$10 million in medical equipment to an Italian hospital.

Benedict, who had a love of history, gave Krupp papal authority to use Vatican docu-

ments on his organization's website free of copyright restrictions.

Krupp said his relationship with Benedict, who came of age in Nazi Germany as Pius XII led the Roman Catholic Church, grew from the respect the retired pope had for his organization's work toward religious reconciliation.

As a member of the papal household, Krupp was notified of the retired pope's death via a telephone call from the Vatican

secretary of state at 4 a.m. Saturday.

"We sort of expected this to happen," Krupp said of Benedict's death, saying he had gotten health updates from a German colleague. "This is what life is."

Krupp noted that Benedict did a lot of work to advance his foundation's mission, saying they "now have an advocate in heaven."

"He was a loving man," Krupp said. "It's very, very sad."

## Long Islanders react to retired pope's death

REACTION from A3

Centre, an active leader at the St. Agnes school and parish, described Benedict as a "gentle intellectual." She admired the way he "stayed under the radar" after Pope Francis took the reins.

"In giving up the papacy, he was true to himself," Boylan said. "And I think that took a lot of courage to do that. He's served us well."

Visitors to St. Agnes on Saturday said given his age and recent reports of his health they were not surprised to learn of his passing, but it was nevertheless a sadder day.

"Just God bless him," said Audrey Lavin of Carle Place. "God bless all of us."

Kathy Hutchinson of Valley Stream said she's thankful for the guidance and direction of

the retired pope.

Phyllis Zagano, a research associate at Hofstra University who has studied the role of women in the church, said that Benedict, whom she described as an "extraordinary theologian," played a central part in "almost all major church discussions throughout the latter part of the 20th and early 21st century."

Specific to her own studies, Zagano noted that while Benedict is "known as the architect of every contemporary statement against women priests," he codified the distinction between the priesthood and the diaconate, paving the way for female deacons.

Benedict's legacy is clouded by the church's handling of the sex abuse scandal that erupted in his time as a cardinal, continued into his time as pope and returned in the form of a report

earlier this year that revealed he personally mishandled four abuse cases while he was an archbishop in Germany.

For Long Island survivors of the abuse, his death has given rise to mixed feelings.

"Nobody's happy when a pope dies, but Benedict has endangered children around the world," said Mary McKenna of the Nassau County chapter of SNAP, a group of clergy sex abuse survivors.

McKenna noted that Benedict was, however, the first pope to act against the abuse, leaving a legacy of "pros and cons" for survivors.

Duffy spoke of having an audience with the pope, a powerful encounter in Rome in 2005 that he said bolstered his calling to become a priest. Twenty years old at the time, he was among thousands in an audi-

ence hall when the pope approached him. He shouted, "Holy Father, I want to be a priest!"

"He spun around on his heels and he came right over to me and he grabbed me with two hands, and he shook me and he blessed me and I kissed his ring," Duffy said.

In a statement Saturday, Barres praised Benedict as a "great theologian and pope."

"Growing up in Nazi Germany and experiencing firsthand the bitter fruits of Nazi ideology, Pope Benedict XVI understood that ideas have consequences in history," Barres said. "As a result, throughout his life, as a priest, professor, bishop, cardinal and pope, he championed the Catholic belief in the harmony of faith and reason — a principle that is so critical to the unity of truth and so

vital to Catholic identity, missionary activity, harmonious ecumenical and interreligious charity and peace in the world."

He added: "Today, we pray for the soul of this great pope and give thanks for how the Holy Spirit led him and inspired us."

Cardinal Timothy Dolan, archbishop of New York, offered prayers at St. Patrick's Cathedral for Benedict Saturday morning. In a statement, he described the retired pope as an "erudite, wise, and holy man, who spoke the truth with love."

"The family of the Church especially mourns his death, while grateful for the gift he was of a good shepherd and Holy Father," Cardinal Dolan wrote. "This archdiocese remembers with love his pastoral visit here in 2008."

## Gary L. Krupp Awarded the Servant of Peace Award at the United Nations

New York, NY (PRWEB) March 23, 2006 -- Gary L. Krupp KCSG, founder of the Pave the Way Foundation of New York City, has been nominated for the Servitor Pacis (Servant of Peace) Award by the Vatican's ambassador to the United Nations and the President of the Path to Peace Foundation. The Servitor Pacis Award is bestowed upon those who devote their lives to the greater good in finding solutions to achieve peace. Mr. Krupp is being recognized for his diligent and tireless work helping to bridge the gap between the world's great religions through cultural, technological, and intellectual exchanges.

The Path to Peace Foundation is a charitable organization established by the Permanent Observer Mission of the Holy See to the United Nations. The purpose of the foundation, headed by Archbishop Celestino Migliore, is to spread the message of peace.

In response, Mr. Krupp stated, "I am most honored by this recognition by the Path to Peace Foundation. This award strengthens my drive to bring the world's religions together to agree that religious intolerance has no place in our world, and that we would do better to focus on what unites us and learn about our fellow man's religious beliefs."

The award will be bestowed on Mr. Krupp at the United Nations in New York City on June 13, 2006 at a formal reception. H.E. Renato Cardinal Martino, President of the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace, at the Vatican will be traveling to the US to attend the event. On July 29, 2000 Pope John Paul II had invested Mr. Krupp as a Knight Commander in the Pontifical Order of St. Gregory the Great. Mr. Krupp was the seventh Jewish man in history to receive this Knighthood of the Vatican City State. In July 2005 he was invested as an Officer Brother of the Most Venerable Order of the Hospital of St. John of Jerusalem, an order of the Anglican Church by approval of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. In September 2002 Mr. Krupp received the Jewish National Funds Tree of Life award.

### About Pave the Way Foundation:

Pave the Way Foundation is dedicated to bridging the gap between religions through cultural, technological, and intellectual exchanges. The Foundation has a simple yet monumental vision: To enable all the world's religions mutually realize that extremism, politics and personal agendas must not be allowed to poison the true benevolent message common to all faiths. Bigotry and hatred must be abolished by the faithful embracing their similarities and savoring their differences. More information on the Foundation can be found at [www.ptwf.org](http://www.ptwf.org).

### About The Path to Peace Foundation:

Due to the need for expanded humanitarian and conciliatory activities, which go beyond the strictly diplomatic parameters of the Holy See Mission to the United Nations, the Apostolic Nuncio and Permanent Observer of the Holy See to the United Nations established the Path to Peace Foundation in 1991. The Foundation directs its activities primarily to the international stage of the United Nations. Its principal purpose is the spreading of the message of peace by which the Catholic Church, through the words and activities of the Pope and of the Holy See, strives to "guide our steps into the path of peace" (Luke 1:79)

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## A Saint's Work for the Sick

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### Interview with Monsignor Riccardo Ruotolo

SAN GIOVANNI ROTONDO, Italy, JUNE 13, 2002 ([ZENIT.org](http://www.zenit.org/) (<http://www.zenit.org/>)—[Avvenire](http://www.avvenire.it/) (<http://www.avvenire.it/>)).- Padre Pio left humanity two special gifts: the House for the Relief of Suffering, a center for medical and spiritual assistance in this southern Italian town; and the Prayer Groups scattered throughout the world.

The director of both these legacies today is Monsignor Riccardo Ruotolo. Here, he talks about his experience: "Padre Pio wished to leave the clinic to the Holy See. Padre Pio said, 'If I leave the work in the Pope's hands I am certain it will not fail.'"

Q: A gift involving commitment ...

Monsignor Ruotolo: I knew nothing about hospitals. I said this to Cardinal Giuseppe Caprio when he asked me to come here, on Dec. 15, 1977, to study the situation. I told him I had never even been in San Giovanni Rotondo.

Q: And what did the substitute of the Vatican State secretariat reply to you?

Monsignor Ruotolo: "Good, so you go there with a fresh mind, free of prejudices." He asked me to make a report in six months. The Holy See had to decide if it was to keep the administration of the House of Relief or hand it over to the regional government.

Q: Were there debts?

Monsignor Ruotolo: Six months later, when I presented the financial report, I had paid those debts and come to an agreement with the region. The then Monsignor Caprio told me: Good. Now go back to San Giovanni Rotondo and continue to work.

Q: You have been there for 25 years.

Monsignor Ruotolo: Providence decides.

Q: And what have you accomplished in these years?

Monsignor Ruotolo: I have tried to respect faithfully Padre Pio's wish. On May 5, 1957, he expressed in writing the plan, the hope, to double the number of beds. Today the beds have trebled, thanks to the faithful's donations: There are more than 1,000.





Q: So far as I know, the House of Relief is the only hospital where there are guided tours: from the kitchens to the operating theaters. The visitor can see it all.

Monsignor Ruotolo: It is the first hospital in the south of Italy in terms of attracting patients. Twenty-three percent of those hospitalized and patients come from outside the region, including from the North; especially in the oncological sector, which in addition to 34 beds in the department, has a day-clinic with 20 beds; medical visits, examinations, treatments. We have four nuclear accelerators to shorten the waiting lists.

Q: To shorten the waiting lists?

Monsignor Ruotolo: We are trying to do away with them. I think we are the first hospital in Italy to do so.

Q: Is this due to good administration or to a miracle of Padre Pio?

Monsignor Ruotolo: Listen, that question was already asked of Padre Pio: "When you are no longer here, what will happen to this gigantic work?" his friends would ask him. And he would answer: "When I am no longer here, I will pray to Providence, who will help you more and better than at present."

Q: Is there some evidence of this intervention?

Monsignor Ruotolo: Who knows, perhaps Mr. Krupp.

Q: Mr. Krupp?

Monsignor Ruotolo: Gary Krupp, an American Jew from New York, is the intermediary of advanced electromedical equipment: He has sold us nuclear medicine machines, radiology equipment, two new mammographic machines. He says he is "in love" with Padre Pio and gives us a hand.

Q: A hand?

Monsignor Ruotolo: For example, he gave us a discount of more than \$1 million on the magnetic resonance machine. He has often said publicly that he is "in love" with Padre Pio.

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# RABBIS BLESS POPE

## *An eyewitness account*



*Gary Krupp, KCSG, addressing Pope John Paul II in front of a worldwide audience of 100 rabbis and 13 cantors, cardinals, bishops, and the Board of Directors of Pave The Way Foundation in the Clementine Hall in the Vatican. Dr. Harvey Passes is seated in the front row photographing this momentous event.*

**I**t is January 18, 2005 at 11:30 a.m., Rome time. I am a dentist who practices in Great Neck, N.Y. and resides in Manhasset, N.Y. This was the experience of a lifetime. Dreams are rarely this good. Imagine being in the Clementine Hall of the Apostolic Palace in the Vatican where there is a worldwide delegation of Jews seated in the audience waiting for a private audience with His Holiness John Paul II. It is to be a meeting of gratitude within the tone of reconciliation.

The marble floors of the palace stretch to highly polished ancient wood and marble walls, which climb at least 40 feet. About halfway up, these walls are adorned with the most incredible frescoes created some 500 years ago, perhaps by the likes of Michelangelo, Raphael, or other legendary artist. The sheer size of the artistry boggles the mind. I was seated in the front row with my childhood

friend, Gary Krupp. I never would have imagined that such an event would take place with my participation. My friend was making good on a dream — his dream of peace on earth and goodwill to all men. This is a story that has been 800 years in the making. It would read like a novel except that it is true. It all happened.

Some years ago, my friend Gary performed some special favors for the Vatican. A children's hospital was being built in Italy. Difficulties occurred and Gary was asked to assist. He did so unselfishly. Gary wouldn't accept any payment for his services. Sometime later, he was asked once again to assist with more problem solving. Again, he refused payment. The pope was so impressed with this Jewish gentleman's unselfish and philanthropic behavior that he bestowed upon him the title of Knight of Saint Gregory the Great. He is the seventh Jewish person ever given this

# PE IN THE VATICAN

*By Harvey Passes, DDS*



*Dr. Harvey Passes shaking hands with Pope John Paul II and Gary Krupp, KCSG, in the center in the Clementine Hall of the Apostolic Palace in the Vatican.*

honor by a pope. What happened next intensifies my story.

Sometime later, Gary found himself at a benefit dinner where some rabbis were discussing the desire of Jewish scholars to see the Maimonides papers. These papers reflect the writings of Maimonides, a Jewish philosopher, rabbi, and physician who lived during the 12th century. These documents have been in the custody of the Vatican library for centuries, and Jewish scholars have been denied access to them. During this benefit dinner, one of the rabbis wondered if they would ever be able to see them. Someone told them to speak to Gary. The rabbis looked at this person wondering if this was a joke or if he was serious. They approached Gary and he said he would look into it. They did not know that Gary had been made a member of the papal household. Weeks later, Gary called the rabbis and stated that the Vatican had agreed to their momentous request. A trip to Rome allowed the eyes of these Jewish scholars to view these sacred manuscripts

from the ancient sage. The Vatican greeted this august assembly with much warmth and generosity. Upon returning home, many celebratory events were held to honor Gary's accomplishment. Then I got the phone call.

Gary told me that he wanted to devote his life to peace among religions, especially in the Middle East. How does one react to that kind of a statement? You may as well attempt to move the ocean across the street with a spoon. Gary was firm, sure of himself, and aggressively ambitious in this pursuit. He felt that attaining his title from the pope was more than happenstance. With the respect of the Jewish people and now the Roman Catholic Church, he would have the ability to accomplish much. The *Pave The Way Foundation* is the result of his desire. It is an organization that is paving the way for peace in various regions of the world. It is a not-for-profit foundation working to reach various worldwide religious and governmental levels of support. Gary asked me to be on his Board of Di-



## RABBIS BLESS POPE IN VATICAN



*Dr. Harvey Passes, seated third from right, listening to the historic response of Pope John Paul II to our speech of gratitude in a tone of reconciliation between Catholics and Jews.*

rectors. It seemed a natural thing to do, as we have been friends since the age of 16 and have always respected each other's opinion. What happened next astounded me.

Pave The Way Foundation began to shuttle between New York, Rome, and Jerusalem, with stops in England and other cities. Relationships began to build between Pave The Way Foundation and various ambassadors to the United Nations, cardinals, bishops, Israeli and Palestinian officials, and more. The Foundation was able to negotiate the amazing loan of the Maimonides papers to Israel as a gesture of goodwill from the Vatican. This was all being done through Pave The Way Foundation. Much can be accomplished through a gesture of goodwill. Just when I thought things could not realistically get any better, Gary announced, "Pave The Way Foundation has been granted a private audience with His Holiness John Paul II."

During a Board of Directors meeting, Gary let it be

known that he had been working on a meeting of gratitude and thanks to His Holiness for his defense of Jews before his papacy as well as during it. Under his pontificate, the Vatican recognized the State of Israel by exchanging ambassadors. Pope John Paul II was the first pope since St. Peter to visit a synagogue. He also visited the Western Wall in Jerusalem and left an inscribed message within the wall asking for forgiveness. He also has made it a sin to be anti-Semitic. He has been a friend to the Jewish people and has tried to bridge the ancient gap. Pave The Way Foundation would bring a worldwide delegation of 100 rabbis, 12 cantors, and Jewish leaders to offer prayers of thanks and gratitude to His Holiness. The pope happily agreed to this request.

On January 18th at 11:30 a.m., we all assembled within the Vatican's Apostolic Palace to meet Pope John Paul II. Our speech was presented first, as follows:

**Dr. Harvey Passes** performed the original research and development of the dental holmium laser. He is a founding member and past president of the Academy of Laser Dentistry, and has lectured extensively worldwide on cosmetic laser dentistry. He has produced 200 television shows and is creating a series for PBS and Time Warner Cable. He practices in Great Neck, N.Y. Reach him at (516) 487-3131.





## RABBIS BLESS POPE IN VATICAN

### ***"Your Holiness:***

*We are a group of people who represent a cross section of Judaism, who have traveled here with the blessings of millions of our faith in order to thank you.*

*Soon after your ascension to the throne of St. Peter, you made a telling trip to Auschwitz in order to pay homage to victims of the holocaust. You have defended the Jewish people at every opportunity, as a priest in Poland and during your 26-year pontificate. You have denounced anti-Semitism as a 'sin against God and humanity.' This tone of reconciliation has been the cornerstone of your papacy and its relations with the Jewish people.*

*On April 13, 1986, you became the first pope since St. Peter to visit a synagogue. Upon presenting his credentials to you in June 2003, Israeli Ambassador Oded Ben-Hur expressed this enormous gesture best when he said, 'On that day you took upon your shoulders the 2,000-year-old church, back to the first-century synagogue of Capernaum, where Jesus used to pray, thus closing an historic circle.'*

*You moved the Holy See to initiate the process of normalizing diplomatic relations with the state of Israel in 1992, the beloved biblical homeland of the Jewish people, symbolically acknowledging the existence of Eretz Yisrael yesterday, today, and forever.*

*Your pilgrimage to Israel and the Holy Land on March 21, 2000, was immortalized in the hearts and minds of the Jewish people around the world, when you placed your prayer asking for forgiveness in the Western Wall.*

*Your solemn remarks during your visit to the Hall of Remembrance, Yad Vashem profoundly moved us and touched our hearts.*

*It is impossible to describe the emotional impact these milestones have had on Jews worldwide. Your Holiness, these reconciliatory acts have, in fact, been a hallmark of your pontificate as you have also tried to repair the ancient rifts in all of the religions in the world. The Jewish Ethics of the Fathers beautifully captures, in verse, the love you have exhibited for all humanity. Rabbi Hillel says: 'Be among the disciples of Aaron, by being a lover of peace, a pursuer of peace, a lover of all humanity and bringing them closer to religion.'*

*For your acts of love of all humankind and your implacable pursuit of peace and reconciliation of all the faiths, your Holiness truly is the personification of these ideals and spirit of Aaron, the high priest of ancient Israel.*

*In closing, you have referred to us, the children of Abraham, as your beloved elder brothers. My prayerful wish is that Jews, Christians, and Muslims, the three children of Abraham, may soon bond together in one common cause and voice to defend all humanity against those who defame God by committing wanton acts of violence in his holy name.*

*Your Holiness, Thank you, thank you, thank you. Shalom, Shalom, Shalom."*

As a thunderous applause erupted from the audience, I could see that Pope John Paul II was visibly moved. He applauded and smiled. He looked at each and every one of us. A feeling of love and brotherhood flowed throughout the room. Then he responded.

### ***"Dear Friends,***

*With affection I greet the members of the Pave The Way Foundation on your visit to the Vatican, and I thank Mr. Krupp for the kind words which he has addressed to me on your behalf. This year we will be celebrating the 40th anniversary of the Second Vatican Council's Declaration Nostra Aetate, which has significantly contributed to the strengthening of Jewish-Catholic dialogue. May this be an occasion for renewed commitment to increased understanding and cooperation in the service of building a world ever more firmly based on respect for the divine image in every human being.*

*Upon all of you, I invoke the abundant blessings of the Almighty and, in particular, the gift of peace. Shalom aleichem."*

More joyful thunderous applause filled the room. Most people in the great hall were aware of the Second Vatican Council's Declaration Nostra Aetate which stated that Jews were not collectively responsible for the death of Christ, and that "...in her rejection of every persecution against any man, the Church, mindful of the patrimony she shares with the Jews and moved not by political reasons but by the Gospel's spiritual love, decries hatred, persecutions, displays of anti-Semitism, directed against Jews at any time and by anyone."

Then, a few members of the Board of Directors and I arose to present the pope with a gift. It was a glass sculpture of two open-palmed hands holding the globe. It signified a humanitarian award to the pope. He graciously accepted it. Three rabbis stood up and approached him. They spoke a prayer and blessed him. This was the first time that anyone in the Vatican could remember the pope being blessed and not the other way around. He then blessed our congregation. Twelve cantors began to sing songs of prayer filling the room with optimism and hope. The pope physically extended his hand to members of Pave The Way Foundation. One by one, we shook his hand as we looked into each other's eyes. Then something wonderful happened.

Pope John Paul II asked the entire congregation to step forward so he could shake their hands as well. Members of the papal household started to hand out gifts to all of us. His Holiness was in a very good mood and wanted to share this feeling with all of us. It was then that I remembered the Pave The Way Foundation slogan, Embrace our similarities, savor our differences. What an experience.

We had no idea at the time, but since writing this article, I have been informed that our delegation was the last private audience of Pope John Paul II before his death in April. We shall remember him always, with gratitude.

Should you want to become involved with this amazing foundation or provide donations, please call my office at (516) 487-3131 for information. We also are available to present a videotape of the entire presentation to interested groups.

This is a journey worth taking. Shalom. Pax. Salome Aleichem. Peace be with you.

DE

# **L'EDITORIALE**

Periodico di cultura, arte e società per gli italiani del Principato di Monaco

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NEL NUOVO FILM DI LIANA MARABINI



# Applausi

'Shades of Truth': film su Pio XII  
piace a ebrei e cattolici\*

Di Andrea Cauti

\*Articolo pubblicato per gentile concessione del quotidiano *La Repubblica*.  
<http://www.repubblica.it/ultimora/24ore/-shades-of-truth-film-su-pio-xii-piace-a-ebrei-e-cattolici/news-dettaglio/4605740>

**C**onsensi unanimi da parte di ebrei e cattolici alla proiezione del film *Shades of Truth* di Liana Marabini tenutasi in Vaticano, a Palazzo Cardinal Cesi, al termine del simposio internazionale, "Le radici ebraiche del Cristianesimo", a cui ha assistito una vasta e qualificata platea di storici, prelati, illustri studiosi e una folta rappresentanza della comunità ebraica di New York, a Roma per vedere il film che fu accolto in maniera controversa alla sua



Una scena del film: Eugenio Pacelli nel 1919 è cardinale e nunzio apostolico a Berlino, viene attaccato dagli spartacchisti, che respinge con coraggio.

prima proiezione lo scorso marzo. La pellicola, infatti, è una sorta di film-inchiesta che ristabilisce la verità storica sulla figura di Pio XII, per anni considerato il "Papa di Hitler" e che, in realtà, ha salvato centinaia di migliaia di ebrei.

La proiezione del film è stata preceduta da un simposio internazionale, "Le radici ebraiche del Cristianesimo", moderato da Antonio Gaspari, direttore dell'agenzia cattolica Zenit. Tra i relatori anche l'industriale ebreo americano Gary Krupp, fondatore di Pave the Way Foundation, e Yuval Lapide, esegeta israeliano e figlio di Pinchas Lapide, autore del libro *Three Popes and the Jews* e console d'Israele in Italia durante il pontificato di Pio XII. Il simposio è stato aperto dal Cardinale Velasio De Paolis, presidente emerito della Prefettura degli Affari Economici della Santa Sede, che ha fatto una



Liana Marabini dà indicazioni agli attori David Wall e Giancarlo Giannini durante la realizzazione del film.



lettura approfondita della dichiarazione che il Concilio Vaticano II ha emanato, cinquant'anni fa, sulla Chiesa cattolica e le relazioni con le religioni non cristiane: *Nostra Ætate*.

Yuval Lapide ha analizzato l'enorme sforzo che la Chiesa cattolica in generale, e Pio XII in particolare, hanno fatto per salvare tanti ebrei dalla follia omicida nazista.

Gary Krupp ha passato poi in rassegna la mole di documenti, pubblici e privati, che dimostrano senza ombra di dubbio il ruolo salvatore della Chiesa.

Monsignor Bernard Ardurra, presidente della Pontificia Commissione di Scienze Storiche, ha raccontato la storia di due vescovi francesi che hanno salvato tanti ebrei.



Liana Marabini con Meredith e Gary Krupp, della Fondazione Pave the Way, venuti per la proiezione insieme ad un grande gruppo di importanti ebrei new-yorkesi.



SELECT A TOWN



## NEWS

## Pave the Way Foundation plans history presentations

Posted February 24, 2022



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Wantagh-based Pave the Way Foundation, headed by Meredith and Gary Krupp, aims to create bridges between religions.

HAND-OUT

By Maria Cestero (<mailto:mcestero@liherald.com>)

Wantagh-based Pave the Way Foundation will sponsor historic presentations in New York with the diocese of Assisi, Italy, to recognize the life-saving efforts of Assisi clergy and citizens in protecting Jewish refugees during the Holocaust.

The presentation is slated for April 5 and 6 at Temple Israel in New Rochelle and St. John's University in Queens, respectively. Both presentations will also be held virtually. Anyone can attend.

Pave the Way was founded in 2002 with the mission to eliminate disinformation and barriers between religions. The foundation was cofounded by Meredith Krupp, 73, and Gary Krupp, 74.

Gary, a Queens native, said the foundation was approached by the Archbishop of Assisi to co-sponsor the presentations, which will discuss historically accurate actions of the people of Assisi. When Northern Italy was occupied by German troops in 1943, Assisi was forced into action. Archbishop Nicolini – acting on requests from Rome – rallied Assisi residents to save Jewish peoples that were being hunted by Nazis.

"These people in Italy and in Europe risked their lives to save the lives of people they didn't even know," Gary said.

Both presentations will feature panels from the Museo della Memoria Assisi, or the Museum of Memory in Assisi. It will include an hour-long roundtable discussion led by Johan Ickx, Archivist for the Historical Archives of the Vatican Secretary of State and Elizabeth Bettina, author of "It Happened in Italy." The Mayor of Assisi, Stefania Proietti, will also attend.

In 2006, Gary conducted research into Pope Pius XII – a well-known figure who was the head of the Catholic Church and ruler of the Papal States during the Nazi era. Gary admitted that he was under the impression that Pope Pius XII was anti-semitic, until Gary discovered documents from the Palestine Post, and New York Times archives, that indicated otherwise. It sparked his overall interest in publishing accurate historic records.

Gary – who has been knighted three times for his commitment to breaking down religious barriers – said close to 847,000 Jews were saved during World War II. "Twenty-five percent of the world's population of Jews today are alive because of the actions of the Vatican during World War II," he said. "It's going to be an exciting event – especially now at a time where everyone is talking about all the hatred, anti-semitism, and negativity going around."

“How happy we are to bring our museum to America,” Archbishop of Assisi, Domenico Sorrentino, said in a press release. “Not only to remember a light that [shined] through a dark time in history, but also to tell the world that good can, and must, win over evil.”

Meredith, Gary’s wife of 51 years, was named Dame of the Grand Cross, the Highest Vatican State order that can be awarded to a person. She said she hopes the event sheds light on the life-saving actions of Assisi’s residents.

“Our world is so divided,” said Meredith. “The least we could do is to bridge the gaps.”

Knighted by decree of Pope Francis, Meredith received the honor of being awarded Dame of the Grand Cross, the Highest Vatican State order that can be awarded to a lay person. Gary received the Knight of the Grand Cross in 2018.

Guests looking to attend the presentations must register by sending an email to: [assisievent@desalesmedia.org](mailto:assisievent@desalesmedia.org).

The Pave the Way Foundation, which operates in 19 countries, works to resolve non-theological obstacles between religions. For more information on their efforts, go online to: [www.ptwf.org](http://www.ptwf.org).

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## Jewish historian honored by the Vatican speaks at Saint Stephen

**O**n March 14, 2015, Gary Krupp, a member of the papal household and most decorated Jewish person in Vatican history, came to Saint Stephen the First Martyr parish in Sanford. Knighted by Pope John II to the order of Saint Gregory the Great in 2000, Krupp shared with the audience of 120 people his ongoing efforts to reveal the truth about Pope Pius XII, and that Pope's efforts to save Jewish lives during World War II.

Krupp also spoke of the Pave the Way Foundation, which he founded with his wife, Meredith, 12 years ago. According to Krupp, Pave the Way is "the only organization in the world devoted to removing obstacles among the major world religions through gestures of goodwill." Krupp's philosophy is simple: when gestures of goodwill are extended, trust develops and obstacles are overcome.

Knighted by Saint John Paul II because of the charitable

work he did for Padre Pio Hospital, Krupp found himself in the perfect position to speak to the Vatican on behalf of rabbis and scholars who had previously been denied the opportunity to view the writings of Maimonides, the texts of which were kept in the Vatican library. As a result, through his diplomatic relations with the Vatican, Krupp arranged for a group of rabbis to view the writings of this great Jewish philosopher, texts they had longed to read in their original form. These rabbis were received by Pope John Paul II in the largest Jewish audience in history and his last private

audience before his death in 2005. Thus, with this first gesture of goodwill, the idea for Pave the Way Foundation was born.

Pave the Way Foundation also arranged for the donation to the Vatican library of the Bodmer Papyrus, the oldest written version of the Gospels of St. John and St. Luke, containing the oldest written version of the Lord's Prayer (circa 175-225 AD). The Bodmer Papyrus was presented to Pope Benedict XVI in 2007.

When it comes to Pope Pius XII, Krupp has an intensely personal reason for pursuing his years' long efforts to restore the Pope's good name. Growing up, Krupp believed Pope Pius XII was "Hitler's Pope." Krupp said this began with a smear campaign created by the Russian KGB with production of the play *The Deputy* in 1963. As a Jew, Krupp admits to growing up hating the Pope. "I was lied to," he says. Krupp noted that in the years between 1939 and 1948, no negative news articles were written about the Pope. Only after the smear campaign did the Pope's reputation as a Nazi sympathizer start to spread.

After reviewing tens of thousands of original documents and interviewing World War II Holocaust survivors who had been personally rescued by the actions of the Pope, Krupp discovered that the Roman Catholic Church saved as many as 847,000 Jews, from whom 25 percent of the world's 16 million Jews today are descended.

Through Pave the Way, Gary and Meredith Krupp, along with the support of scholars and contributors, the truth about Pope Pius XII is now coming to light.

**For more information about his work on behalf of Pope Pius XII, as well as other Pave the Way Foundation projects underway, go to [www.ptwf.org](http://www.ptwf.org)** – Mary Hood Hart, Faith

Formation Director, Saint Stephen the First Martyr, Sanford



## **Knights of Columbus**

**Wilmington Council 1074**

**PO Box 1841**

**Wilmington, NC 28402**

[www.kofc1074.org](http://www.kofc1074.org)

September 15, 2014

K of C Council 1074 Sponsoring Talk by Gary Krupp on Pope Pius XII



On Saturday, November 21<sup>st</sup>, 2015, Knights of Columbus Council #1074 will sponsor a talk by Gary Krupp, DCS, KC\*SG, OStJ, of the Pave the Way Foundation on Pope Pius XII. Mr. Krupp will describe the work of the Foundation and how they discovered the disinformation campaign about the actions of the Vatican during the Second World War. This prompted the organization to initiate a comprehensive search for primary source documentation in order to present the truth of the lifesaving actions of the Catholic Church under the papacy of Pope Pius XII. Pave the Way has actively sought eyewitnesses and scholarly testimony since 2006 and currently has over 76,000 pages of documented material available free of charge for international study on their website, [www.ptwf.org](http://www.ptwf.org). The talk will be held in Saint Mary's School Cafeteria behind the Basilica Shrine of Saint Mary, 412 Ann St, Wilmington, beginning at 10:30 AM.

Gary Krupp is a Doctor of Commercial Services. He was made a Knight Commander of the Pontifical Order of Saint Gregory of the Silver Star by Pope John Paul II and a member of the order of the Anglican Order St. John of Jerusalem by Queen Elizabeth II.

Pave the Way Foundation is a non-sectarian organization dedicated to achieving peace by closing the gap in tolerance, education and the practical relations between religions, through cultural, technological and intellectual exchanges. It strives to eliminate the use of religion as a tool, which, historically has been used, by some, to achieve personal agendas and to cause conflicts. Their slogan is "Embrace our Similarities Savor our Differences."

The Knights of Columbus, the world's largest Catholic fraternal men's organization was founded in 1882; Wilmington Council 1074 was formed in 1906.

Please address any questions concerning this press release to Frank Reck, Council Director at [council@kofc1074.org](mailto:council@kofc1074.org).



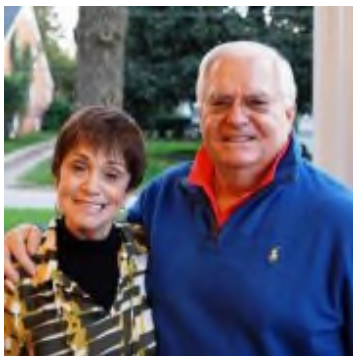
## Philanthropy Journal News

**GIVE NOW**

### The Power of a Gesture



March 6, 2017 | [Krystin Gollihue](#)



By Krystin Gollihue

A gesture is a powerful thing. It is a symbol of trust, proof that you've done the right thing, and a way to connect to people. A gesture can also be reciprocal, an invitation for a gesture in return. Gary and Meredith Krupp, Founders of [Pave the Way](#)



Foundation (PTWF), believe that a gesture is “a handshake, a promise that you’re not there to do harm.”



In many parts of the world, however, people can use religion as a justification to do harm. In speaking with Krupp, he wonders whether “there are some who use religion to defend these conflicts while secretly acting to achieve a private agenda.” PTWF’s goal is to “end the malevolent use of religion” by disseminating information and building trust between different religions through concrete gestures. The initiative began in the 1980s, when Krupp, a Jewish man, volunteered his expertise for 20 years to help a Catholic hospital in Italy obtain high tech medical equipment. Pope John Paul II returned Krupp’s gesture in 2000 with a gesture of gratitude: Krupp was invested to a rare Papal Knighthood and now had the ability to initiate many more projects with the Vatican City State and the Catholic Church.



The first project began in 2002, when PTWF facilitated a visit of Rabbis and Jewish scholars to the Vatican Library to view the writings of Maimonides, a revered Torah scholar from the Middle Ages. The group was able to view the original works and clarify questions about the text. This coming together of Catholic and Jewish leaders later led to a loaned exhibit of Maimonides’s works at the Israel Museum in Jerusalem, as well as a preservation project so that every-day people can access the rare manuscripts.

Several of PTWF’s projects – all gestures aimed at building trust between religions – have healed major conflicts between religions. During World War II, Pope Pius XII

came under attack for his supposed lack of action against Hitler's regime in Europe. Through international partnerships with researchers, historians and archivists, PTWF was able to facilitate the publication of primary source documents that revealed Pope Pius XII's secret efforts to help hundreds of thousands of Jews survive during the Holocaust. Additionally, through its partnership with the Greek Orthodox Church, PTWF also facilitated the uncovering of a document signed by the Prophet Muhammad which instructed Muslims to protect Christians and Jews until the end of their days. The Covenant of Protection has allowed for Muslims, Christians, and Jews to heal over a common will to protect. Another initiative facilitated by PTWF is Operation Baby, a collaboration between Christian, Muslim and Jewish entities to help needy Muslim, Jewish and Christian mothers in Israel. Currently, PTWF is working to help Arab minorities persecuted by the conflicts in the Middle East



Much of this work is about disseminating the right information, about changing the narrative around religious conflict in the world. For Krupp, addressing disinformation is one of the most important things we can do to heal these conflicts. That first gesture – and the chain reaction of gestures that follows – are each mechanisms of trust that move us towards a more “positive and practical appreciation of the world’s diverse religions and beliefs.” The act of doing something unexpected and surprising for someone else changes the nature of a relationship, and this is the guiding principle behind what Krupp means to accomplish with PTWF.

It is important for Krupp, however, that the focus is on those that are helped and those that are helping, not about PTWF itself. He says, “We’re not looking for publicity. That

would take away from the gesture, and the gesture is about the different entities, not about the nonprofit or foundation or philanthropist.” The foundation works with a very low budget, and thanks to the executive board, the advisory board, and the Board Chairman Elliot Hershberg, all funds raised go directly to projects. The all-volunteer group of representatives is incredibly active and spread out across 16 countries. This distributed model allows them to focus on their mission rather than their public image.

Their directors have called them “the most famous organization in the world that no one has ever heard of.” This is because PTWF focuses on their primary mission: the gesture. Krupp’s advice for other nonprofits is to recognize that, while they can view their work as a series of gestures that cause great things to happen. “If you consider the larger network of relationships you’re a part of, you can cause a chain-reaction” that builds trust between communities and lasting change.

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*In 2002, Gary and Meredith Krupp founded the [Pave the Way Foundation](#), an organization whose mission is to encourage cultural, educational, charitable, and technological gestures, as well as to recognize and eradicate non-theological obstacles between the faiths. Pave the Way is an international foundation, which actively operates in 16 countries. Prior to his work with Pave the Way, Mr. Krupp had a successful career in manufacturing, and medical development. In 2000 Mr. Krupp was named Knight Commander of the Pontifical Equestrian Order of St. Gregory the Great by Pope John Paul II. He has received numerous awards and honors, including the Jewish National Fund’s Centennial Tree of Life Award, an investment by permission of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II into the Anglican Order of St. John of Jerusalem, the Servitor Pacis Award (Servant of Peace) from the Holy See mission of the United Nations, the Bronze and Silver Benemerenti Medals of Good Works Sacred Constantinian Order of Francis I, the Nostre Aetate Award by Sacred Heart University, the Inside Vatican Magazine’s King Solomon Bridge Builder for Peace Award, the Giuseppe Sciacca International Award for History at the Pontifical Urbaniana University in Rome, and Pope Benedict XVI raised Mr. Krupp to the rank of his pontifical order to Knights Commander with a Silver Star. In 2011, he was named Inside Vatican Magazine’s one of the top ten people in the world. Mr. Krupp is a guest lecturer who has spoken on behalf of the projects of Pave the Way Foundation worldwide. His published compilation of researched documents called Pope Pius XII and World War II-The Documented Truth: A Compilation of International Evidence Revealing the War Time Acts of the Vatican.*

*Krystin Gollihue is a PhD student in the Communication, Rhetoric & Digital Media program at NC State University. Her research explores material publics within Maker communities.*

<https://pj.news.chass.ncsu.edu/2017/03/06/the-power-of-a-gesture/>



# Spirit & Place Festival Blog

New Connections, New Directions

## Noblesse Oblige

Posted on **December 9, 2014**

By **Matt VanScoik**



I recently had the opportunity to go to Rome. Gary Krupp, an author I work with through the author publicity division at my company, Bohlsen Group, used to build medical facilities in New York, but his life has taken a more esoteric turn. For the last few years, Gary and his wife, Mary, have been running a non-

profit called Pave the Way Foundation, whose main goal is to build relationships between religions. They helped the Vatican digitize its archives, are helping to re-open the Orthodox Halki Seminary in Turkey and regularly help arrange interfaith tours to Israel, among numerous other things.

One of the projects they are working on now, be it by providence or happenstance, ended up being assigned to me. “Pope Pius XII and World War II: The Documented Truth” is a compilation of primary-source international evidence that reveals the wartime acts of the Vatican.

The Vatican has had more than its share of public relations problems, and I had always heard, as many have, that Pope Pius XII was either silent during the

***“The most noteworthy***

[+](#) Follow

Holocaust or even complicit. As I began to review the evidence for myself, cracks began to form in what I thought I knew to be true. Although it still seems to me that the Vatican supported Fascist governments to an extent, it is abundantly clear to me that the papal household and the Nazis had a deep gut-wrenching hatred for each other.

Among the interesting things that you can read on



***part of my trip  
was of course  
meeting Pope  
Francis  
himself.”***

**Pave the Way Foundation's** well-organized library of 76,000 pages of documentation are: Nazi intelligence documents that name Pope Pius XII as a collaborator in the famous Valkyrie plot to assassinate Hitler, Nazi plans for the invasion of the Vatican and the assassination of Pius XII, and documents that show how Pius XII used his own life as

leverage to halt the arrest of the Roman Jews.

Every day of this trip to Rome got more and more exciting to me as someone who is interested in military affairs, history and religion. At one point I told Gary that I needed to find a basement, because these jaw dropping experiences required me to find something deeper than floor level to facilitate the further extension of my dentition.

The most noteworthy part of my trip was of course meeting Pope Francis himself during a public audience where we presented him with a coin to commemorate a trip he had made to Israel. I spoke some broken Spanish to him and he shook my hand with the tired but bright eyes of a man carrying the burdens of being both a political and spiritual leader who is trying his best to make a difference in a chaotic world.

**“Noblesse oblige,” is a phrase I kept hearing during my trip. It means with nobility and station, comes great obligation.**

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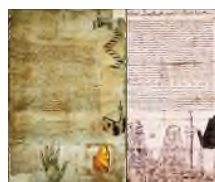
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## **Covenant of Protection from Prophet Muhammad Commands Muslims to Protect Jews and Christians Until the End of Time**

Special to the Jewish Post

Pave the Way Foundation (PTWF) has identified and brought to light an original document from the Prophet Muhammad, indicating that Muslims must protect the "people of the book" (Jews and Christians) and their churches until the end of time. This covenant of protection was given to the monks of the St. Catherine monastery in Egypt, in 628 CE. The original, which remains in the monastery, is imprinted with the hand of the Prophet Muhammad himself.



[Muhammad's  
Covenant](#)

Pave the Way Foundation works to identify and eliminate non-theological obstacles between the faiths throughout the world. This covenant of protection of the Jews and Christians was discovered through the foundation's work to encourage Islamic support for re-opening the Greek Orthodox Halki Seminary in Turkey, closed since 1971.

Recently, PTWF issued five letters to the Turkish government, signed by a group of international Muslim leaders, requesting that the seminary be re-opened. The letters cited the fact that this covenant instructs the followers of Muhammad to protect the people of the book and not to interfere with the houses of their religion. The document serves as religious basis for the request to re-open the Halki seminary.

The covenant is translated as:

"This is a message from Muhammad ibn Abdullah, as a covenant to those who adopt Christianity, near and far, we are with them.

Verily I, the servants, the helpers, and my followers defend them, because Christians are my citizens; and by God! I hold out against anything that displeases them.

No compulsion is to be on them. Neither are their judges to be removed from their jobs nor their monks from their monasteries. No one is to destroy a house of their religion, to damage it, or to carry anything from it to the Muslims' houses.

Should anyone take any of these, he would spoil God's covenant and disobey His Prophet. Verily, they are my allies and have my secure charter against all that they hate.

No one is to force them to travel or to oblige them to fight. The Muslims are to fight for them.

If a female Christian is married to a Muslim, it is not to take place without her approval. She is not to be prevented from visiting her church to pray.



Their churches are to be respected. They are neither to be prevented from repairing them nor the sacredness of their covenants.

No one of the nation (Muslims) is to disobey the covenant till the Last Day (end of the world)."

Commenting on this most important document, PTWF Advisor Sheikh Syed Agha Jafri stated, "During these days when violence in the name of religion is commonplace, it is even more significant to raise worldwide awareness of this covenant of protection.

The document gives a clear order of protection, in the name of Islam, of the people of the book, means the Jews and the Christians. It is likely that very few Muslims around the world are aware that this covenant exists, even amongst the Muslim population.

This should be trumpeted worldwide to oppose those whose private agendas have insulted and sullied Islam by encouraging violence in its name."

Gary Krupp, President of PTWF, stated, "The enemies of peace are the extremists that exist within each of our faiths. Religious violence comes about from the 'tail wagging the dog' where extreme minorities instigate hatred and violence, violating benevolent precepts common to the Abrahamic faiths. If peace is ever to be achieved, Jews must take responsibility for Jewish extremists, Christians must take responsibility for Christian extremists, and Muslims must take responsibility for Muslim extremists."

\* \* \*

About Pave the Way Foundation: PTWF is a nonsectarian foundation whose mission is to identify and work to resolve non-theological obstacles between religions through the trust garnered from our work to initiate historic gestures between the faiths "paving the way" to removing the use of religion as a tool to justify private agendas and violence.

\* \* \*

#### PAVE THE WAY'S RESEARCH

During PTWF research with the Greek Orthodox Church, they have located numerous documents hand signed by Muhammad granting permanent protection to Christians and to their churches. These documents have been in existence since the original order given by Muhammad in 628 ACE. PTWF has located several recent documents which sustain the original charter of rights.

They question why are these mandates not known to the Muslim world? Why does the media avoid reporting these critical religious instructions?

PTWF believes that any Muslim who violates these mandates is insulting Islam and insulting the Prophet Muhammad.

The copies of these covenants contain a picture of hand. This image, plus original wax seals, were touched and approved by the Prophet Muhammad, Blessings and Peace be upon him. Predate the compilation of the Sunnah, the covenants carry the same legal authority as the Holy Qur'an.

These covenants order the followers of the Prophet, Blessings and Peace be upon him, to protect peaceful Christians, Jews, and other allied communities until the end of days. They order that churches, synagogues and Holy Shrines must be protected. They declare that Christians and Jews are believers in one God who form an integral part of the Muslim Ummah or Community. They are not infidelss.

What has happened? The existence of these covenants has been hidden from the believers, by agents of Satan who lie and pervert the goodness of Islam for their evil purposes. These agents of Satan are

disguised as religious leaders to trick the good people into performing evil acts, which are not in service of Allah but only serve Satan. How many of these false leaders, who preached violence and hatred, have sent their own children out to die?

PTWF and its supporters want to warn all true Muslims who listen to the lies of these agents of Satan to repent if they wish to save their souls. Do not act on their evil demands, do not give them money or any support, shun them and denounce them if you truly wish to enter paradise.

They urge to true believers to join them and sign the Covenant Initiative, to expose the evil doers who only bring international hatred and fear of Islam. Current signers of the Initiative are included in this report.

\* \* \*

PTWF gratefully acknowledges Dr. John Andrew Morrow for his images of the Covenants.

\* \* \*

#### SIGNATORIES TO THE COVENANT'S INITIATIVE

Imam Feisal Abdul Rauf, Cordoba Initiative  
 Kathryn Qahira Santana  
 Marina (Nouria) Bouteillier, Los Angeles Beloved Sufis  
 Yousef Casewit, Yale University  
 Farah Kimball, International Peace Project  
 Zachary Markwith, Graduate Theological Union  
 Luqman Ali  
 Charles Daines  
 AdamDeen, The Deen Institute  
 Professor Alan Godlas, University of Georgia  
 Shaikh Kabir Helminski, The Threshold Society  
 Dr. Jeremy Henzell-Thomas, The Book Foundation  
 Irving Karchmar  
 Qaisra Ehsan Khan  
 Amnah Malik  
 Sadat Malik  
 Dr. John Parks, M.D.  
 Saqib Safdar, Tarbeyah: An Exploration of Spirituality, Parenting and Education  
 Yusuf A.H. Salaam, Ohio Kentucky Indiana World Trade Group ETC  
 Dr. Reza Shah-Kazemi, Institute of Ismaili Studies  
 Kamal Southall  
 Alicia Carrara  
 Hector Manzolillo  
 Matthew Johnson  
 Dr. Aida Shahlar Gasimova, Baku State University  
 Dr. Omid Safi, University of Delaware  
 Dr. Hisham M. Ramadan, Kwantlen Polytechnic University  
 Dr. Bridget Blomfield, University of Nebraska  
 Dr. Said Mentak, University Mohamed I  
 Dr. Mohamed Elkouche, Mohamed I University  
 Dr. Muhammad-Reza Fakhri-Rohani, University of Qom  
 Dr. Amar Sellam, Mohamed I University  
 Charles Upton, Covenants Initiative  
 Rachida Bejjia, Quality Counseling & Psychological Services  
 Dr. John Andrew Morrow, The Covenants Initiative  
 Saimma Dyer  
 Daniel Dyer  
 Nigel Jackson, Artist and Illustrator  
 Dr. Cyrus Ali Zargar, Augustana College  
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 Safeer Siddiqui, Ahmadiyya Muslim Jama'at  
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# Little Known Covenants of Prophet Muhammad Made Known through Pave The Way Foundation's International Advertising Campaign

Wed Dec 3, 2014 8:30am EST

\* Reuters is not responsible for the content in this press release.

## Little Known Covenants of Prophet Muhammad Made Known through Pave The Way Foundation's International Advertising Campaign

**Covenants ordering followers to protect Jews and Christians provide effective tool to true Muslims opposing the illegal use of their religion to justify violence.**

PR Newswire

WANTAGH, N.Y., Dec. 3, 2014

WANTAGH, N.Y., Dec. 3, 2014 /PRNewswire/ -- [Pave the Way Foundation \(PTWF\)](#) has initiated an international [advertising](#) campaign to give an effective tool to true Muslims who oppose the illegal use of their religion to justify the violence occurring worldwide. The original covenants, some of which were signed with the palm print of the Prophet Muhammad, and others signed with the wax seal of his ring, order his followers to protect the people of the book (Jews and Christians), their synagogues, churches and holy shrines until the end of days.

Photo - <http://photos.prnewswire.com/prnh/20141202/162033>

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According to Imam Ilyas 'Abd al-'Alim Islam (Dr. John Andrew Morrow), these covenants, which have been further sustained through the centuries by multiple Islamic rulers, carry the same legal authority as the Holy Q'uran. Imam Islam also stated that those who have committed acts of violence against innocent people have insulted the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) and insulted Islam and should be punished for these violations.

"Imam Ilyas 'Abd al-'Alim Islam is a respected Islamic scholar and recently published a

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/12/03/pave-the-way-foundati-idUSn7kzCW9+86+PRN20141203>

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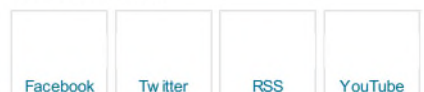
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book of his research into the over 20 Covenants of the Prophet Muhammad with the Jews and Christians of the World," said Elliot Hershberg, Chairman of PTWF. "Imam Islam also started the Covenants Initiative, where hundreds of important Islamic leaders have signed on to indicate the validity and importance of these documents. These covenants give peace-loving Muslims a tool to combat those who have hijacked their religion by committing acts of violence against innocent Jews, Christians and Muslims around the world in the name of Islam."

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### About Pave the Way Foundation

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### Media Contact:

Doyle Mills

2126290046

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## News Feed Item

## Little Known Covenants of Prophet Muhammad Made Known through Pave The Way Foundation's International Advertising Campaign

*Covenants ordering followers to protect Jews and Christians provide effective tool to true Muslims opposing the illegal use of their religion to justify violence.*

BY PR NEWSWIRE

ARTICLE RATING:

DECEMBER 3, 2014 08:30 AM EST



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Photo - <http://photos.prnewswire.com/prnh/20141202/162033>

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#### Which Comes First? Microservices or DevOps?

By Phil Whelan



It is easy to look at the unicorn companies of our world, most notably Netflix, and say, "That's it! That's how we should be doing it". Whether it's

DevOps or Microservices, they seem to have it nailed. Most people assume that to get there is a matter of following a few simple steps and picking up a few new tools. Companies that are already there, or rather getting there, didn't get to where they...

Dec. 3, 2014 03:30 PM EST Reads: 383

#### Disruptive Cloud Innovations and IoT

By Gilad Parann-Nissany



The global village, mobile devices, online marketplaces, social networks, and on-demand entertainment all have a part to play. People all over the world are increasing the time they spend in the virtual world. They're buying, selling, sharing, studying, developing apps, hanging out in social networks, and starting to use digital currencies that bypass traditional banking.

Alongside these communit...

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#### IoT Transforms Smart City Living

By Esmeralda Swartz



In the last blog, we explored real world examples of smart cities and highlighted one such example in the São Paulo state of Brazil. What makes this an

exciting model for other cities to evaluate and perhaps emulate is that it touches many city services that we can all relate to. It also makes the impact of a smart city on industry and society highly visible. Where does it all start? With infrast...

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#### Internet of Things, Data and APIs

By Roberto Medrano



When something as simple as an API can integrate massive amounts of data into, and through, a wide variety of applications, any company can be a digital enterprise. There is a perception that some industries are using technology to innovate, while others languish in antiquated ways of running their business. But in our massively connected age, it's rare to find examples



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Published December 3, 2014

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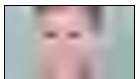
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### Slides: Charles Goldberg 'Data in the Cloud'

By Elizabeth White



As enterprises look to take advantage of the cloud, they need to understand the importance of safeguarding their confidential and sensitive data in cloud environments. Enterprises must protect their data from (i) system administrators who don't need to see the data in the clear and (ii) adversaries who become system administrators from stolen credentials. In short, enterprises must take control of their data: The best way to do this is by using advanced encryption, centralized key management and...

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### Slides: Greg Bruno 'The Pain Curve'

By Liz McMillan



Due to the rise of Hadoop, many enterprises are now deploying their first small clusters of 10 to 20 servers. At this small scale, the complexity of operating the cluster looks and feels like general data center servers. It is not until the clusters scale, as they inevitably do, when the pain caused by the exponential complexity becomes apparent. We've seen this problem occur time and time again. In his session at Big Data Expo, Greg Bruno, Vice President of Engineering and co-founder of StackI...

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### 'Moving to the Cloud'

By Elizabeth White  
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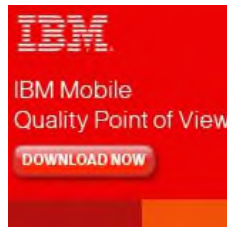
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By Scott Jensen  
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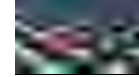


Juliet's lament is often mistakenly thought of as 'where are you Romeo?' when it actually means, 'Why must you be a Montague?' It is Romeo's family and their struggle against the Capulets that keeps these two star-crossed lovers apart. Beacons, like Romeo, also have a bit of a name – a heritage – that seems to set them apart from the mainstream. In fact, the term 'beacon' has grown into such a...

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### DevOps Role in Troubleshooting

By ChandraShekar Dattatreya



The JVM issues vary from Java OutOfMemory Error to JVM Crash. Application developers might be not completely equipped to determine the root cause of the issue, hence DevOps can play a vital role in narrowing down the issue and connecting the right people/team to rectify the problem. Application developers can deploy their applications with success in a staging or QA environment and broadcast th...

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### Infographic: The Modern IT and DevOps Toolkit

By Trevor Parsons



Over the past year I reckon I have spoken to more than a thousand Developers/IT Os/DevOps folk through customer calls, demos of Logentries, at conferences such as Velocity, DevOpsDays, AWS re:Invent as well as a bunch of other more low key meetups across US and Europe. Naturally, one of the first questions I tend to ask is: "hey what do you use for logging?" Quickly followed by: "What other ...

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### Why You Need a BYOD Plan, Now!

By Rick Delgado



Though the problems seem daunting, the trend toward BYOD adoption doesn't appear to be slowing. Many organizations see the drawbacks of BYOD but determine that the benefits are worth the extra risks. As long as companies practice common sense security policies such as app restrictions, data encryption on devices, and enforcement of BYOD rules, any damage caused by security incidents should be mini...

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### Product Review: Cyberoam CR10iNG

By Dave Greten



Data security has long been thought the exclusive domain of large enterprises. Why would cyber-criminals bother with small and midsized companies when the

big prizes are to be found hacking into large organizations? Unfortunately an increasing number of smaller companies find themselves at risk of infiltration, antivirus corruption, and data theft. Hackers are catching on that smaller offices are...

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### The 'Internet of Things' Is Not Coming. It's Here

By Craig Panigiris



The "internet of things" is not coming. It's here.

Driven by the introduction of low-cost "things" that are **actually useful**, Silicon Valley's promised land of a wirelessly-linked network of everyday objects is slowly becoming a reality. And for those who see the data-gathering potential, the prosp...

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### ES6 & Javascript in Harmony

By Trevor Parsons



ECMAScript 6 brings powerful new capabilities and some tasty syntactical sugar to the ubiquitous Javascript language, as it continues to grab an ever increasing slice of developer mindshare. Now that the ES6 feature set is frozen and just minor refinements will be made over the coming months, much of this new functionality has already landed in modern browsers, and will continue to roll out wit...

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### From On-Premise to Infrastructure as a Service

By Michael Meiner

## How to Architect and Optimize Your Cloud

By Pat Romanski



Performance is the intersection of power, agility, control, and choice. If you value performance, and more specifically consistent performance, you need to look beyond simple virtualized compute. Many factors need to be considered to create a truly performant environment. In his General Session at 15th Cloud Expo, Harold Hannon, Sr. Software Architect at SoftLayer, discussed how to take advantage of a multitude of compute options and platform features to make cloud the cornerstone of your onlin...

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## Slides: Anand Akela ‘User-Centric APM’

By Pat Romanski



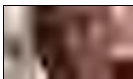
In today's application economy, enterprise organizations realize that it's their applications that are the heart and soul of their business. If their application users have a bad experience, their revenue and reputation are at stake. In his session at 15th Cloud Expo, Anand Akela, Senior Director of Product Marketing for Application Performance Management at CA Technologies, discussed how a user-centric Application Performance Management solution can help inspire your users with every applicati...

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## Slides: Andrei Yurkevich ‘Bosh vs JuJu’

By Elizabeth White



In his session at DevOps Summit, Andrei Yurkevich, CTO at Altoros, provided an overview of all the benefits and opportunities, as well as drawbacks of deploying Cloud Foundry PaaS with Juju and compared it to BOSH. Discover the features that overlap, and understand what Juju Charm is, what it is not, where you use one or the other or where you use both BOSH and Juju Charms together. Andrei Yurkevich is Cloud Foundry protagonist and CTO at Altoros. Under his supervision, the Altoros engineering ...

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## Derek Tumulak Interview ‘Locking Down Data’

By Pat Romanski



"Vormetric is a data security company. We secure information at rest and our customers are some of the largest organizations in the world. The threats that are coming around today are either from state-sponsored activities and organized crime, and the intent is to steal information," explained Derek Tumulak, Vice President of Product Management at Vormetric, in this SYS-CON.tv interview at Cloud Expo, held Nov 4–6, 2014, at the Santa Clara Convention Center in Santa Clara, CA.

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## Seth Proctor Interview ‘SQL Databases’

By Elizabeth White



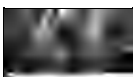
"NuoDB is a transactionally consistent SQL database that does scale out, that does all the things you want in a cloud. If you want more transactional throughput, if you want higher availability if you want to run in multiple data centers this is a technology that can scale and still provide a single logical consistent database," explained Seth Proctor, CTO of NuoDB, in this SYS-CON.tv interview at Cloud Expo, held Nov 4–6, 2014, at the Santa Clara Convention Center in Santa Clara, CA.

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## Ian Khan Interview ‘Monetize the Cloud’

By Elizabeth White



"In our world there's a lot of cloud. Our focus is to help companies, who are bogged down by the enormousness of the cloud and infrastructure, to really go out there and monetize the cloud," explained Ian Khan, Global Strategic Positioning & Brand Manager at Solgenia, in this SYS-CON.tv interview at Cloud Expo, held Nov 4–6, 2014, at the Santa Clara Convention Center in Santa Clara, CA.

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## Slides: John Hatem ‘Moving to the Cloud’

By Elizabeth White



Once the decision has been made to move part or all of a workload to the cloud, a methodology for selecting that workload needs to be established. How do you move to the cloud? What does the discovery, assessment and planning look like? What workloads make sense? Which cloud model makes sense for each workload? What are the considerations for how to select the right cloud model? And how does that fit in with the overall IT transformation?

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## Splunk Launches IoT Ad Campaign

By Elizabeth White



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My first blog showed how to move to Infrastructure as a Service (IaaS) using Tomcat. This blog will show how to do the same using WebLogic Server, deploying webapps via eclipse to a remote WebLogic instance running in the cloud. Let's sa



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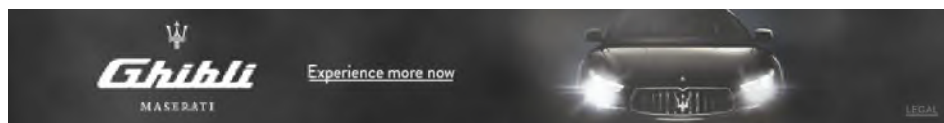
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# PTWF Commends Palestinian Muslim Professor Mohammad Dajani for Taking Al-Quds University

## Students on Historic Visit to Auschwitz

PTWF applauds Professor Dajani's efforts to educate Palestinian students on the true history of the Holocaust.

PR Newswire

NEW YORK, April 14, 2014

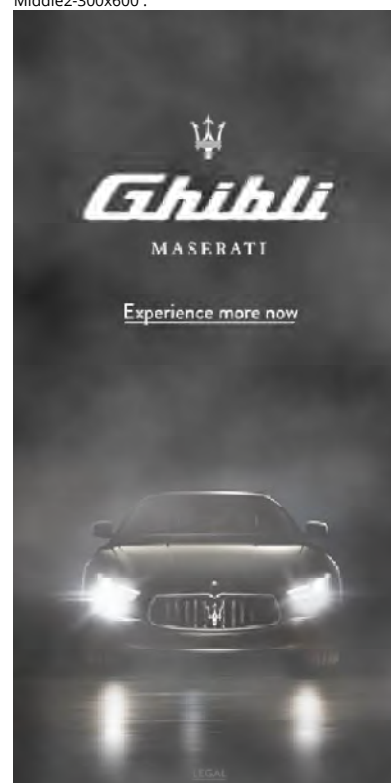
NEW YORK, April 14, 2014 /PRNewswire-USNewswire/ -- [Pave the Way Foundation \(PTWF\)](#), a nonsectarian organization whose mission is to achieve peace by eliminating non-theological obstacles and initiating historic gestures between the world's religions, commends the recent actions of Professor Mohammad S. Dajani Daoudi in his sincere effort to achieve peace through truth and historical accuracy. Professor Dajani [recently brought 30 Palestinian university students to visit the Auschwitz concentration camp](#).

Mohammed S. Dajani Daoudi is the founder of the [Wasatia](#) movement, which promotes moderation in Islam, and the director of the American Studies department at Al-Quds University.

Facing criticism from some Palestinian leaders, Professor Dajani conducted this historic visit to Auschwitz in order to reveal the truth of Jewish suffering during the Holocaust. [PTWF](#) commends Professor Dajani for his important efforts to show the true history of the Holocaust, to counter an atmosphere of Holocaust denial and historical revision, aimed only to incite hatred.

[Gary Krupp, Founder and President of PTWF](#), stated, "Throughout history, those with private agendas have distorted history to achieve their goals. The masses have been deceived by manipulating media in concert with these efforts. Media manipulation has been a necessary tool to inspire hatred, violence and war."

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Professor Mohammed Dajani has inspired countless Palestinian students to achieve their legitimate aspirations by recognizing the virtues of the three faiths of Abraham.

[Chairman of PTWF, Elliot Hershberg](#), said, "The precepts of Islam, Christianity, and Judaism demand justice through truth. Yet, some will attempt to revise history to justify provocative actions and statements. A solid foundation of truth from all sides is essential if peace in the Middle East is ever to be achieved."

#### About Pave the Way Foundation

[PTWF](#) is a nonsectarian public foundation working to identify and resolve obstacles between religions through cultural, educational and technological gestures. Our mission is to ultimately remove the use of religion as a tool to justify private agendas.

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Doyle Mills

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# Little Known Covenants of Prophet Muhammad Made Known through Pave The Way Foundation's International Advertising Campaign

Wed Dec 3, 2014 8:30am EST

\* Reuters is not responsible for the content in this press release.

## Little Known Covenants of Prophet Muhammad Made Known through Pave The Way Foundation's International Advertising Campaign

**Covenants ordering followers to protect Jews and Christians provide effective tool to true Muslims opposing the illegal use of their religion to justify violence.**

PR Newswire

WANTAGH, N.Y., Dec. 3, 2014

WANTAGH, N.Y., Dec. 3, 2014 /PRNewswire/ -- [Pave the Way Foundation \(PTWF\)](#) has initiated an international [advertising](#) campaign to give an effective tool to true Muslims who oppose the illegal use of their religion to justify the violence occurring worldwide. The original covenants, some of which were signed with the palm print of the Prophet Muhammad, and others signed with the wax seal of his ring, order his followers to protect the people of the book (Jews and Christians), their synagogues, churches and holy shrines until the end of days.

Photo - <http://photos.prnewswire.com/prnh/20141202/162033>

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Through PTWF director [John Catsimatidis](#), PTWF has initiated and funded an international advertising campaign to call attention to the little-known Covenants of Protection. The online ads provide images of these covenants and are linked to more information on the foundations website, [www.ptwf.org](http://www.ptwf.org), where images and translated text from the covenants can be found.

According to Imam Ilyas 'Abd al-'Alim Islam (Dr. John Andrew Morrow), these covenants, which have been further sustained through the centuries by multiple Islamic rulers, carry the same legal authority as the Holy Q'uran. Imam Islam also stated that those who have committed acts of violence against innocent people have insulted the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) and insulted Islam and should be punished for these violations.

"Imam Ilyas 'Abd al-'Alim Islam is a respected Islamic scholar and recently published a

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/12/03/pave-the-way-foundati-idUSn7kzCW9+86+PRN20141203>

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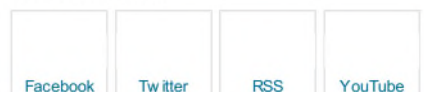
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book of his research into the over 20 Covenants of the Prophet Muhammad with the Jews and Christians of the World," said Elliot Hershberg, Chairman of PTWF. "Imam Islam also started the Covenants Initiative, where hundreds of important Islamic leaders have signed on to indicate the validity and importance of these documents. These covenants give peace-loving Muslims a tool to combat those who have hijacked their religion by committing acts of violence against innocent Jews, Christians and Muslims around the world in the name of Islam."

Gary Krupp, President of PTWF, stated, "We have found that knowledge of these covenants can make a difference in addressing important issues. In 2012, on behalf of 300 million Orthodox Christians, PTWF requested that the Turkish government reopen the Halki Seminary in Istanbul, closed since 1971. In partnership with international Muslim leaders, we sent a letter containing information about the existence of these covenants to Prime Minister Erdogan of [Turkey](#). As a direct result of this effort, Dr. Mehmet Gormez, the highest Islamic authority in Turkey, visited Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew of Constantinople on July 5, 2012, embracing him and stating that, in the name of Islam, the seminary should be opened."

### About Pave the Way Foundation

[PTWF](#) is a nonsectarian public foundation working to identify and resolve obstacles between religions through cultural, educational and technological gestures. Our mission is to ultimately remove the use of religion as a tool to justify private agendas.

### Media Contact:

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2126290046

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# VATICAN



**ALICE VON HILDEBRAND**



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## TOP TEN 2010



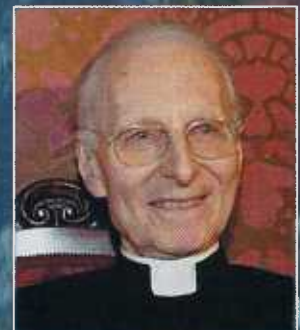
**GARY KRUPP**



**VELASIO DE PAOLIS**



**DOMENICO BARTOLUCCI**



**BRUNERO GHERARDINI**

## FOR A BETTER 2011



**JOSÉ HENRIQUEZ**



**WENDY WRIGHT**



**PEDRO OPEKA**



# Top Ten People 2010

**A**gain this year, as every year, we are pleased to publish *Inside the Vatican's* selections for the "Top Ten People" of the year just past. As always, the list is inadequate, since many deserving people were not chosen. But the list serves a purpose: it presents to all of us examples of heroic action, of courageous fidelity, of sacrificial love, of zeal for justice—in short, of virtue to be imitated.

We chose two women and eight men; we could just as easily have chosen two men and eight women.

## 1. ALICE VON HILDEBRAND

A Catholic philosopher who has defended the faith for a lifetime

## 2. FATHER PEDRO OPEKA

A missionary in Africa for 30 years who has saved thousands from life on garbage heaps

## 3. JOSÉ HENRIGUEZ

The "spiritual guide" of the 33 miners who were buried, then saved, this year in Chile

## 4. WENDY WRIGHT

An American woman who is one of the leading voices in the world in defending innocent life

## 5. BROTHER BENEDETTO POSSAMATO

An Italian religious who visits the world's poorest nations and constructs clinics for those without medical care

We have chosen humble missionaries who work in obscurity but who have brought the love of Christ to thousands around the world.

And we have chosen Princes of the Church, cardinals who are close advisors of the Pope, who are carrying out important tasks of great delicacy with courage and energy.

All are Catholics except one: Gary Krupp. Though Jewish, Krupp, together with his wife, has become one of the greatest defenders of Pope Pius XII.

## 6. GARY KRUPP

A Jewish American who has emerged as the leading defender of Pope Pius XII

## 7. CARDINAL DOMENICO BARTOLUCCI

A defender of the Church's musical tradition

## 8. CARDINAL VELASIO DE PAOLIS

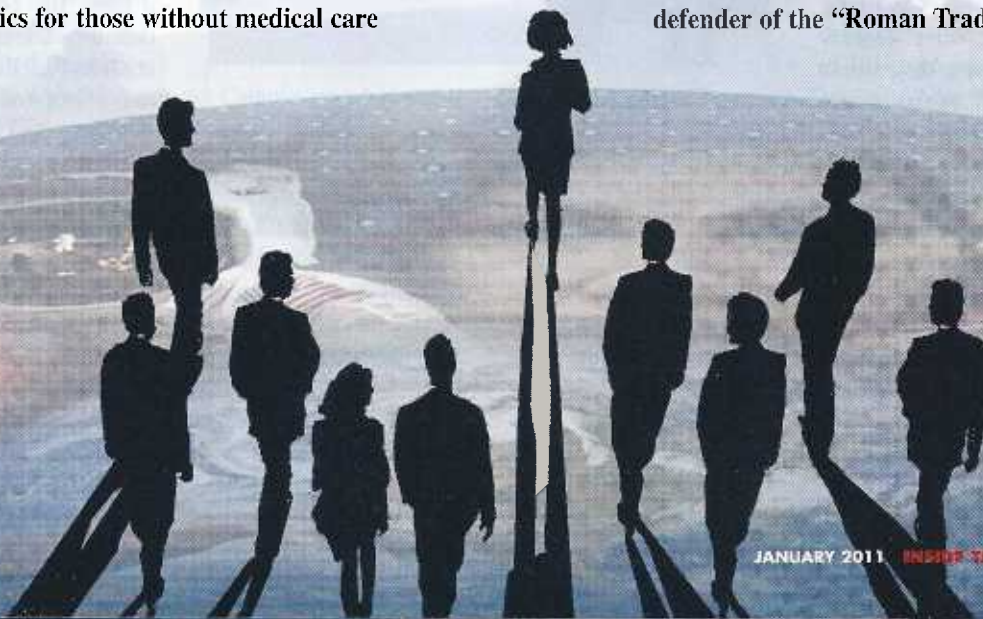
A leading canon lawyer, he is now carrying out the delicate task of renewing the Legionaries of Christ

## 9. CARDINAL RAFFAELE FARINA

A Salesian scholar, he has brought to conclusion the historic 3-year restoration of the Vatican Apostolic Library

## 10. MONSIGNOR BRUNERO GHERARDINI

This Italian theologian is the last and greatest living defender of the "Roman Tradition" in theology







Below, Gary Krupp (above) and his wife, Meredith, recently met Pope Benedict XVI

### GARY KRUPP

**T**ruth is a precious commodity, though that is often forgotten nowadays. People who love the truth, search for it, and are committed to finding it are rare figures. That is why Gary Krupp is so remarkable.

As a young man growing up in New York, he heard and read disturbing things about the Catholic Church, and in particular, its leader, at the time of the Second World War (1939-1945), Pope Pius XII: that Pius had “failed the Jewish community” during the Holocaust through his “silence,” “indifference,” and “passivity.” Since Gary is Jewish, he was quite sensitive to these charges. He became angrier and angrier. “No one,” he recalls today, “was more opposed to Pius XII than I.”

Then, something unexpected happened. Despite his misgivings about the Church, his line of work as a developer of medical facilities brought him into close relations with the Vatican. In 2000, John Paul II made him the 7th Jewish papal night in history — a Knight Commander of the Order of St. Gregory the Great — after Krupp saved Italian Catholic hospitals millions of dollars in equipment acquisition costs over 25 years through his free consultation work.

After he retired, Gary and his wife, Meredith, started the Pave the Way Foundation, an organization dedicated to identifying and eliminating non-theological obstacles to better relations between the world’s religions. In 2006, Krupp helped facilitate the donation to the Vatican Library of one of the most important Christian manuscripts in the world, the Bodmer Papyrus (containing portions of the Gospels of St. Luke and St. John and dating to 175 A.D.). On January 22, 2007, the papyrus was presented to Pope Benedict XVI.

Krupp and his wife then turned their attention to the ongoing dispute over Pius XII. Krupp familiarized himself with the major anti-Pius literature until he knew all its claims, inside out. Then, methodically, he began examining the veracity of each charge, consulting experts, studying primary documents, and interviewing key witnesses from the wartime period. After months of research, something close to shock set in. Gary found “unpleasant truths” all right, but not the sort he had imagined.

What he discovered was that almost everything he had heard and read about Pius XII was not only false, but positively defamatory.

Pius XII, it turned out, was among the greatest benefactors of Jews in modern times.

Determined to right a historical wrong, Gary utilized Pave the Way’s resources, bringing in new contacts, and moved into action. He began writing op-ed pieces and appearing on television and radio shows to spread his message, sometimes in the face of stiff resistance. The anti-Pius establishment, he quickly learned, does not like being challenged.

In 2008, Pave the Way sponsored a three-day symposium in Rome on Pius XII, bringing together some of the top Pius specialists in the world. It garnered international attention and ended with a supportive speech by Benedict XVI, who has since declared Pius XII “Venerable.” Pave the Way has also published a huge illustrated volume highlighting evidence supporting Pius XII, and continues to compile documentary evidence clearing his good name.

Even the mainstream media has taken note. Early last March, the *New York Times* published a front-page article profile of Gary, under the title, “Wartime Pope has a Huge Fan: A Jewish Knight.” The article was uneven, at best, but also a sign that Krupp could no longer

be ignored. The *Times* piece led many people to Pave the Way’s website ([www.ptwf.org](http://www.ptwf.org)), where they could examine the abundance of evidence — primary archival documents, interviews with first-hand witnesses, scholarly articles, etc. — discussing and documenting the evidence surrounding Pius XII. Among Pave the Way’s files are revelations about Pius XII’s efforts to help persecuted Jews and resist anti-Semitism, before and after he became Pope; accounts of his involvement in plots to overthrow Hitler (Pius was actually cited by the Nazis themselves as a co-conspirator); and a striking first-hand testimony (now available on YouTube) from Archbishop Giovanni Fer-

rofino, a papal representative, who worked closely with Pius to help rescue 10,000 endangered Jews out of Nazi-occupied Europe, and get them to safety in the Dominican Republic.

Krupp has never claimed to be an academic or a professional historian; he is simply an ordinary citizen in search of truth. But he also knows that the quality of the evidence, not the number of degrees someone has, should determine that; and he has been more than happy to allow the evidence he has gathered speak for itself.

For his efforts on behalf of truth and historical justice, *Inside the Vatican* is pleased to honor Gary Krupp as one of its “Top Ten” people of 2010.

— By *Inside the Vatican* Staff






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## St. Thomas Aquinas College Slates 55th Commencement for Friday, May 11th

posted May 9, 2012 8:40 AM by Bridget Clark

**Gary Krupp, founder of "Pave the Way Foundation to address graduates.**

The St. Thomas Aquinas College 55<sup>th</sup> Commencement is scheduled for Friday, May 11<sup>th</sup> at 2 p.m. Just over 400 students will graduate with associate, bachelors, masters' degrees or post graduate certificates. The graduates will receive their diplomas on the College's sprawling lawn.

This year, the commencement address will be given by Gary Krupp, founder of the *Pave the Way Foundation*, an organization whose mission is to encourage cultural, educational, charitable and technological gestures, as well as to recognize and eradicate non-theological obstacles between the faiths. Mr. Krupp will also receive an Honorary Doctor of Commercial Science degree.

Additional honorary degree recipients include Richard F. Connolly (Doctor of Commercial Science), Ann Marie Connolly (Doctor of Pedagogy), John J. Ferguson (Doctor of Laws), Karen S. Ferguson (Doctor of Humane Letters) and Meredith S. Krupp (Doctor of Humane Letters),

Over 2,500 family and friends typically attend this annual event. In the case of inclement weather, the ceremony will take place in the Aquinas Hall Gymnasium and the audience will be limited to ticket holders for the indoor event.

For more information about the Commencement ceremony, contact the College's Institutional Advancement Office at 845-498-4020. For a full list of graduates, please contact Bridget Clark at 845-398-4016.

### About Gary Krupp

Gary Krupp founded the *Pave the Way Foundation* alongside his wife, Meredith in 2002. Pave the Way is an international foundation, existing in countries such as Italy, France, Switzerland, Israel, Poland, Serbia, India, South America and the United Kingdom to name a few. In 2000, Mr. Krupp was named Knight Commander of the Pontifical Equestrian Order of St. Gregory the Great by Pope John Paul II. He is also the recipient of the Jewish National Fund's Centennial Tree of Life Award and in 2005 he was invested, by permission of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, into the Anglican Order of S. John of Jerusalem.

**St. Thomas Aquinas College** is an independent liberal arts college located in Sparkill, NY which provides education at the undergraduate and graduate levels. The College's 2,700 full and part time students can choose from almost 100 different majors, minors, specializations, and dual degree programs across three schools: Arts & Sciences, Business Administration; and Teacher Education. For more information, visit [www.stac.edu](http://www.stac.edu).

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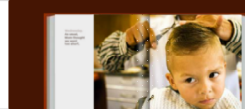
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### Prodigal Son gift for Alappuzha museum

February 17, 2012 By T. Sudheesh DC Alappuzha  
Tags: Museum

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Prodigal Son.

Prodigal Son.

In a first for any Indian museum, the US-based Pave the Way Foundation has donated a statue of the Prodigal Son to Ravi Karuna Karan Memorial Museum here.

Weighing about 600 kg, the seven-foot bronze statue is the work of renowned Israeli sculptor Sam Philipe, whose models have been installed across the world, including the Vatican. It will be installed on the museum's courtyard early March, an official said.

A Biblical character, Prodigal Son is the mythical young man who wandered far away from his father and found trouble awaiting him.

According to a museum official, the foundation learnt about them on the Internet and, impressed with the facilities, sent the museum authorities a letter showing interest in donating the bronze statue.

"We have identified that installation of the monument could make an added advantage at the museum. We donate the statue aimed at improving inter-religious relations and encouraging intra-religious relations," the letter stated.

Betty Karan constructed the museum in 2006 in memory of her late husband Ravi Karuna Karan, a coir exporter.

This museum at Alappuzha houses over 3,500 pieces of ivory carvings, antiques, paintings, crystal pieces, porcelain objects and other items.

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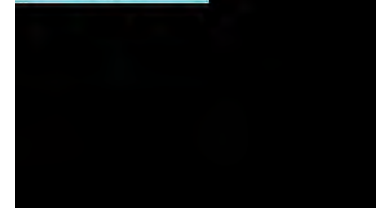
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e giornalista francese  
Dominique Lapierre**



*He is a New Yorker, a businessman in the field of medical equipment and committed through his foundation to various cultural cooperation projects in the West and in the Holy Land. He is convinced that someone must "pave the way" between Judaism and Christianity.*

# GARY KRUPP

## A Jew at the Vatican

BY MANUELA BORRACCINO

(34)

**I**n January, 2005, he brought to the Vatican 160 personalities from the Jewish world to thank John Paul II "for all he has done to draw the Catholic Church closer to the people of Israel." It became a historic meeting with the Polish Pope a few months before his death. Few people knew that this New York businessman was one of the three Jews at that time (now there are seven) invested in 2000 into the Pontifical Equestrian Order of St. Gregory the Great. Today, after the commitment through his foundation "to remove the non-theological obstacles among religions," Gary Krupp is engaged in a difficult battle "to reestablish the historical truth about how Pius XII saved over 800,000 Jews" from Nazi rage. Even the New York Times dedicated a front page article to him last year. This is a sign that even the main media outlets can no longer ignore this charismatic 64-year-old Jewish philanthropist, "enthused with Pope Pacelli." Krupp numbers among his friends American busi-

nessmen and politicians, regularly meets Israeli ministers and rabbis, and for 11 years has been part of the pontifical family.

**CHILDREN OF ONE GOD.** Born into a Jewish family in the Big Apple, Krupp recalls that it was his mother, through her secular education which respected pluralism, who sowed the seeds leading him in 2002 to found the Pave the Way Foundation. "When I was small my mother taught me how each of us could pray differently to God but how we all believed in the one God. This, along with the friendship of our Irish Catholic neighbors, allowed me to grow up without the fear or rejection of Christians which occurs with many practicing Jews," he explains. During his life, which led him to head a well-known medical equipment company in New York, his admiration grew for the humanitarian work the Catholic Church does in the world. By the end of the 1980s the fame of this businessman, highly esteemed by the New

York archdiocese, had reached the Vatican. On Long Island and in the Bronx, he had opened the first diagnostic centers using CAT scans and magnetic imaging. He also was the main provider of equipment to dialysis centers in the metropolitan area. Thus, in 1989 he was contacted by Bishop Riccardo Ruotolo, then president of the hospital founded by Padre Pio in San Giovanni Rotondo. "Thanks to my experi-

**MEETING**  
Benedict XVI  
and Gary Krupp



## Paving the Way to Dialogue

Founded in 2002 by Gary Krupp and his wife, Meredith, the Pave the Way Foundation is a non-denominational organization started to "pave the way" in the relations among religions with the aim of giving life to projects of educational and cultural cooperation among exponents of various faiths to counter violent extremism perpetrated in the name of God. Included among the projects begun by the foundation is the digitalization by an Israeli company of a series of ancient manuscripts and archaeological fragments safeguarded in the archives of the Custody of the Holy Land.

The Web site, [www.pavethewayfoundation.org](http://www.pavethewayfoundation.org), has even become a source of information about the papacy of Pius XII with video and testimony by protagonists in the protecting of numerous Jews by the Catholic Church during World War II.

ence and my contacts, I succeeded in giving them a hand," he recalls.

In a little more than a decade, Krupp had provided at no cost equipment valued at \$25 million to the House for the Relief of the Suffering. In 2000 this earned him investiture in the Pontifical Equestrian Order of St. Gregory the Great.

**CREATING TIES.** "The great honor John Paul II gave me, by admitting me with a small number of other Jews to the pontifical family, encouraged me to strengthen the ties between Catholics and Jews and between the Catholic Church and the State of Israel," he explains.

Thus, the Pave the Way Foundation was born. It is a non-denominational organization for cooperation among religions and has members of various faiths. After having embraced the idea of convincing Israel to turn over

the Cenacle (Upper Room) in Jerusalem to the Catholic Church (an initiative still unfulfilled), Krupp succeeded in another mission impossible. In 2006, the Apostolic Library authorized the loan to the state Museum of Israel of the manuscripts of Maimonides, among the treasures of the Vatican. The next year, Krupp convinced a Lebanese millionaire to peel off a seven figure check for the donation to the Holy See of the precious Bodmer Papyrus, presumably the oldest Gospel in the world, appearing around 150 A.D. Other cultural projects are underway with the Orthodox Patriarchate in Athens, the Franciscan Custody of the Holy Land and with the Grand Rabbinate of Israel.

**THE POPE WHO SAVED THE JEWS.** The harshest battle started when Krupp became interested in the periodic polemics on the role of Pope Pacelli in protecting Jews during World War II.

"I, myself, grew up with the idea that he did nothing to save the Jews. Nobody was more anti-Pius XII than I," he says today with a

smile. "Can you imagine my surprise when I discovered that the ideas I grew up with were false?"

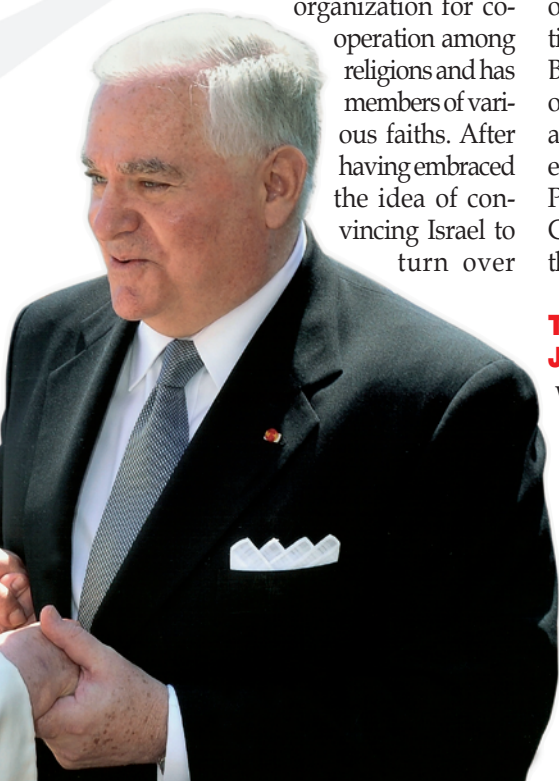
During the past three years, Krupp has gathered and filmed testimony of survivors saved by religious and priests who had received precise instructions from the Holy See to protect as many Jews as possible. These included the Vatican diplomat, Archbishop Giovanni Ferrofino, who died last year at 98 years of age. On assignment from the Pope, he succeeded in obtaining safe conducts for 10,000 Jews who found refuge in the Dominican Republic.

Krupp organized a congress in Rome, opposed by the local Jewish community, to make public the results of his investigation. Above all, he has made available on the foundation Web site a large portion of the documentation available on Pacelli.

Part of the Jewish establishment does not like him. Others accuse him of acting like an amateur in the minefields of historical research and relations among states.

He shrugs this off: "I'm not a professional historian. I'm only a citizen in search of the truth."

The evidence gathered speaks for itself. He repeated it in January, invited by the Olympus of the U.S. press, the National Press Club of Washington, to offer his views on Pacelli. He was part of a series on religion and the press. After the article in the New York Times, the visits to the foundation website have grown continuously. ◀



FRIDAY, JUNE 4, 2010

## Holocaust Denial, Lifting of Excommunication, and the Media gets it Wrong Again.

From Pave the Way -




On the commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the Second Vatican Council Pope Benedict XVI used this occasion to lift the ban of excommunication, which was generated when

Archbishop Lefebvre ordained four Bishops in direct violation of a papal order not to do so issued by Pope John Paul II. It was this act of defiance against the Papal order that generated the excommunication. After the announcement of the lifting of the ban was made on January 21, 2009 a video interview of one of the Bishops, Richard Williamson, surfaced where he quite plainly denied the holocaust impact on the Jewish people and stated that not one Jew perished in any gas chamber. This Holocaust denial set off a firestorm of protests and negative remarks, which created a temporary rift in Jewish Catholic relations.

Unlike many of the interreligious organizations Pave the Way Foundation did not issue a protest or a press release of condemnation but instead set out to find out the truth of this action.

Continue reading at Pave the Way Foundation

POSTED BY GOD IN 4101 AT 7:29 PM 

LABELS: HOLOCAUST, MEDIA, POPE BENEDICT

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### CATHOLIC RADIO 24/7



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**AN INSIDE LOOK AT  
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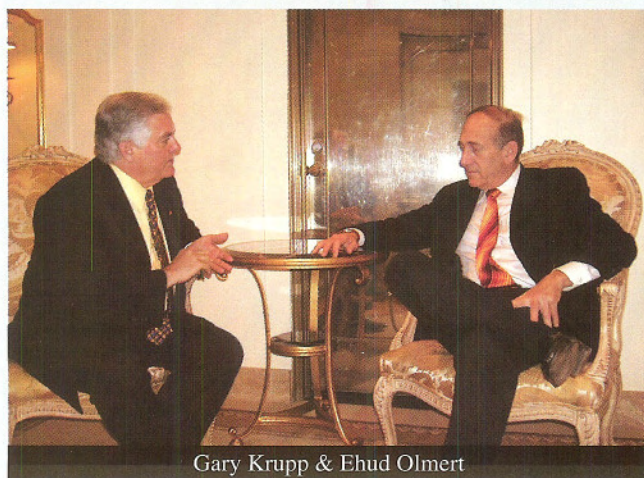
## Wartime Pope Has a Huge Fan:

### — A Jewish Knight —

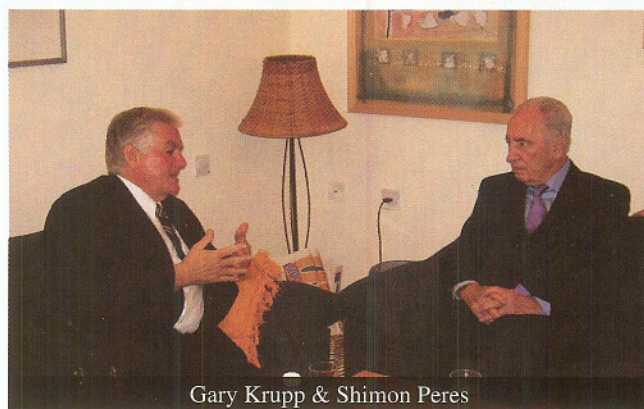
# Gary L. Krupp

Man of Peace

*Truth does not become more true by virtue of the fact that the entire world agrees with it, nor less so even if the whole world disagrees with it. Moreh Nevuchim 2:15*



Gary Krupp & Ehud Olmert



Gary Krupp & Shimon Peres

Was Pope Pius XII a friend to the Jews or was he Hitler's pope? As Jews, I think that most of us have grown up with the mindset that he did little to help the Jews during the Holocaust or even that he assisted in Hitler's plan to eradicate the Jews, killing millions in the process.

This battle of "did he do enough to help the Jews?" has been raging since 1963. Just like a war, there are two sides, dug in to their trenches and holding their positions. The Catholic Church, as recently as mid-December 2009, took the next step toward Eugenio Pacelli's (Pope Pius XII) canonization. If the process continues, he will at some future time be named a saint. This decision has caused a virtual uprising amongst Jewish groups and scholars, sparking the next battle in this war of opinion.

The earlier analogy of being "dug in" rings true with many of Pope Pius XII's detractors. They are so dug in that they will not look at the evidence, preferring to hold their positions. One could suppose that they worry about their own reputation, whether they would be embarrassed or whether their strength and power would be lessened by any proof that they had supported the wrong side for decades. Or is it simply that long held beliefs, however incorrect, die hard?

One may question why this simple controversy still matters in today's world. It's all water under the bridge, isn't it? Pacelli has been dead for 50 years. Perhaps it shouldn't matter. Yet this issue has driven a wedge between Catholics and Jews that will have long-term adverse effects on any hope of good relations between the groups. This issue, if left unresolved, could also reverse many of the good works done by Pope John Paul II, who too is being advanced toward sainthood, through which he helped the Jewish people and made unprecedented strides towards improving torn relations between these two great peoples.

At Pave the Way Foundation, our mission is to remove obstacles that come between religious groups. This issue is the most serious rift right now between Jews and Catholics, which impacts over 1.1 billion people. Over three years ago, we embarked upon a research project to discover the truth. We have been compiling evidence from many countries (over 5000 documents) and conducting and filming interviews with the remaining eyewitnesses, those who can tell us what really happened, what they heard with their own ears, what they saw with their own eyes.

We ask only that anyone concerned with the issue LOOK at the evidence and make up their own mind. Jewish historian, theologian and Israeli Ambassador, Pinchas Lapide, stated that Pius XII saved as many as 860,000 Jews (today



possibly 20% of the world's Jewish population). Albert Einstein, Golda Meir, Chief Rabbi of Palestine Herzog, Chief Rabbi of Rome Toaff, and the heads of every Jewish organization who today are condemning Pius XII all showered praise upon him during his lifetime. Just recently on December 24, 2009, famed Nazi hunter Serge Klarsfeld defended Pius XII in France. Were all these people, who lived through the war utterly and completely misguided? Come to our website at [www.ptwf.org](http://www.ptwf.org), review the evidence and decide for yourself.

But first, to understand why Pave the Way Foundation undertook this project and to explain why the project is VITAL to future Catholic/Jewish relations, we describe how PTWF began and what we do.

On July 29, 2000, Gary Krupp, a Jewish business man in New York received a telephone call from the Vatican Ambassador to the United Nations, Archbishop Renato Martino. The Archbishop informed Gary that after nearly two decades of his donated work to help a hospital in Italy, Pope John Paul II had just knighted him to the Pontifical Knighthood of St. Gregory the Great, a Vatican State Order. As a Jewish man he had just joined an exclusive group of Jews in history to have been so honored.

Gary and his wife Meredith took this honor as a calling to change their lives and to use this highly respected position to make a meaningful change in Catholic/Jewish and Vatican/Israeli relations. Although Gary is secular, he is a passionate Zionist with a practical view on fighting anti-Semitism and anti-Israeli sentiment worldwide.

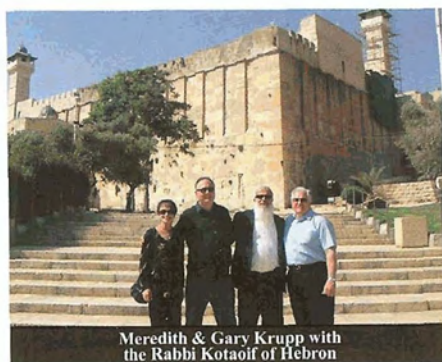
He tested his new position, when asked by Rabbi Benjamin Blech and the members of the Maimonides Research Center of Haifa and the United States to make a request that had previously been denied. Gary contacted the Vatican State and asked if he could bring a delegation of important Jewish scholars and Rabbis from around the world to the Vatican Library to see the writings of Moses Maimonides, a 13th century physician, Rabbi and scholar. The request was granted and in 2002 this providential event took place, paving the way to a personal relationship with the Vatican State that has led to a myriad of exciting and unprecedented projects among the faiths.

With the help of Mr. Norman Weisfeld, President of the Maimonides Institute in New York, they formed Pave the Way Foundation (PTWF) in order to foster positive relations between the religions through gestures and by addressing pressing non-theological issues of discord in order to fight anti-Semitism and the use of religion as a tool to justify violence and to further personal agendas. The driving force quietly behind this work since 2003 is that of PTWF's Chairman Elliot M. Hershberg, whose take no prisoners attitude has enabled PTWF to engage controversial subjects simply because they should rather than avoiding disturbing issues because of fund raising concerns.

Pave the Way Foundation has changed the course of history between faiths through some incredible projects. In 2005, Pave the Way initiated the largest Jewish audience in history to greet and thank Pope John Paul II for all he had done for the Jewish people and for the state of Israel. In 2007, PTWF initiated the first loan in history from the Vatican Library to the State of Israel. The Mishneh Torah of Maimonides and other manuscripts were loaned to the Israel Museum in Jerusalem. Soon after "paving the way" to these cultural exchanges, Israel loaned the Vatican a Rembrandt and a Botticelli for the 600th anniversary of the Basilica of St. Peter.







Meredith & Gary Krupp with the Rabbi Kotoaif of Hebron



Maimonides visit to the Vatican Library



Maimonides manuscript



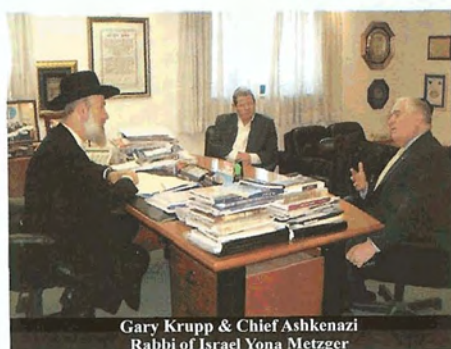
Gary Krupp & Pope John Paul II



Maimonides Loan to Israel Museum



Meredith Krupp & Pope Benedict XVI



Gary Krupp & Chief Ashkenazi Rabbi of Israel Yona Metzger



Gary Krupp & Pope Benedict XVI

PTWF addressed problems in tourism by developing a training manual for the Israeli security personnel at Ben Gurion Airport in order to teach proper etiquette in dealing with the diverse inter-religious pilgrims entering Israel. Gary personally intervened and worked to improve relations with the Greek Orthodox and Armenian Churches in Israel. He is involved with the development of a new Palestinian Muslim third party, which seeks to make peace with Israel, build a transparent government and vastly improve infrastructure.

PTWF proudly initiated "Project Baby" where one month's supply of baby formula, diapers and baby toys are given to poor Jewish, Christian and Muslim mothers in Israel. The unique element is that the money to purchase these gifts comes from surprising sources. For example the money for the Jewish baby gifts in Israel was donated by the Islamic Center of Long Island. Recently, we procured and distributed new blankets to a senior home of Holocaust survivors from Eastern Europe.

PTWF was successful in bringing the Israeli government back to the negotiation table in order to finalize a

long promised commitment to uphold vital legal and fiscal agreements with the Vatican, which were begun when diplomatic relations were established in 1994, but have since fallen by the wayside.

Personally as a Jew, Gary Krupp feels that we are suffering under the worst anti-Semitism in history today with enemies like Islamic extremists, the Iranians and a growing number of new enemies like Venezuela and many others. We must come to recognize who the enemies of today are. The Catholic Church is not the enemy of the Jewish people and in fact has asked for forgiveness for all of its historical offenses against Judaism. They have also been the best customer of Israeli tourism since 1948.

Pave the Way identified the private sale and located a Catholic donor to acquire the Bodmer Papyrus, the oldest written version of the Gospels of St. John and St. Luke and presented it to Pope Benedict XVI in January 2007. This is now one of the Vatican most prized religious manuscripts.

This brings us back to the beginning of this story, and to Pave the Way's most recent and perhaps most important undertaking so far. In early 2006, Gary and Meredith were having lunch with the Apostolic Nuncio to Israel, Archbishop Antonio Franco. The Nuncio asked if they could intercede with a very disturbing problem. He said the Holocaust Memorial of Yad Vashem in Jerusalem had placed a very hurtful and historically incorrect placard of remarks next to its portrait of Pope Pius XII.



The Krupps, both Jewish, had grown up hating Pius XII, believing him to be an anti-Semite and a Nazi collaborator, and so they shrugged off the request, feeling they did not want to get involved. But then events took a turn that made it impossible for them to look away.

Upon their return to New York, they received a phone call from a friend and PTWF board member, Rabbi Joseph Potasnik. The Rabbi asked if they would help a Jewish author and former Washington Post correspondent, Dan Kurzman, gain access in the Vatican for his research on a book he was writing on Pope Pius XII. They insisted that the mission of PTWF is to remove obstacles between the faiths and that they did not want to involve the organization in any activity that would negatively impact Catholic-Jewish relations. Rabbi Potasnik asked them to meet with Mr. Kurzman anyway, to which they agreed.

On April 7, 2006 the meeting took place. World renowned novelist and writer, Dan Kurzman told them that he was writing a book about a secret and little known plot to kidnap Pope Pius XII in 1942, to kill the Curia, the central governing body of the entire Roman Catholic Church, and to seize the Vatican. They were incredulous as to how it could be possible that a collaborator and ally of Hitler, Pius XII, would be the target of such a plan. He explained that the exact opposite was true.

Dan said his information was based on extensive research and primarily on an exhaustive personal interview with SS-Obergruppenführer and General of the Waffen SS, General Karl Freidrich Otto Wolff, who had served as Chief of Personal Staff to the Reichsführer-SS (Heinrich



Castel Gandolfo, Rome · residenza papale

Himmler) and SS Liaison Officer to Hitler. He had interviewed Karl Wolff just after his release from prison in 1974.

This information was stunning. Pius XII has been dubbed "Hitler's Pope". He is a man about whom so many damning books, and even a play, have been written, regarding his silence and cold hearted lack of concern for Jewish suffering during World War II that the Krupps shuttered to even hear his name.

With this kernel of information, however, they became very curious and called a friend, Oded Ben Hur, then Israel's Ambassador to the Holy See. They asked him if he had ever heard of this kidnapping plot. He hadn't, but stated that it would be a huge story, if it were true.

Next, they contacted a close friend and historian at Yad Vashem, and was told, "We heard something about this, but it only shows that Pacelli (Pius) was simply too frightened to act." Something seemed dreadfully wrong.

In the course of further discussions, and as their interest grew, the Krupps received a telephone call from the Vatican's Ambassador to the United Nations, Archbishop Celestino Migliore. He told them that he thought they should meet with a certain Sister Margherita Marchione in New Jersey.

They drove to Sister Margehrita's Catholic convent community in Morristown, NJ, and met with this engaging, then 82-year-old nun, who has written over 10 books in defense of Pope Pius XII. Through this meeting, their eyes were opened to a reality that was literally shocking. But before long, shock turned to anger. They discovered that they had been deceived by those

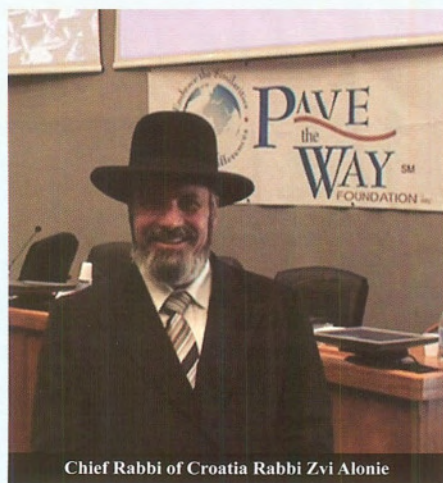
whom they trusted most for historical accuracy, the scholars and historians.

As they delved further into the history of this papacy and the secret works of Eugenio Pacelli, examining real documents and recording eyewitness testimony, they came to the conclusion that this subject had been totally misrepresented. How did this happen and who was to blame?

It seems to have started with the fictitious play, by Rolf Hochhuth, called, *The Deputy*, written in 1963, during the Cold War. Following that, came a flurry of books, supporting negative theories about this papacy and era. The Krupps' research later uncovered absolute proof that this play, and its impact, was a well crafted plan called "Seat Twelve" hatched and implemented by the KGB against the Catholic Church.

This deception and obvious distortion of fact was further complicated by one nagging question: Why wouldn't the Vatican open the archives of the war years and the papacy of Pope Pius XII? What, if anything, are they hiding?

In 2007, Pope Benedict XVI ordered the early opening of the archives of Pope Pius XI. Why? Because the Vatican had finally completed the cataloging and now scholars and historians could come and study at least 65% of Pacelli's life as Nuncio to Germany and as Secretary of State under Pius XI, his predecessor. It comes as quite a shock that to this day, literally none of the critics or institutions have bothered to come to the open archives to attempt to uncover the truth. This lack of scholarly and academic rigor, as a matter of due process, is stunning and potentially impacts the relations of over one billion Catholics and Jews.



Chief Rabbi of Croatia Rabbi Zvi Alonie



As they moved the investigation further, a close friend of the Krupps', Monsignor Robert Sarno, of the Congregation of the Causes of the Saints, suggested they meet with Father Peter Gumpel, Relator (High Judge) to the Cause of Pius XII and Father Paolo Molinari, Postulator to the Cause. They proceeded to have a most incredible and revealing first meeting with Fr. Peter. He recommended that they contact William Doino, Dimitri Cavalli and Professor Ronald Rychlak for more help. After contacting these scholarly individuals and learning of their extraordinary personal research, they became personally committed to righting this terrible wrong.

After almost two years of private research, they made a case to the Board of Directors at Pave the Way Foundation and were given the "ok" to take this project on. Not all board members were happy with this decision but they agreed with the project, since the retrieval of documents and testimonies, to which Gary has unique access, could only help legitimate historians. They did this with the full knowledge that they were opening a beehive of resentment, anger and pain, proving that the long held beliefs of most Catholics and Jews was simply wrong. Yet they knew that, in the furtherance of the mission of Pave the Way Foundation, they had no choice. PTWF's goal and mission is to eliminate obstacles between the faiths and if ever there were an obstacle, this was it.

After personally flying to France to interview Msgr. Giovanni Ferrofino,

and to London to interview Sir Martin Gilbert and many others, they were convinced that they were correct in their assessment of Pacelli's secret actions to save Jewish lives, probably more than all of the worlds' political and religious leaders of the period combined. There are perhaps 3 million Jews who are alive because of his secret policies and his direct intervention.

Personally, as Jews, the Krupps were determined to make history right, especially considering how Eugenio Pacelli had been treated after his death by the very people he acted in so many ways to save. This they considered a basic Jewish responsibility, having nothing to do with the Roman Catholic Church.

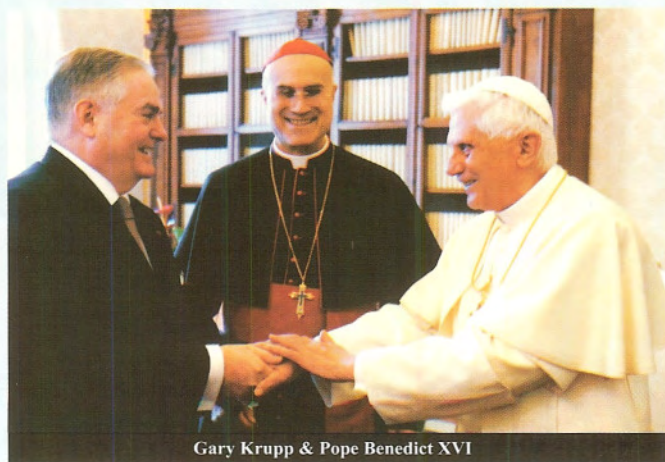
In Judaism, one of the most important obligations is that of charity. According to Maimonides, one of the highest levels of charity is "anonymous", where the recipient was never aware of who helped him. In the case of Pacelli, his anonymous charity was the very tool his critics have used to surgically strip him of any credit for the acknowledged acts he ordered, and which so many nuncios and priests acted on, following a verbal chain of command, beginning at "the top", with papal instructions. Those critics allowed and encouraged every negative accusation against Pacelli. This is a "Shonda," a Jewish shame, which Pave the Way Foundation is determined to correct.

On June 18, 2008, the organization brought many Jewish Holocaust survivors to the Vatican. They met these extraordinary people through the work

of Vincent Marmorale and Elizabeth Bettina Nicolosi, who were studying the lifesaving actions of the Italian people during the war. All of these people wanted desperately to thank the Pope personally for the individual actions taken by the Catholic Church in saving their lives during the war years. At that meeting with Pope Benedict XVI, a three-day symposium was announced, to be held September 15-17, 2008, in Rome. At that event, Pave the Way would make public its findings and provide a open forum for the defenders of Pacelli to make their case, based on documented facts and painstaking research, as well as his detractors.

Invitations were sent to all of the legitimate critics of Pope Pius XII and to the important Holocaust Centers in Jerusalem, Washington, and New York, asking them to attend the symposium. PTWF offered to set up teleconferencing if participants did not wish to or could not physically attend. Finally they suggested that questions be sent in advance of the symposium, to pose to the experts.

The official position of the Holocaust Memorials is that they will wait for the Vatican Archives of the war years to completely open before rendering a decision on Pius XII. If this is the case, why then has none of the institutions or critics come to Rome to study the archives that have already been opened prior to the war years? Although presentation of evidence and the reliance on eye witness testimony is the fundamental basis of establishing guilt



Gary Krupp & Pope Benedict XVI





or innocence universally, this is simply not acceptable by archival historians when analyzing historical events.

One by one, the critics declined the invitation to try to confront these allegations by inspecting genuine documents and hearing from eye witnesses. PTWF even offered to pay for travel to Rome. In the end the critics said they would not attend because it was not a "scholarly investigation" and accused Pave the Way of hosting a "one sided symposium." They also did not like the idea of such a presentation of historical evidence in front of everyday people.

Nonetheless, on September 15, 2008, the symposium was convened. Honored panelists included, Jesuit Historian and realtor Father Peter Gumpel, Professor Ronald Rychlak, William Doino, Sister Margherita Marchione, Dan Kurzman, Andrea Tornielli, Dr. Eugene Fisher, Father Dennis McManus and George Blumenthal. For three days, participants poured over hundreds of documents and listened to eyewitness testimonies and comments from various experts. At the end of the symposium, videotaped interviews with many of the attendees revealed that a large percentage of these people had changed their minds about the negative

opinions they had held of Pius XII.

On September 18, 2008 our delegation of 80 participants traveled to the summer residence of the Pope Benedict XVI, where Gary Krupp delivered a statement to His Holiness on the findings and made a promise to continue to search out documents and seek the truth. Pope Benedict XVI then made an impassioned statement to us, in public defense of his predecessor.



Gary Krupp & Greek Patriarch of Jerusalem

News of this event traveled around the world and opened this 46 year old "infection" to the light of public scrutiny.

Since garnering international attention to this debate, multiple filmmakers have become interested in these events, some even beginning work on documentaries and movies based on the facts that were presented.

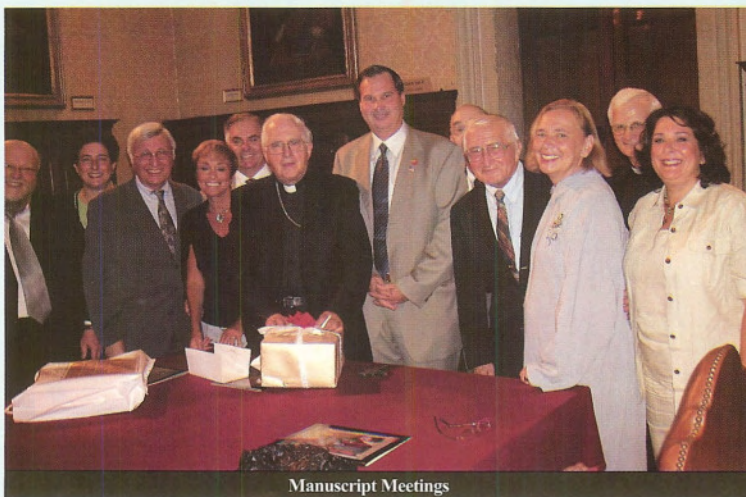
Pave the Way Foundation is also proud to have the support of a

scholarly, personal friend, Sir Martin Gilbert, also a Jewish man, and one of the most respected historians on the subject of World War II and the official biographer of Sir Winston Churchill. Sir Martin has advised the Krupps that the most respected investigative process at Yad Vashem in Jerusalem is through their Department of the Righteous. In order for all findings to come to light, an application to this section must be made. It was further decided that the organization must initiate a case for Eugenio Pacelli to be recognized as "Righteous Among Nations".

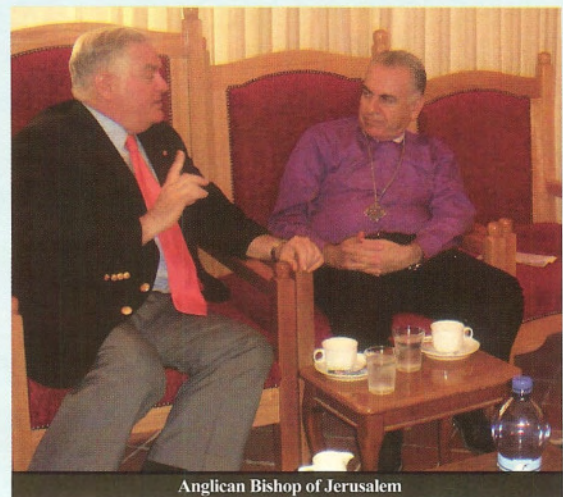
Pave the Way Foundation is a not-for-profit 501(c) (3) organization that welcomes donations in the furtherance of its mission. Please visit our website at [www.ptwf.org](http://www.ptwf.org) for more information on how you can be involved with supporting our unique and important work.



Meredith & Gary Krupp



Manuscript Meetings



Anglican Bishop of Jerusalem



W: Gdy w 1958 roku umarł papież Pius XII, szefowa Izraelskiej dyplomacji Golda Meir przystąpiła do Watykanu ciepły list kondolencyjny. Dziś może się to wydawać dość zaskakujące.

**P**o wojnie Piusa XII pod niebiosa wynosiła nie tylko Meir, ale setki innych żydowskich przywódców religijnych i politycznych. Izraelscy pisarze, dyplomaci, duchowni. Wszyscy dziękowali papieżowi, uważali go za dobroczyńcę swojego narodu. Wiem, że to, co mówię, rzeczywistość brzmi dziś jak herezja, ale Pius XII był ulubionym papieżem Żydów.

**Dziś jest dokładnie odwrotnie. Co się zmieniło?**

Zwrot o 180 stopni, jaki nastąpił w postrzeganiu tego papieża przez opinię światową – bo czarną legendę Piusa XII kultywują przecież nie tylko Żydzi – był efektem operacji dezinformacyjnej KGB o kryptonimie „Sept-12”. Wszystko zaczęło się w 1963 roku, gdy niemiecki komunist Rolf Hochhuth z inspiracji sowieckich służb specjalnych napisał głośną sztukę „Namiestnik”. Papież został w niej przedstawiony jako zimny cynik, który z obojętnością, jeżeli nie z satysfakcją, patrzy na Zagładę.

**Skąd wiadomo, że sztuka powstała z inspiracji sowieckiej?**

Ujawnił to niedawno były generał Securitate Ion Pacepa. To rumuńskie służby, działając z rozkazu Sowietów – plan zatwierdził Nikita Chruszczow – dostarczyły Hochhuthowi sprowokowane, obciążające Piusa materiały. „Namiestnik” został najpierw pokazany w Londynie, potem wystawiano go na całym świecie. To było jak zapalnik rzucony do lasu podczas suszy, czarna legenda Piusa XII zaczęła się rozprzestrzeniać z szybkością pożaru.

Wśród zachodniej lewicy szybko wytworzyła się moda na mieszanie Piusa z błotem. Potem dołączyły do tego szukające sensacji media i pseudohistorycy, którzy chcieli oddać od całej afery kupony. Najgłośniejszą z tego typu książek był „Papież Hitlera” Johna Cornwella.

**Czy Cornwell nie wycofał się ostatnio ze swoich tez?**

Tak, ale wcześniej jego książka wywrzaskiła ogromne szkody. „Papież Hitlera” i inne takie prace nie opierały się na żadnych wiarygodnych dokumentach. Roilo się w nich za to od przypuszczeń, karkołomnych teorii i moralnego oburzenia. Byle mocniej przyłożyć papieżowi i Kościołowi. Nie wiem, jak jest w Polsce, ale w Ameryce to najlepszy sposób na przypodobanie się wpływowym, liberalnym salonom. Za tym idą nagrody, apanaże, zachwyty krytyków i mediów.

**Dlaczego Sowietom tak zależało na zepsuciu dobrej opinii nieżyjącego papieża?**

Bo Kościół katolicki uważali za jednego ze swoich głównych wrogów. Watykan reprezentował wszystko, czego komuniści nienawidzili i czego się bali. I chyba mieli rację, bo w końcu inny papież – pański rodak, Jan Paweł II – odegrał wielką rolę w obaleniu tego systemu. Operacja „Sept-12” miała na celu podważenie autorytetu Kościoła poprzez przylepienie mu łatki antysemityzmu. Trzeba przyznać, że operacja ta zakończyła się pełnym sukcesem. To, co zrobiono z Piusiem, to najgorszy



■ Nuncjusz Eugenio Pacelli (późniejszy Pius XII) opuszcza siedzibę prezydenta Niemiec, Berlin, 1929 r.

# Pius XII, ukochany papież Żydów

Z GARYM KRUPPEM, żydowskim filantropem z USA,  
rozmawia Piotr Zychowicz

przypadek zamachu na dobre imię człowieka w historii.

**Rozumiem, że pan ma zupełnie inne zdanie w sprawie działań Piusa XII wobec Żydów.**

Ja uważam go za największego spośród Sprawiedliwych wśród Narodów Świata. Papież uratował więcej Żydów niż wszyscy inni polityczni i religijni przywódcy świata razem wzięci. Izraelski historyk i dy-

plomata Pinchas Lapide szacował, że Pius XII ocalił blisko 900 tysięcy ludzi! Zrobiłem kiedyś szacunki i oznacza to, że 20 procent żyjących obecnie na świecie Żydów istnieje dzięki niemu! Uważam, że moim obowiązkiem jest informować o tym rodaków. Przy pomocy założonej przeze mnie organizacji Pave the Way Foundation zbieram na całym świecie dokumenty dotyczące tych działań Piusa XII.

**Co jest w tych dokumentach?**

**P**rawda. Wylania się z nich obraz papieża, który we wprost fanatyczny sposób walczył o uratowanie europejskich Żydów. Choćby taki przykład, który powinien pana zainteresować: w październiku 1943 roku Pius XII, przy pomocy swojego delegata w Tokio, ocalił 460 uczniów jesziwy w Mirze. Zostali ewakuowani do Szanghaju. Tysiące Żydów udało się również wywieźć do Ameryki Południowej.

**Dokąd?**

Na przykład do Dominikany. Papież przez całą wojnę wysyłał tam około 1,5 tysiąca Żydów rocznie. Zadanie to wykonywał jego specjalny wysłannik monsignore Giovanni Ferrofino. On zresztą żyje do dziś, ma 98 lat i jest arcybiskupem. Może pan go o to zapytać. Ferrofino dwa razy w roku otrzymywał zaszyfrowany telegram prosto od Piusa XII, który tylko on mógł odcyfrować. Papież pisał w



nim, że potrzebuje tyle i tyle wiz. Ferrofini jechał wówczas do dominikańskiego dyktatora gen. Rafaela Trujillo i, w imieniu Ojca Świętego Piusa XII, żądał wydania tych dokumentów.

#### Nigdy o tym nie słyszałem.

Bo to ja odkryłem tę historię. Gdy opowiedziałem o tym w Watykanie, tamtejsi eksperci także byli zaskoczeni. A takich przypadków było przecież bardzo dużo. To Pius XII nakłaniał admirała Miklosa Horthyego, żeby powstrzymał deportację węgierskich Żydów do Auschwitz. Tylko ta interwencja uratowała 200 tysięcy ludzi. Groził też ekskomunikacja księdzu Józefowi Tiso, jeżeli będzie stosował represje wobec Żydów. Jego specjalny wysłannik, ojciec palotyn przekazywał pieniądze na ucieczkę Żydów, m.in. z Polski do Szwajcarii i Portugalii.

#### Wielu Żydów uratowało się również, nie wychodząc z okupowanej Polski. Przelatwali w klasztorach czy na plebaniach.

Oczywiście. Rola Kościoła była tu olbrzymia. To księża i zakonnicy wydawali ludziom metryki chrztu, organizowali ich ucieczki, ukrywali. Księża katolicki byli wielkim przedsięwzięciem ratowania Żydów.

#### Może oni to robili z dobrego serca, wbrew papieżowi.

To niemożliwe. Bo instytucje kościelne pomagały Żydom nie tylko w Polsce, ale w całej okupowanej Europie. To nie mogła być więc oddolna inicjatywa kilku poczdowych proboszczów. Dokumenty wskazują, że była to skomplikowana, zaplanowana w detalach operacja, której mógł znajdować się w Watykanie. Tym mógł być Pius XII. Gdy Niemcy próbowali wywieźć rzymskich Żydów, Watykan ukrył co najmniej 7 tysięcy osób. I to miało być stać wbrew papieżowi, pod samym jego nosem? Absurd. Mało tego, wiemy, że papież wyklądał na pomoc Żydom swoje prywatne pieniądze. Pius XII (Eugenio Pacelli) pochodził z zamożnej, arystokratycznej rzymskiej rodziny. Umariał bez pieniędzy.

#### Czy wiemy, co papież sądził o przesładowaniu Żydów przez Trzecią Rzeszę?

Był nim oburzony i wstrząśnięty. Reagował bardzo nerwowo, gdy część jego starań kończyła się fiaskiem. Watykańscy dyplomaci jeździli po całym świecie i pytali rozmaite rządy: ilu Żydów możecie przyjąć? Amerykanie odpowiadali: „ani jednego”. Brazylijczycy: „ani jednego”. Kanadyjczycy: „ani jednego”. I tak dalej. Wszystkie to doprowadzało Piusa do rozpacz. Znamy przekazy, że uderzał pięścią w stół i krzyczał: „Dlaczego Amerykanie nie rozumieją, że musimy uratować tę społeczność?”.

#### Amerykanie nie chcieli przyjąć Żydów? Przecież doskonale wiedzieli, co wyrabiają z nimi Niemcy.

Tak, a mimo to nie kiwnęli palcem. Chocby statek „St. Louis” z 900 nie-mieckimi Żydami na pokładzie, który w 1939 roku został zwrócony z Ameryki do Europy. Nie muszę panu mówić, co się stało z tego pasażerami. Wychwalamy dziś Roosevelta, który był obojętny wobec losu Żydów, a nienawidzimy Piusa XII, który robił wszystko, by ich ratować.

#### Krytycy Piusa XII najczęściej zarzucają mu „milczenie wobec Zagłady”. Co by się stało, gdyby papież oficjalnie potępił Holokaust?

To by była katastrofa! Całe szczęście, że nie takiego nie zrobił.

#### Rozumiem, że przypuszcza pan, iż wywołaloby to jeszcze większe represje?

To nie jest przypuszczenie, tylko pewność. Arcybiskup Utrechtu w 1942 roku potępił deportację holenderskich Żydów. Reakcja Niemców była natychmiastowa. Aresztowania zintensyfikowano i objęły one po raz pierwszy Żydów, którzy nawrócili się na katolicyzm. W ten sposób do Auschwitz trafiła m.in. – kanonizowana później – zakonnica Edyta Stein. Znamy również relacje więźniów obozów koncentracyjnych. Gdy tylko w radiu watykańskim czy „L'Osservatore Romano” pojawiała się choćby najmniejsza antyniemiecka sugestia, choćby kilka słów w obronie Żydów, natychmiast strażnicy zastrzelali reżym wobec więźniów-katolików. Obniżano im racje żywnościowe, byli bici, wyzywani – „co ten wasz śmieszki papież znowu wymyśla” – a nawet mordowani. A w prasie Trzeciej Rzeszy ukazywały się niewybredne karykatury szkalujące papieża.

#### Papież zachował się więc racjonalnie.

Oczywiście. A mimo to dziś, post factum, właśnie tego domagają się od niego jego krytycy: „papież powinien był potępić Zagładę”. Ci ludzie nie mają najmniejszego pojęcia o realiach tamtej wojny. Dlaczego Pius zachował milczenie? Był ocalałym z życia wielu ludzi. Gdyby potępił działania Trzeciej Rzeszy, nie był to nie daleko. Już widzę Hitlera, jak po słowach papieża posypuje głowę popiołem, przeprosza i wypuszcza Żydów z obozów. Takie potępienie byłoby więc pustym gestem, którego negatywne konsekwencje byłyby olbrzymie. Papież nie tylko nikomu by nie pomógł, nie tylko naraziłby wielu ludzi na śmierć, ale straciłby również możliwość dalszego pomagania Żydom.

#### Dlaczego?

Bo Kościołowi udało się uratować tylu Żydów, gdyż zachował immunitet swoich instytucji. Niemcy w zasadzie nie mieli prawa wchodzić na teren klasztorów, pałaców biskupich i tym podobnych budynków. Wyobraźmy sobie teraz, że papież na placu Świętego Piotra potępił Holokaust. Następnego dnia Niemcy łamią immunitet kościelny i w całej Europie gestapo wkrocza do budynków kościelnych. Głównie księża, mnisi, zakonnice, ale także ukrywani Żydzi. Droga do dalszej pomocy zostaje natychmiast zamknięta. Właśnie dlatego Pius XII był tak ostrożny, właśnie dlatego – jak określił to Benedykt XVI – używał „cichych dyplomacji”, by ratować Żydów. Główny rabin Danił Marcus Melchior powiedział, że gdyby papież potępił Holokaust, Hitler wymordowałby więcej niż 6 milionów Żydów. Zgadza się z nim.

#### Dlaczego jednak Watykan po prostu nie otworzył archiwów i nie przełamał wszelkich spekulacji?

Ludzie wyobrażają sobie, że papież przyjdzie z kluczem do archiwum, przekreśli go i wpuści do środka historyków. To nie takie proste. Dopiero trzy lata temu zakończyło się porządkowanie papierów z czasów Piusa XI. Musimy więc uzbroić się w cierpliwość i poczekać jeszcze kilka lat na następne.

#### Dlaczego? Nie można było otworzyć naraz archiwów Piusa XI i Piusa XII?

Możemy opowiedzieć panu, jak w praktyce wygląda takie „otwarcie archiwów”. Archiwści watykańscy segregują i zszywiają wszystkie dokumenty w skoroszyty. Każda strona dostaje stempel z numerem, zostaje streszczona, a na końcu przystawia się do niej watykańska pieczęć. A z zakresu papieństwa Piusa XII mamy 16 milionów stron dokumentów. Do tej pory zajmowało się tym tylko trzech ludzi. Papież Benedykt XVI podwoił czy potroił ten zespół. Więcej ludzi do tego przydzielić się już nie dało, gdyż muszą to być znawcy wieloletniego specjalistycznego zaufania, spełniający wymogi bezpieczeństwa i dyskrekcji. W przeszłości zdarzało się bowiem, że dokumenty były kradzione, niszczone, a nawet zmieniane.

#### Powiedział pan kiedyś, że części kluczowych dokumentów i tak nigdy nie uda się odnaleźć.

Tak, bo były natychmiast niszczone przez papieża lub jego otoczenie. Siostra Pascalina Lehnert, która opiekowała się jego apartamentem, opowiadała, jak zastała Piusa XII osobiście palącego w kuchni watykańskiego pałacu dokumenty dotyczące pomocy Żydom. Pod koniec wojny był w ciągłym zagrożeniu wkroczeniem Niemców do Watykanu. Pałęt te dokumenty, by nie wpadły w ręce gestapo lub pracujących dla niego szpiegów, od których roilo się w Watykanie.

#### W jakim stopniu to zagrożenie było realne?

General SS Karl Wolff we wrześniu 1943 roku otrzymał od Hitlera rozkaz przygotowania planu „neutralizacji papieża”. Watykan miał zostać zajęty, kuria wymordowana, a Pius XII wywieziony do Liechtensteinu. Tam miano go zamordować. Watykan doskonale się orientował, że w Berlinie snute są takie plany. Papież rozkazał nawet swojej Gwardii Szwajcarskiej, żeby pod żadnym pozorem nie otwierała ognia, gdy Niemcy wkroczą. Obrona miała spowodować tylko masakrę. Papież nakazał zabezpieczyć też watykańską bibliotekę i zbiory muzeum na wypadek agresji. Przygotował również specjalny plan, jak pokrzyżować Niemcom szlaki.

#### Na czym polegał ten plan?

6 września 1943 roku Pius XII zwołał kardynałów. Powiedział, że gdy Niemcy wkroczą na teren Watykanu, nie aresztują Piusa XII, ale zwykłego księdza Eugenio Pacellego. Miał bowiem przygotowane na biurku pismo o abdykacji. Gdy tylko Niemcy mieli postawić nogę w granicach Słolicy Apostolskiej, planował je podpisać. Wszyscy kardynałowie mieli zaś natychmiast wyjechać do Portugalii, zwołać konklawe na wygnaniu i wybrać nowego papieża. Jak pan widzi, Pius XII żył wówczas jak w obłędnej twierdzy. Czy tak Hitler traktowałby „swojego” papieża? Szpiegował go i planował go zamordować, gdyby rzeczywiście Pius był „niemieckim kolaborantem”.

#### Czy wiemy, jakie zdanie miał Pius XII o narodowym socjalizmie?

Brzydził się Hitlerem i jego metodami. I to od początku, od lat 20, gdy Hitler dopiero zaczynał swój marsz po władzę. Pius XII był wtedy w Niemczech i pisał o narodowym socjalizmie z pogardą. To była dla niego poganska ideologia. Nazywał ją „największą herezją naszych czasów”. W

#### +GARY KRUPP

Jest emerytowanym biznesmenem i filantropem z Nowego Jorku. W 2003 r. założył fundację Pave the Way, której celem jest pomoc w pojednaniu między religiami. Misją jego życia jest obrona dobrego imienia Piusa XII. Jan Paweł II uhonorował go Orderem Świętego Grzegorza Wielkiego, jest siódmą osobą pochodzenia żydowskiego, która otrzymała to prestiżowe odznaczenie. Wielokrotnie pośredniczył w negocjacjach dyplomatycznych między Izraelem a Watykanem. Działalność Kruppa nie podoba się jednak wielu przedstawicielom środowisk żydowskich w USA. Zajmująca się zwalczaniem antysemityzmu Liga przeciwko Zniszczeniu oskarżyła go ostatnio, że w sprawie Piusa XII prowadzi „kampanię dezinformacyjną”.



AGENCYJA PRAKTYCZNA

raporcie szefa RSHA Ernsta Kaltenbrunnera sporządzonym po zamachu na Hitlera z 20 lipca 1944 roku mowa jest o tym, że Pius XII był powiązany ze spiskowcami. Wiemy również, że gdy generałowie Wehrmachtu sondowali, czy papież mógłby pośredniczyć w tajnych rozmowach pokojowych z aliantami zachodnimi, on odparł, że byłoby to możliwe, tylko gdyby w Rzeszy zmienił się rząd. Innymi słowami: gdyby usunął Hitlera.

#### Często się mówi, że Pius XII jako przedstawiciel konserwatywnego skrzydła Kościoła był nasławiony antyżydalszczyną. A co za tym idzie, był antysemitą.

Obie te sprawy nie mają ze sobą nic wspólnego. Poglądy religijne papieża nie miały wpływu na jego stosunek do Żydów. Wszyscy wiedzą, że Karol Wojtyła jako mały chłopiec przyjaźnił się z żydowskim rówieśnikiem Jerzym Klugerem. Mało kto jednak wie, że podobnego przyjaciela miał Pacelli. Ten chłopiec nazywał się Guido Mendez, był ortodoksyjnym Żydem. Przyszły papież odwiedzał jego dom, brał udział w szabasowych kolacjach. Po latach, już jako Pius XII, pomógł Mendezowi uciec do Palestyny. Rodzina Mendezów do dziś mieszka w mieście Ramat Gan.

#### Może to był po prostu sentyment z młodości. Wyjątek.

Ale dowodów na przychylny stosunek Piusa do Żydów jest dużo więcej. Mogłbym je wymieniać godzinami. Chocby taki: w 1917 roku przedstawiciel Światowej Organizacji Syjonistycznej Nachum Sokolow odwiedził Pacellego – był on wówczas nuncjuszem apostolskim w Niemczech – i poprosił o ratowanie Żydów mieszkających w Palestynie. Bili się oni, że zostaną zmasakrowani przez Turków, tak jak Ormianie. Sokolow poprosił Pacellego, żeby interweniował w Berlinie. Pacelli chętnie spełnił te prośbę i niemiecki rząd zagwarantował Żydom z Palestyny bezpieczeństwo.

#### Czy uważa pan, że proces beatyfikacyjny Piusa XII powinien zostać wstrzymany?

Nie miesza się do takich spraw. Jestem Żydem i nie mam sprawy, jest to, kto ma zostać katolickim świętym. Jako Żyd uważam natomiast, że Pius XII powinien zostać uhonorowany w jerozolimskim instytucie Yad Vashem jako Sprawiedliwy wśród Narodów Świata. Moja fundacja stara się wpłynąć w tej sprawie na Yad Vashem. Na razie bezskutecznie.

#### Nie dziwi mnie to. W instytucie znajduje się obecnie plansza ze zdjęciem Piusa z niepopularnym komentarzem.

Tak, to haniebne. To, co tam napisano, to zwykłe kłamstwo. Negatywny stosunek Żydów do Piusa XII jest dla mnie bardzo bolesny. On uratował tylu naszych rodaków, a my odpłacamy mu w taki sposób. Obawiam się, że Żydzi będą musieli to odpokutować. Sam przeproszam Piusa XII za to, że byłbym z nim okropnie rzęczy. Przez długie lata żyłem w otoczeniu, które myślało w taki sposób. Słowo wywrzeliem w po-wrżane o nim brednie, był dla mnie szwacharakterem. Dziś głęboko tego żałuję.

#### Amerkańskie środowiska żydowskie ostro pana atakują. Jest pan oskarżany o prowadzenie „kampanii dezinformacyjnej”. Krytykują pana rabini i organizacje zwalczające antysemityzm.

To straszliwi hipokryci. Cały czas powtarzają, że chcą pełnej jawności, domagają się ujawnienia dokumentów. Ja właśnie to robię. Problem w tym, że prawda im nie odpowiada, że dokumenty nie pasują do ich teorii. A to, że dokumenty te publikuję Żyd, budzi jeszcze większą agresję. Już za kilka lat, gdy archiwa watykańskie się otworzą, wszystko się wyjaśni.

#### Nie jest chyba jednak łatwo iść wbrew opinii niemal całego swojego narodu?

Ależ to jest mój święty obowiązek właśnie jako Żyda! Muszę bronić pamięci tego wielkiego człowieka, który nie był Żydem, a mimo to uratował tylu żydowskich istnień. Przecież Pius XII wcale nie musiał tego robić. Jego zadaniem była ochrona katolików i Kościoła. A mimo to tak silnie, bezinteresownie zaangażował się w pomaganie żydowskim bliźnim. Zdradzę zresztą panu, że ja też mam mocne plecy. Swego czasu spotkałem się z najważniejszymi rabinami w Rzymie i w Izraelu. Przedstawiłem im, jakie mam zamiary. Część z nich była przeciw, ale zdecydowana większość powiedziała, że chce przede wszystkim poznać prawdę. Na koniec powiem panu pewną żydowską maksymę. Jeden z najważniejszych rabbinów w historii judaizmu. Majmónides (1135 – 1204) powiedział kiedyś, że nawet jeżeli cały świat w coś wierzy, nie oznacza to, że jest to prawda. I odwrotnie, jeżeli cały świat w coś nie wierzy, nie oznacza to, że jest to nieprawda. Ja walczę o prawdę, i będę to robił, nawet jeżeli wszyscy ludzie na ziemi będą mieli inne zdanie.



## Secret Archives documents online

More than 8,000 pages of the *Actes et Documents du Saint-Siège relatifs à la Seconde Guerre Mondiale* edited by Jesuits Pierre Blet, Angelo Martini, Robert A. Graham and Burkhart Schneider (Vatican City, Vatican Publishing House, 1965-1981), will be available free of charge on the Internet. The Holy See complied with a request of the Pave the Way Foundation (PTWF) to digitalize and publish 5,125 documents of the Vatican Secret Archives dated March 1939 - May 1945. Gary Krupp, a New Yorker of Jewish descent, is Founder-President of the PTWF, which aims to remove obstacles between religions.

"In the furtherance of our mission we have recognized the papacy of the war time Pope Pius XII as a source of friction impacting over one billion people", Krupp told Jesús Colina of the Zenit Agency.

# In defense of Pius XII

BY BART JONES

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A decade ago, Long Beach resident Gary Krupp was knighted by Pope John Paul II, becoming only the seventh Jewish papal knight in history.

Now, Krupp, who gained the honor mainly for helping to build an Italian hospital, is using his post and his nonprofit foundation to wade into the controversy over Pope Pius XII.

Pope Benedict XVI has helped stir the controversy by moving Pius toward sainthood, a move that has set off protests among Jewish groups and critics who contend Pius did not do enough to denounce the Holocaust or help Jews hide or escape.

Krupp disagrees, and believes the historical record shows that Pius, who was pope from 1939 to 1958, went to extensive lengths to protect Jews.

He says the Vatican has made available to him and his researchers hundreds of documents from previously closed files on Pius that describe his efforts during World War II.

The documents show "that he was not a Nazi sympathizer, that he hated Nazism far more than Communism. He was not anti-Semitic," said Krupp, 62.

He added that Pius performed numerous acts "to save Jews and do positive things for the Jewish people."

Historians have questioned



Gary Krupp of Long Beach, greeting Pope John Paul II, says he has seen documents showing Pius XII helped Jews during WWII.

why Pius never publicly condemned the Holocaust and whether he indeed acted to help save Jews. The Catholic Church says he worked behind the scenes to avoid retaliation from Nazi and Italian fascist authorities.

Krupp has come under attack from some historians who scoff at his credentials as a researcher and believe the Vatican may be using him. He brushes the critiques off, and says he is merely unearthing — and digitalizing — the documents so that bona fide historians can see them and clear Pius' name themselves.

He said he thinks some of the attacks come because his

findings are contradicting previously held ideas about Pius.

"We are attacked by scholars but not because what we are finding is not relevant . . . they criticize us for looking," he said. "They should be cheering us."

Krupp, who heads the nonprofit Manhattan-based Pave the Way Foundation, dedicated to promoting interreligious understanding, said he met personally with Pope John Paul II five times and with Benedict XVI seven times since he became pope.

In 2008 he hosted a three-day conference on Pius XII near Rome that was attended by Benedict XVI.



# POSTOPINION

## Friend to the Jews

### Pius XII's *real* wartime record

GARY L. KRUPP

**A** RECENT papal decree moved Pope Pius XII, among others, closer to sainthood — returning to the forefront the controversy over his role in World War II and the Holocaust.

Growing up Jewish in Queens, I never dreamt I would be defending the man I once believed to be a Nazi sympathizer and an anti-Semite. But my work since 2002 with my wife, Meredith, and the Pave the Way Foundation has led me to this point.

We founded Pave the Way to identify and eliminate nontheological obstacles between religions. Thus, despite our early prejudices, we decided to investigate the papacy of Pius XII (Eugenio Pacelli), one of today's greatest sources of hurt between Jews and Catholics.

After years of research in documentary evidence and eyewitness testimony, what we found shocked us. We found nothing but praise and positive

news articles concerning Pius' actions from every Jewish, Israeli and political leader of the era who lived through the war.

A few articles in the postwar era suggested that he should have done more to confront the Nazis — but it wasn't until 1963, in the wake of the fictitious play "The Deputy" (written five years after Pius died), that accusations began flowing that he had failed to act, that he was a cold-hearted Nazi sympathizer who couldn't care less about the Jewish people.

The evidence strongly suggests this was part of a KGB-directed and -financed bid to smear Pius, a Soviet disinformation campaign meant to discredit the Catholic Church, which at that time was profoundly anti-Communist.

In any case, the facts simply don't match what so many have come to believe about Pius.

It is unquestionable that Pius XII intervened to save countless Jews at a time most nations — even FDR's America — refused to accept these refugees. He issued false baptismal papers and obtained visas for them to emi-

grate as "Non Aryan Catholic-Jews." He smuggled Jews into the Americas and Asia. He ordered the lifting of cloister for men and women to enter monasteries, convents and churches to hide 7,000 Jews of Rome in a single day.

Among the 5,000 pages of documents that Pave the Way has located, there is abundant evidence that Pacelli was a lifelong friend of the Jews. Some highlights:

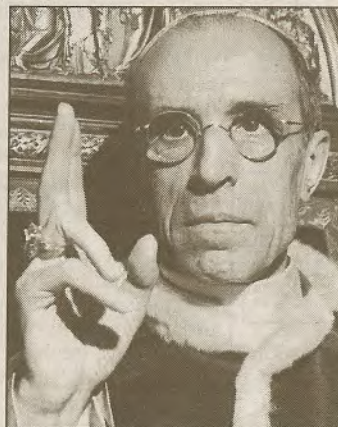
- In 1917, at the request of World Zionist Organization Director Nachum Sokolow, Nuncio Pacelli intervened with the Germans to protect the Jews of Palestine from extermination by the Ottoman Turks.

- In 1925, Pacelli arranged for Sokolow to meet with Pope Benedict XV to discuss a Jewish homeland in Palestine.

- In 1930, Pacelli supported the German bishops' orders excommunicating anyone who joined "the Hitler Party."

- In 1938, Pacelli intervened to defeat a Polish anti-koshering law.

- In 1939, A.W. Klieforth, the US consul general based in Cologne, Germany, wrote a confidential letter to Washington reporting on the "extreme-



**Pius XII: Unfairly tarred as Nazi sympathizer and anti-Semite.**

ness" of Pacelli's hatred of National Socialism and of Hitler.

- In 1947, at the United Nations, he encouraged the 17 Catholic countries out of the 33 in favor to vote for the partitioning of Palestine to create the State of Israel.

- A 1948 deposition by Gen. Karl Wolff, the SS commandant for Italy, revealed the Nazis' wartime plan to kidnap the pope, kill countless cardinals and seize the Vatican.

But the personal tales may be more compelling. Pacelli's childhood best friend was Guido Mendes, an Orthodox Jewish boy. He tells how Pacelli shared Shabbat meals with him. Mendes taught him Hebrew, and Pacelli helped him to emigrate to Palestine in 1938.

Pius XII's detractors prefer to criticize rather than simply look at the evidence. Two years ago, Pope Benedict XVI ordered the opening of the Vatican's archives up to 1939, containing much evidence of Eugenio Pacelli's activities leading up to his papacy. According to the sign-in sheets, few of Pius' critics have bothered to come to the archives to view the material.

Pinchas Lapide, a Jewish historian, theologian and Israeli ambassador, stated that the actions and policies of Pius XII saved as many as 860,000 Jews.

Albert Einstein, Golda Meir, the chief rabbi of Palestine, the chief rabbi of Rome and the heads of every Jewish organization showered praise upon him during his lifetime.

Were all these witnesses who lived through the war misguided?

Gary L. Krupp is president of the Pave the Way Foundation, which has many of the documents noted here online at [ptwf.org](http://ptwf.org) and which will soon publish a book with the main evidence in English, Hebrew, Spanish and French.

## A POLITICAL TEST FOR TEACHERS

### U of Minnesota's ed-school travesty

**W**HEN a child doesn't finish his homework, who's at fault? The Race, Culture, Class and Gender Task Group in the University of Minne-

ADAM  
KISSEL

Did Johnny get a math problem wrong? Maybe it's because of society's "demands for assimilation to white, middle-class, Christian meanings and values."

The task group evidently wants to invade the thoughts, values, attitudes and beliefs of future teachers to make sure that they have the proper "dispositions" to be allowed to teach our youth. They recommend tests of "intercultural sensitivity" and "cultural intelligence." They

way. The Foundation for Individual Rights in Education, where I work, wrote the university's president a detailed letter last month. We pointed out that this proposal is the opposite of a liberal education in a free society because it would teach that the authorities get to decide



# Locals react to Pope stepping down

## Many surprised but supportive of decision

By ALEX COSTELLO

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On Feb. 11, Pope Benedict XVI announced that he would be stepping down from his position as leader of the Roman Catholic Church at the end of the month. It was the first time in centuries that a pope has stepped down from his position.

People all over the world were shocked to hear the news. Following the near 30-year term of Pope John Paul II, Benedict XVI served from 2005. The pope made his announcement after announcing the canonization of new saints during the Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes.

"At this time I ask all the faithful, consecrated men and women, deacons, priests and bishops of this diocese to join me in prayer for this extraordinary Pontiff," said Bishop William Murphy of the Diocese of Rockville Centre, "a holy and wise man who with great sacrifice gave himself totally to the Church which has benefited mightily from his many human gifts of intelligence and wisdom and even more from his spiritual gifts of faith and hope and love as he taught, governed and prayed for the Church showing us

always the face of God who is love."

Many who know the pope were surprised by his sudden announcement.

"I got a call from Europe at about 4 a.m. to alert me to this. And we were all quite shocked," said Gary Krupp, a former Rockville Centre resident and president of the Pave the Way Foundation. "Nobody really expected it. It was a very sad thing for us, because he is a friend."

Krupp had worked with the Vatican and had visited on many occasions. During Pope Benedict XVI's tenure, Krupp met with him 19 times. He was even knighted by the pope and his predecessor.

"There were hints about it, because we were at the Vatican about 10 times a year," Krupp said. "And when you talk to different people, people start saying things and hint, 'well, he's not feeling as strong as he used to be.' So there were hints, but just to take this position at this point was quite remarkable."

Many local Catholics were surprised by the news, but supportive of the pope's decision.

"The affects of his time as pope will endure long after all of us have passed, such as his efforts to help Anglicans reunite with



Courtesy Gary Krupp

**GARY KRUPP**, right, met with Pope Benedict XVI outside the Vatican.

the Catholic Church, his gestures of unity towards the Orthodox Churches and other peoples throughout the world, his work on the celebration of the Holy Mass (both in the New Translation and in the Latin Extraordinary Form), his crystal clear writings and teachings, and his efforts to address the scandalous crises that have so hurt the Church in recent years," said Father Eric Fasano of Our Lady of Good Counsel Church in Inwood. "Though we are deeply saddened to see him leave the Chair of Saint Peter, our prayers and loving gratitude should be with our Holy Father as he continues to serve God courageously."

Fasano said that stepping down as he did — admitting he was not well enough to serve his position — took courage and honesty on the pope's part. "Such honesty and self-awareness is rare, especially among those with earthly power," he said.

"I admire and respect him for whatever his reason for stepping down as Pope is," said Valley Stream resident Ann Massa-Garofalo. "He felt he could no longer carry out his responsibilities for the benefit of the Catholic Church and Catholics all over the world and we would be much better with someone healthier and stronger to oversee the church. It took a lot of strength for him to do this."



# A Recent History of Papal Acts Impacting Jewish Catholic Relations. What Does the Future Hold After Benedict XVI?

*By Gary Krupp*

*President, Pave the Way Foundation*

Having endured 2000 years of persecution, Jews may have a justified distrust of Christians. Today some Christians have expressed support for the enemies of Israel, further fueling this potential for distrust. Mindful of this reality, we must also acknowledge those Christian individuals and groups who have made positive efforts in support of Jews. Specifically we should take a look at the Roman Catholic Church's actions in recent decades, attempting to reverse centuries of hostility towards Jews, in an official capacity.

The church's October 1965 Declaration on the Relation of the Church with Non-Christian Religions (*Nostra Aetate*) made a clear statement. The document, released by Pope Paul VI and originated by Pope John XXIII before his death, was deliberate and steadfast. The declaration decries all displays of anti-Semitism made at any time by anyone. These powerful words have guided the church's actions throughout the ensuing decades. The impact of modern papacies since the 1960's represent important symbolic trends towards friendlier relations in the current era.

Moreover, our work with Pave the Way Foundation (PTWF) has uncovered evidence (including large numbers of documents, news reports and acknowledged historical events) showing that this relationship with the Jewish people was



atrocities against the Jewish people for centuries, along with the lies of Blood Libel and the Protocols of Zion.

Ultimately, Pope John XXIII died before *Nostra Aetate* was released. His successor, Pope Paul VI, was another member of the Roman Curia during the wartime papacy of Pius XII, Giovanni Montini. Paul VI announced *Nostra Aetate* on October 28, 1965.

Pope Paul VI also ordered a team of Jesuit historians to comb through the official diplomatic documents of the WWII wartime Secret Archives, currently closed under canonical seal, to publish the Acts and Documents of the Holy See during the Second World War. These 11 volumes in 12 books identify over 9000 diplomatic documents which, he hoped, would prove that the allegations of his predecessor Pope Pius XII were wrong. The intent was to end the new false allegations, which endangered Jewish - Catholic relations. Pave the Way Foundation asked for and was given permission to digitize this collection along with the Acts of the Holy See 1909-1965. The contents are available to historians on our website [www.ptwf.org](http://www.ptwf.org) and on the Vatican website: [http://www.vatican.va/archive/att-ufficiali-santa-sede/index\\_en.htm](http://www.vatican.va/archive/att-ufficiali-santa-sede/index_en.htm) worldwide to study this important resource.

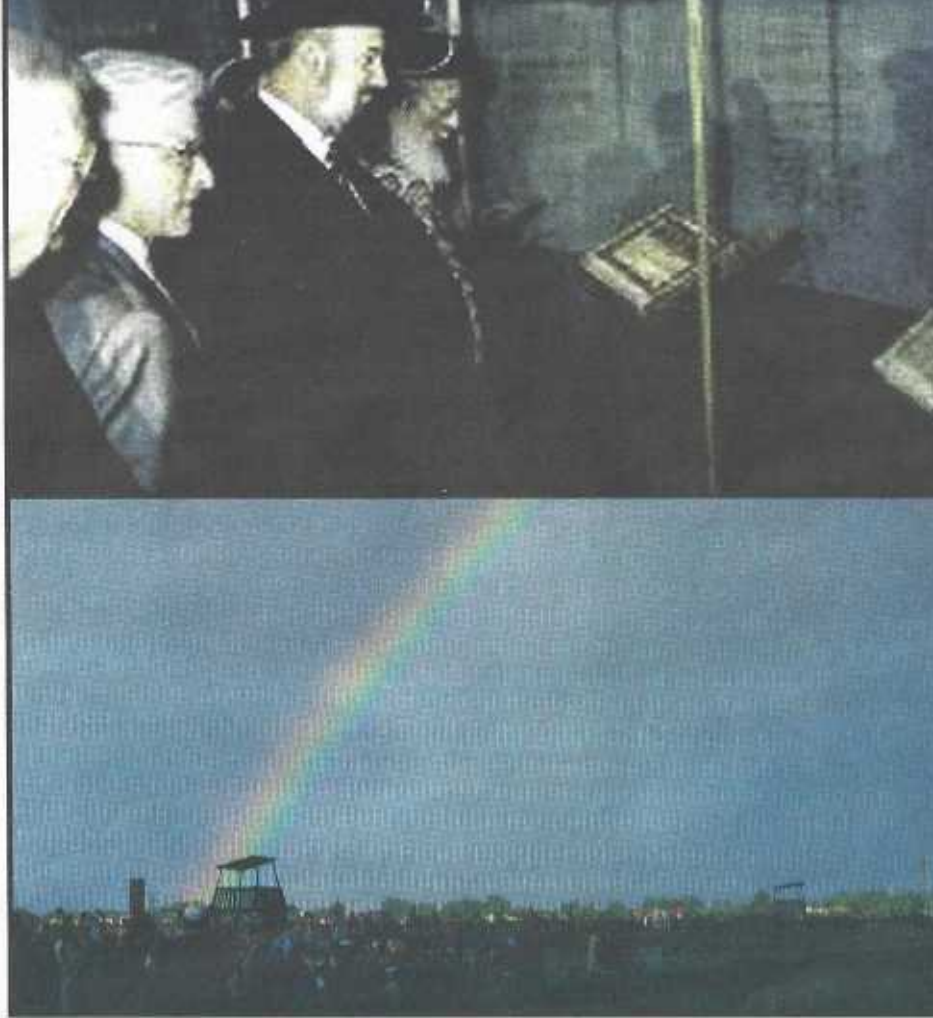
Most of the Jewish world is more familiar with the next Bishop of Rome, Pope John Paul II, himself a victim of Nazi



forcefully moved forward far earlier than the 1960's, by Pope Pius XII (Eugenio Pacelli.) Posted on our website ([www.ptwf.org](http://www.ptwf.org)) are numerous original documents and news reports of this surprising reality.

Pacelli's love for the Jewish people began with his childhood relationship with an Orthodox Jewish friend, Guido Mendes. Young Eugenio attended Shabbat meals at the Mendes home, and learned to speak some Hebrew. He borrowed books of the great Rabbis from his friend. This spiritual link to the origins of Christianity influenced Pacelli's relationship with the Jewish people, beginning when he entered the priesthood and ultimately ascended to the Seat of St. Peter on March 2nd, 1939. Documents show that it was Pacelli's direct action from 1917 through 1947 that ultimately led to the creation of the modern state of Israel.

As Pope Pius XII, his directives instructed Catholics worldwide to do everything possible to save the Jews from the onslaught of Nazism. Upon Pacelli's death in 1959, his successor was the Vatican's Ambassador to Bulgaria, Archbishop Angelo Roncalli (Pope John XXIII). Carrying his predecessor's policies forward, Pope John XXIII is today widely regarded as a hero to the Jewish people. Most notably he is praised for his issuance of false baptismal papers and other actions to save Jews during the Shoah. Later in his papacy, he is credited with convening the Second Vatican Council, which culminated with the historic declaration, *Nostre Aetate*. The declaration absolved Jews of the crime of deicide, the crucifixion of Jesus Christ. Deicide was historically used to justify



**Top: PTWF initiated the largest private Jewish audience in history to thank Pope John Paul II, for his efforts to further reconciliation with the Jewish people and the State of Israel. 2nd photo: Gary Krupp with Pope Benedict XVI. 3rd photo: PTWF arranges for the Vatican Library to loan their original Maimonides documents to Israel. Bottom: A rainbow appeared over Auschwitz as Pope Benedict prayed at the monument to the martyrs.**

brutality in his native Poland. (John Paul II succeeded the brief papacy of John Paul I who died soon after his election). Without question the Jewish world has come to acknowledge John Paul II as one of the great Catholic leaders, who further enhanced Catholic-Jewish relations with demonstrated gestures. Most significantly, similar to Pope Pius XII's formation from his Jewish friend Guido Mendes, John Paul II's childhood Jewish friend Jerzy Kluger, (PTWF advisor in Italy until his death in 2011) had an historical impact on this great man's future actions towards the Jewish people.

John Paul instituted normalization with the State of Israel in 1994. He visited Israel March 2000, placing his prayer for forgiveness of Jewish persecution throughout Christian history in the Kotel. He mourned the murdered Jewish martyrs of the Shoah in the Hall of Remembrance at Yad Vashem, and most significantly was the first Pope since St. Peter to visit the Great Synagogue in Rome as gesture of brotherhood. His personal devotion to the Jewish people was quietly pointed out after his death when he remembered the former Chief Rabbi of Rome Elio Toaff in his will. Rabbi Toaff so welcomed Pope John Paul II to the synagogue April 13, 1986 with the words of Psalm 118:26 "Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord."

PWF had the honor of thanking Pope John Paul II with the largest private Jewish audience in history January 18, 2005, as we recognized his historic gestures to the Jewish people and to Israel. We brought 168 Jewish leaders from around the world to thank this great pontiff. A Conservative,

*continued on the next page*



# Pope Benedict XVI previously held the post of the president of the Holy office or the sacred congregation for the doctrine of the faith for 24 years. In his capacity, he had the responsibility to write much of the edicts of the church and its relations with the Jewish people and Israel.

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Orthodox, and Reform rabbi each blessed the Pope in the Papal palace. The video of this historic event is on our website: [www.ptwf.org](http://www.ptwf.org). Sadly, this was his last major audience as he fell ill 11 days later.

Having a personal relationship with Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger before he was elected Pope April 19, 2005, gave us the opportunity to discuss Jewish-Catholic, and Vatican-Israeli relations with this wonderfully brilliant, yet shy man. This relationship would prove invaluable with our reaching out to him after his election.

Pope Benedict XVI previously held the post of the president of the Holy office or the sacred congregation for the doctrine of the faith for 24 years. In his capacity, he had the responsibility to write much of the edicts of the church and its relations with the Jewish people and Israel. We knew that, as pope, he would move the church along the same path of reconciliation as his predecessors. Pope Benedict XVI was different, however. His devotion to faith and personal drive caused him to take positions which were controversial but would have a far reaching impact.

May 28, 2006, Pave the Way Foundation was honored to join Pope Benedict during his pilgrimage to Poland and his historic visit to Auschwitz-Birkenau. On that special day when he prayed at the monument to martyrs, a rainbow appeared in the sky over the camp, which seemed to

signify G-ds approval of this significant act.

When he made his pilgrimage back home to Regensburg, Germany, his remarks to the Muslim leaders on September 12, 2006, stirred much controversy and even evoked death threats as he condemned the use of religion to justify violence. He publicly quoted the 14th-century Byzantine emperor Manuel II Palaiologos. Such a statement took enormous courage, but he said what he believed needed to be said in light of increased worldwide violence in the name of Islam.

One of his important acts caused an extreme negative reaction from the Jewish world on January 21, 2009. Pope Benedict XVI lifted the ban of excommunication against the Lefebvre followers in the illicit Society of Pope Pius X. This act was an attempt to not only unify his church, but also to neutralize this extreme rightwing group of over 1 million breakaway Catholics, and to bring them back into the teachings of the Catholic Church. The pope wanted to put an end to this groups absolute denial of the declaration of the Second Ecumenical Council and especially its objection to the modern church's relations with other faiths as declared in Nostre Aetate. One of the illicitly ordained Bishops of this group was Richard Williamson who gained notoriety as a holocaust denier.

One difficulty of this action was that no one, including many priests and Bishops, knew that all Benedict's decree did was to legally allow the Vatican Holy Office to talk to this group and to convince them to accept the dictates of the Vatican Council. The world and many Catholics thought that this community, including Bishop Williamson, was welcomed back to full communion with the Church. This was absolutely incorrect. PTWF acted immediately after this to convince Vatican officials to clarify this misconception, which they did three days later.

The Pope stood steadfast and resolute on demanding the recognition of Jewish Catholic relations. Since this group would not budge on their position, the results of negotiations have failed and the group remains excommunicated from the worldwide Catholic Church. It should also be noted that Bishop Williamson was thrown out of the Society because of his bigoted and ignorant statements on the holocaust.

May 11, 2009 Pope Benedict XVI followed in his predecessor footsteps by returning to Israel. He laid a wreath at Yad Vashem's memorial in Jerusalem, and said that the Holocaust victims "lost their lives but they will never lose their names."

May 2010- PTWF brought the head of AIPAC to personally meet with the pope to ask the Vatican to lodge a protest against the threats from Iran against State of Israel.

The Pope personally agreed to do this. Soon after that meeting, the Vatican received a scathing letter back from the Iranian government basically telling them to mind their own business.

March 2, 2011: Pope Benedict XVI Issued a sweeping exoneration of Jews for the death of Christ in his Book "Jesus of Nazareth" released March 10.

In conclusion, when we follow the acts of these historic leaders of the Roman Catholic Church, we can reach only one conclusion. Its unrelenting commitment to improving and continuing Jewish-Catholic reconciliation and cooperation can only move forward. We Jews should try to embrace Catholics as brothers and sisters, especially since anti-Semitism has increased worldwide due to the biased media and extremist demonization. We need every friend we can get.

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*Gary Krupp is the co-founder and president of the Pave the Way Foundation. The only non-sectarian organization in the world, whose mission is to improve relations between the world's religions through historic gestures of good and by identifying and eliminating obstacles. Mr. Krupp is the only Jewish man ever to have been elected as an Officer Brother into the Anglican Order of St John and Knighted into the Pontifical Equestrian Order of St. Gregory the Great by Pope John Paul II and raised in rank by Pope Benedict XVI.*

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### Muslims Reach Out to Help Christian Orthodox World in Historic Gesture – Pave the Way Foundation Applauds Muslim Support for Reopening Halki Seminary in Turkey

Posted on 2013/04/13 by DrKBO

New York, NY (PRWEB) August 24, 2012

Pave the Way Foundation (PTWF) applauds the recent efforts of the Muslim community, especially that of Dr. Mehmet Gormez, Head of the Religious Affairs Directorate, the highest religious authority in Turkey, in speaking out in favor of re-opening the Halki Seminary in Turkey. On July 5, 2012, Dr. Mehmet Gormez, made an historic visit to the Ecumenical Patriarch of Constantinople, Bartholomew I, and declared his support for reopening the Halki Seminary in the name of Islam.

<http://www.todayszaman.com/news-285674-turkeys-top-muslim-cleric-calls-for-reopening-of-greek-seminary-in-visit.html>

In 1971, the Turkish government closed the Halki seminary, which is the oldest and most important religious education institution in the Orthodox Church. This followed earlier Turkish Government decrees requiring that the Patriarch must be a Turkish citizen, creating a grave crisis for the Christian Orthodox Church affecting more than 300 million Christian Orthodox faithful (the second largest Christian denomination in the world). Even after Dr. Gormez historic visit, Turkish Deputy Prime Minister Bekir Bozda reportedly stated that reopening Istanbul's Halki Greek Orthodox Seminary is not on the agenda of the government right now.

Pave the Way Foundation works to identify and resolve obstacles between religions. Becoming aware of this 41-year-old obstacle, the organization took action, and is now working to normalize inter-religious relations by attempting to reopen the seminary using a religious, rather than political justification. PTWF collaborated with the Interfaith Institute at the Islamic Center of Long Island, along with Muslims from many nations, in support of the reopening of the Halki Seminary in the name of Islam.

In May of this year, PTWF sent five letters to the Turkish government containing the Muslim request for Halkis reopening together with the religious justification cited. The request is based on an actual covenant of protection for the "people of the book" (a term used to describe Jews and Christians) guaranteed by the hand-printed signature of the Prophet Muhammad. In 628 AD, the monks of St. Catherine in Egypt requested that they be given protection from the Muslims. This covenant guarantees Islamic protection of the Christians and their churches from all of his followers until the end of time. The manuscript and its translation can be viewed in the peace section on our website. <http://www.ptwf.org>.

Gary Krupp, President of Pave the Way Foundation, said, "We were delighted when Dr. Gormez made his historic visit to the Ecumenical Patriarch and stated his support of this important gesture made by Muslims to help a Christian cause. This historic visit sustains the legitimacy of our Islamic request made just weeks earlier. We remain very optimistic that the government of Turkey will open the seminary and see the wisdom in restoring religious tolerance.

PTWF Board Chairman Elliot Herhsberg said, Each American President since the closing of the Halki Seminary has asked the Turkish government to consider reopening it to no avail. Pave the Way Foundation has elected to take a different route by making the request on a religious rather than political

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basis. We solicited the support of our Muslim friends from many nations and made the request to reopen the seminary in the name of Islam.

PTWF Board of advisors member Sheikh Syed Agha Jafri said, During these days when violence in the name of religion is commonplace, it is even more significant to raise worldwide awareness of this covenant of protection. The document gives a clear order of protection, in the name of Islam, of the people of the book. It is likely that very few are aware that this covenant even exists, even amongst the Muslim population. This should be trumpeted worldwide to oppose those whose private agendas have insulted and sullied Islam by encouraging violence in its name.

About Pave the Way Foundation

PTWF is a nonsectarian foundation whose mission is to identify and work to resolve non-theological obstacles between religions through the trust garnered from our work to initiate historic gestures between the faiths paving the way to removing the use of religion as a tool to justify private agendas and violence.

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## Il Papa in Terra Santa. 'Pave the Way Foundation': gratitudine per il coraggio e la forza manifestati nel pellegrinaggio di grande successo



La fondazione interreligiosa "Pave the Way Foundation" ha ringraziato con una lettera per "il coraggio e la forza" che Benedetto XVI ha manifestato nel suo pellegrinaggio in Terra Santa. Il testo, firmato dal fondatore e presidente dell'istituzione, Gary L. Krupp, ebreo, lamenta allo stesso tempo le critiche che si sono levate da vari settori contro il Santo Padre, spiegando che in realtà tratta di persone o istituzioni con "agende opposte". "Desidero esprimerle la mia sincera e sentita gratitudine per aver iniziato e completato il suo pellegrinaggio di grande successo in Terra Santa", spiega il fondatore della "Pave the Way Foundation". "In una regione separata da differenze politiche, religiose e culturali, percorrere una linea sottile per portare il messaggio di pace di Dio a tutti quanti lo ricercano richiede enorme coraggio e forza". "Solo chi cerca di mettersi nei panni di un altro riesce a capire veramente le necessità, le paure, e può identificarsi con il dolore di tutti i popoli della regione. Purtroppo, c'è chi ha agende opposte ed è pronto a criticare e a minare i suoi preziosi sforzi nel nome della pace".

"Memore di questo, per favore prenda forza dalla voce di coloro che le hanno parlato in musica al suo arrivo in Israele e dall'apprezzamento di quanti vedono attraverso le critiche e l'ostilità e la negatività di alcuni commentatori". "Possa Dio darle la forza di continuare il suo pontificato per molti anni, e ricche benedizioni di successo nel suo sforzo di portare la pace di Dio nel nostro mondo travagliato", termina la lettera, riconoscendo il lavoro del Papa "per porre fine all'uso errato del santo nome di Dio". La "Pave the Way Foundation", come spiega la sua pagina web, "è dedicata al raggiungimento della pace colmando le differenze con la tolleranza, l'educazione e le relazioni pratiche tra le religioni, mediante scambi culturali, tecnologici e intellettuali".



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In the Warsaw ghetto, one man led a secret group that gave voice to the Jewish experience.

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## The Pope's Jewish Knight

by Steve Lipman  
Staff Writer

Last week, a rare manuscript of one of Maimonides' major works returned from an exhibition in Germany to its home in the Vatican Library. According to the library's procedures, two years must pass before one of its loaned artifacts is allowed outside again. In September, the Maimonides manuscript, written by a scribe in the 15th century, will go on display in Jerusalem. "I paved the way for that to happen," said Gary Krupp, a Jewish resident of Long Island who met Pope John Paul II four times and has a network of acquaintances in the Vatican bureaucracy but is little known in the wider Jewish community. The Vatican Library's loan to the Israel Museum will go forward, despite the pope's passing. "Nothing is changed with his death," Krupp

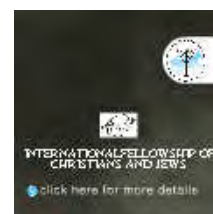
said. Krupp, 57, from Long Beach, is the founder and president of the Pave the Way Foundation

Become  
historically  
significant  
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(www.pavethewayfoundation.org), an independent, interfaith organization under whose auspices he negotiated the loan of Maimonides' Mishna Torah and of three other centuries-old Jewish manuscripts. In the three years since Krupp founded Pave the Way, the foundation has become a major conduit between the Catholic Church and the Jewish community, and Krupp, who describes himself as a Conservative Jew but not particularly observant, is arguably one of the most effective Jewish voices in high Catholic circles. That's Commander Krupp, his title since being knighted by Pope John Paul II in 2000. Of some 2,000 people in the world invested as a Knights Commander of the Pontifical Order of St. Gregory the Great, the Catholic Church's highest honor for a layperson, he is among only seven Jews so feted. The only other ones alive now are American conductor Gilbert Levine and British philanthropist Sigmund Sternberg. Krupp was knighted in recognition for his decade of volunteer work on behalf of Casa Sollievo Della Sofferenza, a Catholic-sponsored hospital four hours from Rome. Krupp, who made a living in medical business development with an expertise in high-tech diagnostic equipment, was introduced to the hospital administrators by Long Island bishops of long acquaintance. He advised the hospital in obtaining state-of-the-art equipment. "It was a natural fit," he said. "I grew up with Catholics," in Flushing, Queens. After being knighted, he left the business world to establish Pave the Way and work full time in interfaith relations. "My access was unique," he said. Krupp gathered a board of directors and advisers that includes Christian and Muslim clergy, as well as rabbis from the major denominations of Judaism. They concentrate on political, cultural and educational activities. "Nothing having to do with theology," Krupp calls John Paul II "the most



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marvelous man I have ever met." After a few trips to Israel and several to Italy, he numbers among his friends Israeli leaders and Vatican officials. "When I write a letter [to someone in the Vatican], they respond." They have to, he said. "I'm a member of the household." "He's a wonderful man, an unofficial diplomat," said Rabbi David Rosen, the American Jewish Committee's international director of interreligious affairs, who has worked with Krupp for several years. "He has a deep commitment to promoting Jewish-Catholic relations. He's made a very important contribution." Lacking a personal fortune or title in a major organization, Krupp has spent a decade operating off the Jewish radar screen, using his personal connections in the Catholic hierarchy to do such things as help revive the nearly dormant diplomatic negotiations between the Holy See and Israel, organize the international delegation of 160 Jewish leaders who gathered in the Vatican in January to thank Pope John Paul II for his advocacy of Jewish interests, promote Catholic pilgrimage to Israel — and to arrange the Vatican Library's loan of the Jewish manuscripts. Pave the Way didn't send out press releases announcing these accomplishments. "I'm not looking for notoriety," said Krupp, who works with his wife Meredith, the foundation's director, on Pave the Way projects. "I concentrate on getting a job done." He calls the manuscript loan "an ancillary benefit," a small act that shows good will. Krupp did not attend the funeral of John Paul II. "I was contacted by Rome — there are no special provisions for papal knights." But he will be in the Vatican soon, he said. "I'll probably be going back there after the election of the new pope." n

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# In Letter to Bishops, Pope Admits 'Mistakes'

By RACHEL DONADIO

MADRID — Pope Benedict XVI has written an unusually personal letter to bishops worldwide explaining why he revoked the excommunication of a Holocaust-denying bishop and admitting mistakes in how the Vatican handled the case.

The letter, which the Vatican will release Thursday, is a further attempt to calm the waters after Benedict pardoned four schismatic bishops, including Richard Williamson, who in a television interview broadcast in January said that there had been no Nazi gas chambers.

The revocation provoked worldwide outrage and caused Catholics and Jews alike to question Benedict's commitment to ecumenism and the reforms of the Second Vatican Council.

In passages of the letter that appeared on Wednesday in the Italian newspaper *Il Foglio*, the Vatican admitted "mistakes" in handling the case, and said that in the future it would pay more attention to how news spreads over the Internet.

A YouTube video of Bishop Williamson's television interview, in which he denies the Holocaust, was widely viewed online in the days before the pope lifted the excommunications in late January.

The four belong to the ultra-conservative Society of St. Pius X. They had been excommunicated by Pope John Paul II after being consecrated without a papal mandate, causing the only formal schism in the church.

In passages from the pope's letter posted Wednesday on the blog of a veteran Vatican reporter, Andrea Tornielli, Benedict said he considered revoking the excommunication "a modest act of mercy" toward the bishops,



MAURIZIO BRAMBATTI/EUROPEAN PRESSPHOTO AGENCY

Pope Benedict XVI, waving to the faithful Wednesday, admits that the Vatican mishandled the lifting of an excommunication.

whose ordinations were "valid but illicit."

"Instead," Mr. Tornielli quotes the letter saying, "it suddenly appeared something completely different: as the denial of reconciliation between Christians and Jews."

The blog posting said the pope wrote that he had been "saddened" that "even Catholics, who should have been better able to understand things," instead seemed poised with "a hostility ready for the attack." He added that he thanked "the Jewish friends who quickly helped remove the misunderstandings and to re-establish the atmosphere of friendship and trust."

The Vatican spokesman, the Rev. Federico Lombardi, said he had no comment on the letter before its official publication.

In May, Benedict will make his first papal visit to the Holy Land, with stops expected in Jordan, Israel and the Palestinian territories.

In news accounts this week, Archbishop Antonio Franco, the apostolic nuncio to the Holy Land, said Benedict would not enter the Holocaust museum at Yad Vashem in Jerusalem because it had a contentious plaque criticizing Pope Pius XII for not doing enough to help save Jews during the Holocaust.

The legacy of Pius is a main sticking point in Vatican-Jewish relations. Benedict, like other popes, has said Pius worked "secretly and silently" to save Jews.

Father Lombardi said that the pope would visit the Holocaust memorial at Yad Vashem, as John Paul II did on his historic visit to Israel in 2000, but that a museum visit had never been considered.

The pope is also expected to visit Al Aksa Mosque in Jerusalem, Father Lombardi said.

On Thursday, Benedict is expected to meet a delegation from the chief rabbinate of Israel at the Vatican.

NY Times 3/12/09





HOW  
ORANGES  
SAVED  
OUR SKINS

THE JEWISH CHRONICLE

27 FEBRUAR  
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# Wartime pope's secret heroism

EXCLUSIVE

BY SIMON CALDWELL

► DOCUMENTS THAT show the wartime pope saved tens of thousands of European Jews from the Nazis have been discovered in the Vatican's archives.

The 300 pages reveal that Pope Pius XII directly ordered convents, monasteries and Catholic churches to hide Jews from the Gestapo.

He also helped Jews to escape to safe countries, requesting the Brazilian government to receive 3,000 "non-Aryans" and persuading the Dominican Republic to grant visas for a further 11,000 people.

The documentation from the recently-opened archives has now been posted online by the Pave the Way Foundation, a largely Jewish group invited by Yad Vashem, the Holocaust remembrance authority, to investigate the role of the wartime pope.

They provide further evidence to counter accusations that Pius was passive and silent in the face of the Holocaust.

Such accusations began in 1963, five years after the death of Pius, with the play, *The Deputy*, written by German Communist Rolf Hochhuth with the help of the KGB. It contained information revealed by Lt General Ion Mihai Pacepa, the highest ranking KGB agent ever to defect.

The claims against Pius have been expanded in recent years by such writers as John Cornwell, author of *Hitler's Pope: The Secret History of Pius XII*.

Gary Krupp, president of the Pave the Way Foundation, said that correcting the record was a matter of justice.

"Personally, as a Jew, I must state that correcting this perversion of history has really nothing to do with the Catholic Church," he said.

"It is in the interest of Jewish justice that we must acknowledge the efforts of one man, during a period when as a people we were abandoned by the rest of the world.

"It is time to recognise Pope Pius XII for what he really did rather than what he did not say."

Mr Krupp added: "From what I have seen, this is the greatest hero of World War II, without question.

"This man had German guns just 200 yards from his windows and still managed to save thousands of Jews. It is astonishing what this man actually accomplished — and did secretly.

"This wasn't Hitler's pope, this wasn't a collaborator, this was a man Hitler was planning to kill. There is not one shred of evidence that supports the 'Hitler's pope' theory".

The latest documentation was discovered in the secret Vatican archives by Dr Michael Hesemann, a German historian who believes the record of Pius has been badly misrepresented.

The material includes the diary of a nun who explained how Pius asked religious houses to shelter Jews after the Gestapo arrested 1,007 people in a sweep of Rome on October 16 1943.

The nun wrote that "in these grievous situations the Holy Father wishes to save his sons, also the Jews, and orders that in convents hospitality be given to these persecuted people, and also the monasteries of enclosure must adhere to this desire of the Supreme Pontiff".

The policy saved about 5,000 lives, nearly 85 per cent of the Jewish



On the Chinn: Philippe Petit with his Oscar watched by director James M

## Producer Chinn Oscar for Man o

BY LEON SYMONS

► THE SON of one of Anglo-Jewry's longest-serving leaders has won an Oscar with his first documentary.

Simon Chinn, son of Sir Trevor and Lady Chinn, took the best documentary category at the annual awards ceremony in Los Angeles on Sunday night for the film he produced, *Man On Wire*.

The film is about a 1974 incident dubbed the "artistic crime of the century", when Frenchman Philippe Petit walked a tightrope stretched between the Twin Towers, then the world's tallest buildings.

The Oscar was the culmination of a string of awards the documentary has won since it was first shown at last year's Sundance film festival in

America, where it won the audience and jury awards, and the best British film award at the Baftas just a couple of weeks ago.

Mr Chinn, 39, said: "The ceremony was incredibly tense and nerve-wracking leading up to the announcement. Our biggest concern was that we would fluff our lines and screw up our acceptance speech, but we didn't. It was great thrill to receive the award."

His wife Lara and three-month-old son Jonah were in Los Angeles with him. He also has a 13-year-old son Haroun, from a previous relationship.

Mr Chinn explained that he had heard Mr Petit's story on the BBC *Desert Island Discs* four years ago. The Frenchman had written a book about his experience.

Mr Chinn, who had previously worked on television documentaries

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# Vatican records show Pope Pius in new light

► **CONTINUED FROM P1**

population of Rome, and in 1946 led to the conversion of the Chief Rabbi, Israel Zolli.

He took Eugenio as his baptismal name in honour of the pope, formerly Cardinal Eugenio Pacelli.

The latest discovery also offers evidence that, contrary to popular claims, not only was Pius never an antisemite, he was pro-Zionist in his sympathies.

As Papal Nuncio (equivalent to ambassador) to Bavaria in 1917, he intervened through the German government to assure the Jews of Palestine that they would be protected from any harm from the Ottoman Turks.

Dr Hesemann said that Pacelli also directly contacted the World Zionist Organisation representative Nachum Sokolov, and used his influence to arrange for him to meet Pope Benedict XV in 1917 to discuss a Jewish homeland in Palestine.

In 1926, Pacelli encouraged Catholics in Germany to join the Committee Pro-Palestina, which supported Jewish settlements in Palestine.

In 1938 he opposed a Polish bill outlawing *shechitah* because he felt that

the move represented the "grave persecution" of the Jewish people.

The papers include a 1939 US foreign service document in which the US consul-general to Cologne reported how the "new Pope" had surprised him by his extreme hatred of the Nazi regime and Adolf Hitler, and how he had supported the German bishops' opposition to Nazism.

Historians will have full access to the Vatican archives dealing with the pontificate of Pius XII only after 2013.

Archivists will then have finished filing 16 million documents into 15,430 folders and 2,500 dossiers.

Yad Vashem, which is expecting a visit from Pope Benedict in May during his visit to Israel, is reserving its final judgment about Pius until its historians have studied the archives.

However, some Jewish historians, such as the late Pinchas Lapide, have estimated that the Catholic Church under Pius saved between 700,000 and 850,000 Jews from the Nazis.

This was mostly managed by providing sanctuary or passage to safe countries but also by intervening, when practicable, to stop their round-up in occupied countries.

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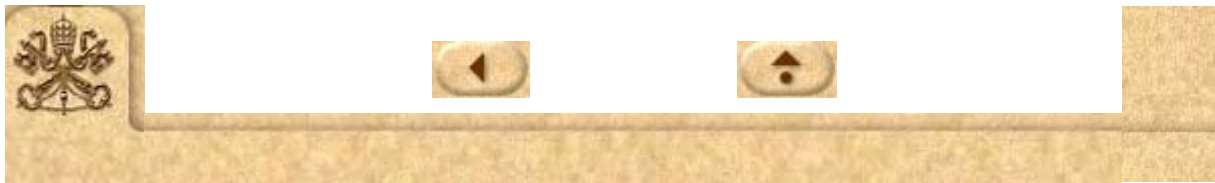
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***ADDRESS OF HIS HOLINESS BENEDICT XVI  
AT THE CONCLUSION OF THE SYMPOSIUM  
ORGANIZED BY THE "PAVE THE WAY FOUNDATION"***

*Hall of the Swiss, Castel Gandolfo  
Thursday, 19 September 2008*

*Dear Mr Krupp,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,*

I am happy to meet with you at the conclusion of the important symposium organized by the *Pave the Way Foundation*. I know that many eminent scholars have participated in this reflection on the numerous works of my beloved predecessor - the Servant of God Pope Pius XII - accomplished during the difficult period around the time of the second world war. I warmly welcome each of you especially Mr Gary Krupp, President of the Foundation, whom I thank for the kind words expressed on your behalf. I am grateful to him for informing me how your work has been undertaken during the symposium. You have analyzed without bias the events of history and concerned yourselves only with seeking the truth. I also greet those accompanying you on this visit, as well as your family members and loved ones at home.

The focus of your study has been the person and the tireless pastoral and humanitarian work of Pius XII, *Pastor Angelicus*. Fifty years have passed since his pious death here at Castel Gandolfo early on the ninth of October 1958, after a debilitating disease. This anniversary provides an important opportunity to deepen our knowledge of him, to meditate on his rich teaching and to analyze thoroughly his activities. So much has been written and said of him during these last five decades and not all of the genuine facets of his diverse pastoral activity have been examined in a just light. The aim of your symposium has been precisely to address some of these deficiencies, conducting a careful and documented examination of many of his interventions, especially those in favour of the Jews who in those years were being targeted all over Europe, in accordance with the criminal plan of those who wanted to eliminate them from the face of the earth. When one draws close to this noble Pope, free from ideological prejudices, in addition to being struck by his lofty spiritual and human character one is also captivated by the example of his life and the extraordinary richness of his teaching. One can also come to appreciate the human wisdom and pastoral intensity which guided him in his long years of ministry, especially in providing organized assistance to the Jewish people.

Thanks to the vast quantity of documented material which you have gathered, supported by many authoritative testimonies, your symposium offers to the public forum the possibility of knowing more fully what Pius XII achieved for the Jews persecuted by the Nazi and fascist regimes. One understands, then, that wherever possible he spared no effort in intervening in their favour either directly or through instructions given to other individuals or to institutions of the Catholic Church. In the proceedings of your convention you have also drawn attention to his many interventions, made secretly and silently, precisely because, given the concrete



situation of that difficult historical moment, only in this way was it possible to avoid the worst and save the greatest number of Jews. This courageous and paternal dedication was recognized and appreciated during and after the terrible world conflict by Jewish communities and individuals who showed their gratitude for what the Pope had done for them. One need only recall Pius XII's meeting on the 29<sup>th</sup> of November 1945 with eighty delegates of German concentration camps who during a special Audience granted to them at the Vatican, wished to thank him personally for his generosity to them during the terrible period of Nazi-fascist persecution.

Ladies and Gentlemen, thank you for your visit and for the research you have undertaken. Thanks also to the *Pave the Way Foundation* for its ongoing activity in promoting relationships and dialogue between religions, as witnesses of peace, charity and reconciliation. It is my great hope that this year, which marks the fiftieth-anniversary of my venerated predecessor's death, will provide the opportunity to promote in-depth studies of various aspects of his life and his works in order to come to know the historical truth, overcoming every remaining prejudice. With these sentiments I invoke upon you and the proceedings of your symposium an abundance of divine blessings.

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Benedetto XVI invita a riconoscere l'azione umanitaria di Eugenio Pacelli durante la persecuzione nazista e fascista

## Pio XII e gli ebrei Verità storica senza pregiudizi

*Occorre riconoscere senza pregiudizi ideologici la verità storica su Pio XII. È l'invito di Benedetto XVI nel corso dell'udienza di giovedì 18 settembre ai partecipanti al simposio della Pave the Way, una Fondazione ebraica impegnata a riscoprire e valorizzare l'azione umanitaria di Papa Pacelli per le vittime della guerra e, in particolare, per gli ebrei.*

Dear Mr Krupp,  
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LA TRADUZIONE DEL DISCORSO A PAGINA 8

## Il Papa al nuovo Ambasciatore di Bosnia ed Erzegovina Da una pluralità di popoli una società unita

«La promozione dei valori spirituali e morali, discernibili dalla ragione umana, non è solo parte della trasmissione delle tradizioni religiose, ma nutre anche la più ampia cultura, motivando gli uomini e le donne di buona volontà a rafforzare i legami di solidarietà e a dimostrare come una società unita possa in realtà sorgere da una pluralità di popoli». Lo ha sottolineato il Papa nel discorso rivolto a Jasna Krivosić-Prpić, nuovo Ambasciatore di Bosnia ed Erzegovina presso la Santa Sede, ricevuta in udienza a Castel Gandolfo, nella mattina di giovedì 18 settembre, per la presentazione delle lettere credenziali. Il Papa ha assicurato che la Chiesa in Bosnia ed Erzegovina continuerà a favorire l'ottenimento degli obiettivi di riconciliazione, pace e prosperità.





La traduzione italiana del discorso del Papa alla Pave the Way Foundation

# Con paterna e coraggiosa dedizione Pio XII evitò il peggio e salvò numerosi ebrei

*Pubblichiamo una nostra traduzione italiana del discorso rivolto da Benedetto XVI ai partecipanti al simposio su Pio XII organizzato dalla Pave the Way Foundation. Il Papa li ha ricevuti nella mattina di giovedì 18 settembre, nella sala degli Svizzeri a Castel Gandolfo.*

Stimato Signor Krupp, Gentili Signore e Signori,

è per me un vero piacere incontrarvi al termine dell'importante simposio promosso dalla *Pave the Way Foundation*, che ha visto la partecipazione di eminenti studiosi per riflettere insieme sull'opera generosa compiuta dal mio venerato Predecessore, il Servo di Dio Pio XII, durante il difficile periodo del secolo scorso, che ruota attorno al secondo conflitto mondiale. A ciascuno di voi rivolgo il mio più cordiale benvenuto. Saluto in modo particolare il Sig. Gary Krupp, Presidente della Fondazione, e gli sono grato per i sentimenti espressi a nome di tutti i presenti. Gli sono inoltre riconoscente per le informazioni che mi ha dato su come si sono svolti i vostri lavori in questo vostro simposio, in cui avete analizzato senza preconcetti gli eventi della storia, unicamente preoccupati di ricercare la verità. Il mio saluto si estende a quanti si sono a voi uniti in questa vostra visita, e colgo volentieri l'occasione per inviare il



mio cordiale pensiero ai vostri familiari e alle persone a voi care.

Durante questi giorni la vostra attenzione si è rivolta alla figura e all'infaticabile azione pastorale e umanitaria di Pio XII, *Pastor Angelicus*. È passato mezzo secolo dal suo pio transito, avvenuto qui, a Castel Gandolfo nelle prime ore del 9 ottobre 1958, dopo una malattia che ne ridusse gradualmente il vigore fisico. Questo anniversario costituisce una importante opportuni-

tà per approfondirne la conoscenza, per meditarne il ricco insegnamento e per analizzare compiutamente il suo operato. Tanto si è scritto e detto di lui in questi cinque decenni e non sempre sono stati posti nella giusta luce i veri aspetti della sua multiforme azione pastorale. Scopo del vostro simposio è proprio quello di colmare alcune di tali lacune, conducendo una attenta e documentata analisi su molti suoi interventi, soprattutto su quelli a favore degli ebrei che in quegli an-

ni venivano colpiti ovunque in Europa, in ossequio al disegno criminoso di chi voleva eliminarli dalla faccia della terra. Quando ci si accosta senza pregiudizi ideologici alla nobile figura di questo Papa, oltre ad essere colpiti dal suo alto profilo umano e spirituale, si rimane conquistati dall'esemplarità della sua vita e dalla straordinaria ricchezza del suo insegnamento. Si apprezza la saggezza umana e la tensione pastorale che lo hanno guidato nel suo lungo ministero e in modo particolare nell'organizzazione degli aiuti al popolo ebraico.

Grazie a un vasto materiale documentario da voi raccolto, arricchito da molteplici e autorevoli testimonianze, il vostro simposio offre alla pubblica opinione la possibilità di conoscere meglio e più compiutamente ciò che Pio XII ha promesso e compiuto a favore degli ebrei perseguitati dai regimi nazista e fascista. Si apprende allora che non risparmiò sforzi, ovunque fosse possibile, per intervenire direttamente oppure attraverso istruzioni impartite a singoli o ad istituzioni della Chiesa cattolica in loro favore. Nei lavori del vostro convegno sono stati anche evidenziati i non pochi interventi da lui compiuti in modo segreto e silenzioso proprio perché, tenendo conto delle concrete situazioni di quel complesso momento storico, solo in tale maniera era possibile evitare il peggio e salvare il più gran numero possibile di

ebrei. Questa sua coraggiosa e paterna dedizione è stata del resto riconosciuta ed apprezzata durante e dopo il tremendo conflitto mondiale da comunità e personalità ebraiche che non mancarono di manifestare la loro gratitudine per quanto il Papa aveva fatto per loro. Basta ricordare l'incontro che Pio XII ebbe, il 29 novembre del 1945, con gli 80 delegati dei campi di concentramento tedeschi, i quali in una speciale udienza loro concessa in Vaticano, vollero ringraziarlo personalmente per la generosità dal Papa dimostrata verso di loro, perseguitati durante il terribile periodo del nazifascismo.

Gentili Signore e Signori, grazie per questa vostra visita e per il lavoro di ricerca che state compiendo. Grazie alla *Pave the Way Foundation* per la costante azione che dispiega nel favorire i rapporti e il dialogo tra le varie Religioni, in modo che esse offrano una testimonianza di pace, di carità e di riconciliazione. È mio vivo auspicio infine che quest'anno, che ci ricorda il 50° della morte di questo mio venerato Predecessore, offra l'opportunità di promuovere studi più approfonditi sui vari aspetti della sua persona e della sua attività, per giungere insieme a conoscere la verità storica, superando così ogni restante pregiudizio. Con tali sentimenti invoco sulle vostre persone e sui lavori del vostro simposio la benedizione di Dio.



I recently had two encounters in Rome which I thought you might be interested in hearing about. The first was with members of the cast of the film version of the novel *Angels and Demons* by Dan Brown, published in 2000 — the “prequel” to *The Da Vinci Code* — which is scheduled for release in 2009. Some scenes for this upcoming film were shot recently during nearly a day and night on the street directly leading to St. Peter’s Basilica, the *Via della Conciliazione*. It is the same street where my office at the Congregation for Eastern Churches is located, and within sight of my residence.

To put my “encounter” in context, it is helpful to give a brief summary of the story’s plot. A Harvard “symbolologist,” Robert Langdon, by examining a symbol found “seared” upon the chest of a murdered physicist, recognizes “the resurgence of an ancient secret brotherhood known as the Illuminati.” This organization embarks upon a “final phase” of its vendetta “against its most hated enemy — the Catholic Church.” An “unstoppable bomb” is hidden in Vatican City and set to detonate. Two of the main characters (Langdon and Vittoria Vetra) purportedly attempt “to assist the Vatican in a desperate bid for survival.”

The director for *Angels and Demons* is, as with *The Da Vinci Code*, Ron Howard, with Tom Hanks playing the role of Langdon, becoming, according to the online *American Chronicle*, “the highest paid actor for a single film.”

But Howard met with a snag. The diocese of Rome decided to bar the producers from using two churches in Rome as sites for the movie.

Undeterred, the film-makers persisted, obtaining permission to film on *Via della Conciliazione*.

This is where I had the opportunity to interact directly with about 20 of the hundreds of crew members who frequented the street and adjacent areas.

They walked. They talked. They paused at coffee bars. I decided to dress casually and to mingle. Many were content to “take a break” and spoke very openly over a *capuccino*, thinking that I was just an amiable tourist.

What were their comments? Those of one person who described himself as a “production official” were quite typical: “The wretched Church is against us yet again and is making problems. There are some of us who are friends with Dan Brown (the author of the book and executive producer of the movie). Like most of us, he often says that he would do anything to demolish that detestable institution, the Catholic Church. And we will triumph. You will see.”

I remarked calmly: “Excuse me, but I am not sure that I actually understand your position.”

His reply, with several others chiming in their approval, was: “Within a generation there will be no more Catholic Church, at least not in Western Europe. And really the media deserves to take much of the credit for its demise.

“We see the same success now happening everywhere, even across North America. The public is finally getting our message: the Catholic Church must be weakened and eventually it must disappear from the earth. It is humanity’s chief enemy. This has always been the case.

“Look at this pathetic Pope and his predecessor. Both have tried frantically to reverse the trend. But their efforts faced doom because we are too strong. And we have radio, television, Hollywood, the music and video industries, along with just about every newspaper which exists, all saying the same thing.

“It is more than many of us would have dared to hope just a few years back. It is a kind of revolution, and the colleges and universities, as well as the young, are on our side, too. Everywhere you turn the

Church has become reduced to ruins. And ruins are all that should be left!”

The Rome diocese was prudent to declare its refusal.

For beneath the movie’s disguise of “saving the Vatican” lurks the familiar anti-Catholic rhetoric. There are many misrepresentations generated by the “debate about which is to be trusted — science or religion.” Not surprisingly, there is total disregard for the affinities between those two spheres — as made clear by the Pontifical

## ANGELS AND DEMONS IN ROME



Gary Krupp and his wife Meredith, founders of the Pave the Way Foundation, which is sponsoring a symposium in Rome in September on the war-time role of Pope Pius XII. Krupp, who is Jewish, has been named a Knight of St. Gregory by the Church



Academy of Sciences. And there are the usual allegations of Vatican conspiracy and cover-up (e.g., the murder of a Pope), and of sexual impropriety (a Pope is the biological father of one priest in the story). Fraudulent theological claims are set forth (e.g., Langdon tells a class of university students that the origin of the Eucharist is found in Aztec religion and the Church simply appropriated and manipulated the ritual). The list goes on (e.g., the suggestion that Jesus was married).

The web encyclopedia, *Wikipedia*, though sometimes not a completely trustworthy source of information, does manage to identify several of the book's most glaring errors and declares that Brown is "a poor researcher of history."

My second encounter was far more edifying. I serve on the Rome board of advisors of the Pave the Way Foundation, based in New York. The organization was co-founded in 2002 by Gary and Meredith Krupp, with the purpose of promoting interreligious relations "through cultural, technological and intellectual gestures." The range of those "gestures" is as extensive as it is impressive. The motivation for Pave the Way is perhaps best expressed in its mission statement: "The time has come that we must now recognize the dangers of ignorance, which begets bigotry, apathy and silence." ([www.ptwf.org](http://www.ptwf.org))

What is remarkable is that the Krupps, a Jewish couple, have embraced, among their many causes, that of Catholic-Jewish dialogue. When the Krupps visit Rome, their "team" regularly meets and we exchange insights on

whatever the Foundation's current projects are.

Our latest gathering was especially noteworthy and joyful because on June 18, Pave the Way arranged for a "group of Holocaust survivors" to be "received in audience" by Pope Benedict XVI. These "Jewish survivors" were all very grateful for the opportunity to (...) thank the Pope for the intervention of the Roman Catholic Church for saving their lives during World War II" (*Zenit*).

And there is more to come. In September, Pave the Way will host a symposium in Rome with various experts who will be panelists and who will analyze what is known to date about the Church's role during the Holocaust and with a particular focus upon Pope Pius XII. "The audience will be more than 100 mostly Jewish religious, education and community leaders from around the world."

Meanwhile, press reports say Vatican archivists studying the Church's records from the 1940s continue to prepare thousands of documents to be opened.

The net result of their efforts, like that of this crucially important symposium, will surely be to bring us closer to the truth of who is responsible for the appalling injustice done to the reputation of the heroic Pius XII.

The "demons" have had their say for long enough. Let us pray that some "angels" may finally be heard and believed! ●

*Father O'Connor, a Canadian, is an official with the Vatican's Congregation for Eastern Churches.*

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# Il saluto a un gruppo di ebrei sopravvissuti alla Shoah

La presenza in piazza San Pietro di una rappresentanza di ebrei sopravvissuti alla persecuzione nazista e di un importante capo musulmano africano hanno segnato un nuovo passo in avanti nelle relazioni con le altre grandi religioni. Il Papa ha accolto a braccia aperte le due delegazioni. Gary Krupp, statunitense, presidente della Pave the Way Foundation, ha voluto fortemente l'incontro con Benedetto XVI per presentargli il simposio che, dal 15 al 18 settembre a Roma, «approfondirà — spiega — il grande aiuto offerto agli ebrei da Pio XII e per dirgli che la presenza all'udienza di alcuni sopravvissuti alla Shoah è un'espressione di gratitudine a Papa Pacelli, per ricordarlo a cinquant'anni dalla morte».

Il Papa ha salutato a uno a uno i componenti della delegazione ebraica. E ha poi stretto la mano a Mame Mor Mbacké, autorevole punto di riferimento per i musulmani del Senegal, che ha espresso l'impegno a collaborare con i cattolici per la pace e la giustizia. L'incontro con il Papa è un segnale positivo per il dialogo con l'islam in Africa. Con gratitudine Benedetto XVI ha poi salutato Samart Sue e la sua numerosa famiglia — erano accompagnati dal cardinale Martino — che in Thailandia ha finanziato la costruzione di cinquanta chiese. Un'iniziativa per la ricerca sulle leucemie è stata presentata al Papa dal ciclista Maurizio Fondriest che ha donato una bici e la rosa tipica di Padova, detta di sant'Antonio. Infine la piccola Elisa, casertana, ha regalato il suo pelouche preferito, Winnie the Pooh, perché il Papa lo faccia avere a un bambino ammalato. La destinazione è già decisa: ospedale Bambino Gesù.

## OSSERVATORE ROMANO 19th June 2008



*Il Papa saluta un gruppo di ebrei sopravvissuti alla persecuzione nazista*





**INTERVISTA.** Parla l'ebreo Krupp, presidente della fondazione americana che ha interpellato i testimoni della Shoah: «Pontefice da riabilitare»

# Pio XII: 11.000 ebrei in salvo ai Caraibi

DI LORENZO FAZZINI

**P**io XII va nominato «Giusto tra le Nazioni» perché fu il leader mondiale che più si diede da fare, durante la Seconda guerra mondiale, nel salvare gli ebrei perseguitati da Hitler; quindi hanno torto quanti, da Cornwell a Hitchens, bollano Papa Pacelli come filo-nazista. Gary L. Krupp, ebreo americano, presidente della Fondazione *Pave the Way* di New York (che nel 2005 organizzò il più affollato incontro di rabbini con un Papa, Giovanni Paolo II, mai tenuto in Vaticano, e che a giugno ha incontrato Benedetto XVI), apporta inedite rivelazioni sul ruolo di Pio XII nel sottrarre gruppi di ebrei dallo sterminio hitleriano. Come quelli che il Pontefice fece fuggire dal 1939 al 1945 – tramite migliaia di visti – nella Repubblica Dominicana. Di questo si parlerà a Roma in un convegno promosso appunto dalla *Pave the Way* e previsto a Palazzo Salviati dal 15 al 17 settembre, appuntamento al quale interverranno studiosi come lo storico gesuita Peter Gumpel, monsignor Sergio Pagano prefetto dell'Archivio Segreto Vaticano, Martin Gilbert, biografo di Churchill e autore di *I giusti. Gli eroi sconosciuti dell'Olocausto* (Città Nuova) e

Andrea Tornielli, vaticanista, che ha scritto il documentato *Pio XII* (Mondadori). Dottor Krupp, perché ha deciso di

indagare il coinvolgimento di Pio XII nell'aiutare gli ebrei durante l'Olocausto?

«*Pave the Way* è una fondazione indipendente che opera per eliminare l'abuso della religione a fini privati. Costruiamo relazioni con diverse confessioni religiose attraverso gesti concreti e identificando gli ostacoli che esistono tra esse. Abbiamo individuato nel papato di Pio XII uno dei temi più difficili nelle relazioni tra ebrei e cattolici; la sola strada percorribile per arrivare alla verità è la testimonianza delle persone presenti durante gli eventi di quegli anni terribili. *Pave the Way* ha deciso di finanziare questo progetto che ha riguardato l'incontro con persone ancora viventi, le cui testimonianze sono state videoregistrate».

Quali sono le principali «scoperte» di questa indagine?

«Io e mia moglie Meredith siamo cresciuti pensando che Pio XII fosse un collaboratore del nazismo

Il nunzio ad Haiti Ferrofino, tuttora vivente, inviato più volte dal Papa a chiedere visti per l'espatrio di ricercati dal Portogallo a Santo Domingo

e un antisemita. Si può immaginare il nostro shock quando abbiamo indagato direttamente quell'epoca e abbiamo scoperto la nostra disinformazione e in seguito il nostro sconcerto verso coloro ai quali era stato affidato l'incarico di effettuare tali indagini. Personalmente, la scoperta più importante è stata l'intervista realizzata in Provenza sulle attività di monsignor Giovanni Ferrofino, oggi novantaseienne, emissario di Pio XII e segretario del nunzio monsignor Maurilio Silvani (rappresentante vaticano in Haiti dal 1939 al '46). Monsignor Ferrofino riceveva ad Haiti due telegrammi criptati due volte all'anno da parte di Pio XII e in seguito a quei dispacci andava con il nunzio dal generale Trujillo (allora presidente della Repubblica Dominicana, ndr) per chiedergli – a nome del Papa – ogni volta 800



La notissima foto di Pio XII nel quartiere di San Lorenzo a Roma dopo i bombardamenti del luglio 1943



L'ebreo Gary Krupp

visti per gli ebrei che dal Portogallo stavano scappando dall'Europa a bordo di una nave. Questo accadde due volte all'anno, dal 1939 al 1945: vuol dire che almeno 11 mila ebrei potrebbero essere stati salvati, solo in riferimento a questo Paese. Alcuni esperti vaticani, ai quali

ho mostrato tale intervista, mi hanno confessato di non aver nessuna idea di questo fatto. Monsignor Ferrofino fu spettatore in prima persona della frustrazione di Pio XII per il mancato aiuto degli Stati Uniti e di altri Paesi rispetto alla necessità di salvare gli ebrei. Molto istruttivo è risultato anche l'incontro con Martin Gilbert a Londra: egli, da ebreo, afferma che Pio XII dovrebbe essere riconosciuto come "Giusto tra le Nazioni" dal museo Yad Vashem per il lavoro che fece nel procurare visti di espatrio agli ebrei. Gilbert inoltre suggerisce con forza di cambiare la didascalia, che giudica "di parte", riguardante Pio XII nel memoriale dell'Olocausto di Gerusalemme».

Nell'opinione pubblica, sui media o nella pubblicistica – basti pensare al recente «Dio non è grande» di Hitchens – resiste però l'immagine di Pio XII come il «Papa di Hitler». Ci dev'essere un altro appellativo con cui ricordare papa Pacelli?

«Posso dire che il libro di Cornwell (*Il Papa di Hitler*, appunto) è stato completamente smentito da esperti come il gesuita Peter Gumpel e Ronald Rychlak. È assolutamente sbagliata l'idea che Pio XII fosse antisemita e collaborasse, o avesse qualche simpatia, con la Germania nazista. Durante il convegno di Roma intendiamo provare questo fatto sulla base delle prove raccolte e il messaggio dev'essere diffuso negli ambienti ebraici. Come ebreo, posso anche dire che, nell'opera di salvataggio di ebrei durante la Seconda guerra mondiale, Pio XII fece concretamente molto più di tutti i leader politici e religiosi messi insieme: questo dovrebbe essere conosciuto in tutto il mondo. Credo che per un ebreo sia un obbligo il riconoscimento che durante il periodo più oscuro della nostra storia furono proprio i gesti della Chiesa cattolica, sotto la diretta indicazione di Pio XII, a risultare lo sforzo più grande per ridurre al minimo le sofferenze del popolo ebraico».



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## Other: Vatican shares artifacts with Israel

Posted on 12 January, 2005

The Vatican will present the works of Moses Maimonides, one of the most influential figures in modern Jewish thought to Israel for scholarly study. With this gesture, the Vatican hopes to continue to bridge the divide between Jews and Christians worldwide.

The loaning of the manuscripts is also viewed as an offering to resolve other political and social disagreements in Israel, including Hebrew University's partial use of a convent since 1948 that the Vatican wants back, and property tax exemptions for religious institutions.

Catholic News Agency, Jan 10, 2005

Catholic News Agency reports that later this month, Pope John Paul II will receive a delegation of about 160 rabbis, cantors and American lay Jews who wish to thank the Pope for his years of good will and hard work toward bridging cultural and religious divides between the two faiths. There, they will discuss the display of the priceless artifacts for the first time in Israel.

The Vatican's gesture is being viewed as a major step toward improved relations. According to the South Florida Sun-Sentinel, "The loaning ! of the manuscripts is also viewed as an offering to resolve other political and

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social disagreements in Israel, including Hebrew University's partial use of a convent since 1948 that the Vatican wants back, and property tax exemptions for religious institutions.?

Gary Krupp, who helped to make the loan happen, reported to the Sun-Sentinel that the benefit of this loan and future gestures like it ?would be astronomical.?

Maimonides was a 12th century sage from Egypt known for, among other things, the first codification of Jewish law. His writings have greatly influenced both Jewish and Christian thought for centuries.

The one of a kind document, recorded by a scribe in the 1400?s is one of the few remaining records of Maimonides after Jewish opponents who considered him a heretic burned much of his original work.

During the Middle Ages, the Catholic Church safeguarded many of the major works of western thought, and retains many original documents within its archives.

The Maimonides manuscript is among at least three other medieval manuscripts, which could be on display at the Israel Museum as early as this May.

Krupp was happy to report that the Vatican had maintained the documents perfectly.

The comments are owned by the poster. We aren't responsible for their content.



# **Pave the Way Foundation Helps to Orchestrate Loan of Timeless Masterpieces from the Vatican Library to the People of Israel**

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Leading officials of the Israeli government and religious leaders of the Catholic and Jewish faiths attended the opening of the exhibit of the Maimonides Manuscripts at the Israel Museum. The exhibit opened on Tuesday, September 27th with numerous dignitaries in attendance.

Gary Krupp KCSG, and Meredith Krupp founders of the Pave the Way Foundation, led a delegation of religious leaders from the Jewish and Christian faiths to celebrate this important gesture of inter-religious cooperation. In attendance were the two chief rabbis of Israel, Archbishop Pietro Sambi, Apostolic Nuncio to Israel and the Holy Land, Fr. Raffaele Farina SBD, Prefect to the Vatican Library, Dr. Claudia Montuschi, Director of Loans for the Vatican library, Zvi Tal, of the Israeli foreign ministry, and Ambassador Moshe Fox, former Consul General for Israel in Washington DC.

Pave the Way Foundation initiated and obtained final approval to add the Vatican Library portion of the exhibit as part of the Israel Museum's 40th anniversary celebration. The Vatican provided a magnificently illustrated manuscript of Moses Maimonides's Mishneh Torah in the original Hebrew. The Vatican Museum also provided Jacob ben Asher's Arba'ah Turim from 1435, as well as a complete Hebrew Bible codex and a book of Psalms, both produced in Rome in the 13th century, among the earliest such manuscripts in existence.

"This is the first time in history these manuscripts have been on Israeli soil, representing a new level of cooperation and cultural exchange between the Holy See and the State of Israel," said Gary Krupp KCSG, President and founder of Pave the Way Foundation. "The future looks extremely promising for many other historic advances between the Catholic Church and the Jewish people. We will continue to promote these gestures of good will to open more areas of communication and cooperation."

Pave the Way Foundation, whose mission is to bring together men of good will, no matter



what religious background, has devoted much time and effort towards working with the officials of the Israeli Government and the representatives of the Holy See in Israel to move for the finalization of fundamental agreements for establishing full diplomatic relations between Israel and the Vatican. Among other accomplishments, in January 2005, PTWF led a group of more than a hundred forty Jewish leaders to a private audience with Pope John Paul II, to thank him for all he has done for the Jewish people. Other projects are ongoing.

The Chronicle of Philanthropy featured the Maimonides Manuscripts loan and Pave The Way Foundation's role in the September 15th edition. This prestigious publication is known as the "newspaper of the nonprofit world". It is the number one news source, in print and online, for charity leaders, fund raisers, grant makers, and other people involved in the philanthropic enterprise.

#### About Pave the Way Foundation

PTWF has a simple yet monumental goal: To enhance the relations between the world's religions through gestures of good will and thereby embracing their similarities and savoring their differences. In today's world, some individuals try to achieve their agenda through violence, in the name of religion. To silently allow this to happen defames every faith. The vision of PTWF is that the unified voice of the world's great religious leaders condemning violence and promoting trust will pave the way to peace.

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# The Benedict Notes

Lately I've been reading quite a lot of Benedict XVI's writings. The main thing I've noticed is that as much as I loved John Paul II, I did not find him readable. Benedict, on the other hand, has captured my imagination and my mind. This blog is dedicated to posting his thoughts, sometimes my reflections, news reports I find interesting, and always, an invitation to dialog.

Monday, February 26, 2007

## **Pope Benedict XVI Honors Gary Krupp of New York for Work With Pave the Way Foundation**

As a gesture of gratitude in recognition of his dedicated and tireless efforts on behalf of Catholic-Jewish and Vatican-Israeli relations, His Holiness Pope Benedict XVI has bestowed the rank of Knight Commander with a Silver Star of the Pontifical Equestrian Order of St. Gregory the Great upon Mr. Gary Krupp of New York.

Vatican City State (PRWeb) February 25, 2007 -- As a gesture of gratitude in recognition of his dedicated and tireless efforts on behalf of Catholic-Jewish and Vatican-Israeli relations, His Holiness Pope Benedict XVI has bestowed the rank of Knight Commander with a Silver Star of the Pontifical Equestrian Order of St. Gregory the Great upon Mr. Gary Krupp of New York.

The conferral of the Silver Star marks the second time Krupp has been honored by the Supreme Pontiff, having been previously invested as a Knights Commander in the same order by the late



Pope John Paul II. Gary and his wife Meredith founded Pave the Way Foundation, a nonprofit charity dedicated to the promotion of peace and understanding between religions through cultural, technological and education exchanges.

His Eminence Cardinal Tarcisio Bertone, Vatican Secretary of State, presented Mr. Krupp with the honor in Rome, following the presentation of the Bodmer Papyrus to Pope Benedict XVI, as a gift given to the Vatican Library through the initiative of Pave the Way Foundation. Also present for the conferral were His Eminence Cardinal Jean-Louis Tauran, Archivist of the Holy Roman Church, and His Excellency Bishop Raffaele Farina, SBD Prefect of the Vatican Library.

Mr. Krupp holds the distinction of being the only Jewish man in history to be invested as a Knights Commander of St. Gregory with a Silver Star and to also be invested as an Officer Brother in the Order of St. John, an honor he received by consent of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth in 2005.

About Pave the Way Foundation: PTWF is dedicated to achieving peace by bridging "the intellectual gap," promoting tolerance and understanding, by enhancing relations between religions through cultural, technological and intellectual gestures. The Foundation has a simple yet monumental vision: To enable all the world's religions to mutually realize that extremism, politics and personal agendas must not be allowed to poison the true benevolent message common to all faiths. Bigotry and hatred must be abolished by the faithful embracing their similarities and savoring their differences.

posted by AnnieElf at 9:30 AM 1 Comments [Links to this post](#)

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## HISTORIC MEETING WITH POPE JOHN PAUL II

### CANTORS GO TO ROME!

The JMCA and thirteen Cantors of the association were invited to a special private audience with His Holiness Pope John Paul II in Vatican City on Tuesday, January 18, 2005. *Pave The Way Foundation*, a non-profit corporation, took this initiative by choosing the JMCA to represent the Jewish Community amongst some 160 Jewish clergy and lay leaders.

The Jewish dignitaries traveled to Rome specifically to recognize and to thank

Pope John Paul II for his efforts during his 26-year pontificate in bringing down the walls of hate, as well as his contribution towards religious reconciliation with the Jewish People and the State of Israel. The Rabbis in attendance recited a special prayer and the Cantors sang a special blessing, the *Shehecheyahu*, to commemorate this event at the Vatican in Clementine Hall.

The group attending this special audience with the Pope was headed by

*Mr. Gary Krupp, President of Pave The Way Foundation* along with Oded Ben-Hur, Israeli Ambassador to the Holy See; Amire Ofek, Israeli Consul for Media in New York; Rabbi Adam Mintz, President of the New York Board of Rabbis; Rabbi Shmuel Rene Sirot, Past Chief Rabbi of Europe and France; Rabbi David Lincoln, Chief Rabbi of the Park Avenue Synagogue, New York; Rabbi Shlomo Riskin, Chief Rabbi of Efrat, Jerusalem; Rabbi Joseph Arbib of the Great Synagogue in Rome and Gadi Golan, former Director of Religious Affairs for the Israel Foreign Ministry.

One of the scheduled and exciting items on the agenda was a rare visit to the Vatican's Jewish archives. The Cantors, all of whom are members of the Jewish Ministers Cantors Association of America presented a concert at the Great Synagogue of Rome on Monday, January 17 at 8:00 PM for the delegation and representatives of the Vatican and the Roman Jewish Community. Participants in this concert were Cantors: Avraham Amar, Eliezer Kepecs, Josh Rubenstein, Leslie Rimer, Motti Fuchs, Victor I. Beck, Yehuda Rossler, Michael Trachtenberg, David Montefiore, Steve Shor, Ofer Barnoy, Gadi Elon and Sol Zim.

The JMCA, once known as the *Chazzanim Farband* is the oldest and most prestigious cantorial association in



America. The JMCA has a glorious history and a membership that included some of the greatest talents of the past century. It is interesting to note that on December 9, 1947 the Jewish Ministers Cantors Association of America held its 50th Anniversary Concert at the Metropolitan Opera House with such luminaries as: Cantors Berele Chagy, Moshe Ganchoff, Samuel Vigoda, Leib Glantz, Eliezer Zaslavsky, Moshe Koussevitsky and Benzion Kapov-Kagan.

The JMCA leadership has been a proponent of dialogue and rapprochement and is delighted with the events in Rome. Pope John Paul II will be remembered as an extraordinary human being, a credit to the Creator who made him and a source of everlasting hope to all humankind.



JMCA Cantors as they await audience with with John Paul II IN Clementine Hall - January 18, 2005



Cantor David Montefiore, JMCA President being greeted by Pope John Paul II



The Pope's Gift to the Cantors





Young John Paul II



Cantors on Bimah of the Tempio Maggiore at concert for the Roman Community January 17, 2005

 **PAVE  
WAY**
 Comunità Ebraica di Roma

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**Pave the Way Foundation di New York**  
**Jewish Cantors Association of America & Canada**

***Canti Liturgici Ebraici***  
**17 gennaio 2005 - ore 20:30**  
**Tempio Maggiore, Lungotevere Cenci - ROMA**

<b>Coro Ha Kol</b>	- Mizmor shiru l'Ad, shir chaddash
<b>M<sup>re</sup> Claudio Di Segni</b>	- Yafetz
<b>Rav Vittorio Della Rocca</b>	- En Kolenu
<b>Rav Alberto Funaro</b>	- Va' Irushalaim ircha
<b>Cantor Avraham Amar</b>	- Sim shalom
<b>Cantor Eliezer Kepes</b>	- Far vos zingit a Chazzan
<b>Cantor Josh Rubenstein</b>	- Amar Rabbi Eleazar
<b>Cantor Leslie Rimer</b>	- Hallel Hachodesh
<b>Cantor Motti Fuchs</b>	- Refo
<b>Cantor Victor I. Beck</b>	- Shalom Rav
<b>Cantor Yehuda Rossler</b>	- Mincomcha malkenu
<b>Cantor Michael Trachtenberg</b>	- Shubane Bet Hamikdash
<b>Cantor David Montefiore</b>	- Ad Hena
<b>Cantor Steve Shor</b>	- Nabbem yakir li Efrata
<b>Cantor Ofer Barney</b>	- Avinu sheb'shamain
<b>Cantor Gadi Elon</b>	- Jerusalem Peace Medley
<b>Cantor Sol Zim</b>	
<b>Cantors Ensemble</b>	

Alla tastiera **Chiara Ricci**

Program of Concert at Tempio Maggiore at concert for the Roman Community January 17, 2005



# POSTOPINION

## Friend to the Jews

Pius XII's *real* wartime record

GARY L. KRUPP

**A** RECENT papal decree moved Pope Pius XII, among others, closer to sainthood — returning to the forefront the controversy over his role in World War II and the Holocaust.

Growing up Jewish in Queens, I never dreamt I would be defending the man I once believed to be a Nazi sympathizer and an anti-Semite. But my work since 2002 with my wife, Meredith, and the Pave the Way Foundation has led me to this point.

We founded Pave the Way to identify and eliminate nontheological obstacles between religions. Thus, despite our early prejudices, we decided to investigate the papacy of Pius XII (Eugenio Pacelli), one of today's greatest sources of hurt between Jews and Catholics.

After years of research in documentary evidence and eyewitness testimony, what we found shocked us. We found nothing but praise and positive

news articles concerning Pius' actions from every Jewish, Israeli and political leader of the era who lived through the war.

A few articles in the postwar era suggested that he should have done more to confront the Nazis — but it wasn't until 1963, in the wake of the fictitious play "The Deputy" (written five years after Pius died), that accusations began flowing that he had failed to act, that he was a cold-hearted Nazi sympathizer who couldn't care less about the Jewish people.

The evidence strongly suggests this was part of a KGB-directed and -financed bid to smear Pius, a Soviet disinformation campaign meant to discredit the Catholic Church, which at that time was profoundly anti-Communist.

In any case, the facts simply don't match what so many have come to believe about Pius.

It is unquestionable that Pius XII intervened to save countless Jews at a time most nations — even FDR's America — refused to accept these refugees. He issued false baptismal papers and obtained visas for them to emi-

grate as "Non Aryan Catholic-Jews." He smuggled Jews into the Americas and Asia. He ordered the lifting of cloister for men and women to enter monasteries, convents and churches to hide 7,000 Jews of Rome in a single day.

Among the 5,000 pages of documents that Pave the Way has located, there is abundant evidence that Pacelli was a lifelong friend of the Jews. Some highlights:

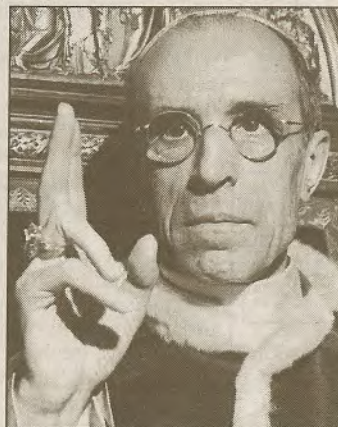
- In 1917, at the request of World Zionist Organization Director Nachum Sokolow, Nuncio Pacelli intervened with the Germans to protect the Jews of Palestine from extermination by the Ottoman Turks.

- In 1925, Pacelli arranged for Sokolow to meet with Pope Benedict XV to discuss a Jewish homeland in Palestine.

- In 1930, Pacelli supported the German bishops' orders excommunicating anyone who joined "the Hitler Party."

- In 1938, Pacelli intervened to defeat a Polish anti-koshering law.

- In 1939, A.W. Klieforth, the US consul general based in Cologne, Germany, wrote a confidential letter to Washington reporting on the "extreme-



Pius XII: Unfairly tarred as Nazi sympathizer and anti-Semite.

ness" of Pacelli's hatred of National Socialism and of Hitler.

- In 1947, at the United Nations, he encouraged the 17 Catholic countries out of the 33 in favor to vote for the partitioning of Palestine to create the State of Israel.

- A 1948 deposition by Gen. Karl Wolff, the SS commandant for Italy, revealed the Nazis' wartime plan to kidnap the pope, kill countless cardinals and seize the Vatican.

But the personal tales may be more compelling. Pacelli's childhood best friend was Guido Mendes, an Orthodox Jewish boy. He tells how Pacelli shared Shabbat meals with him. Mendes taught him Hebrew, and Pacelli helped him to emigrate to Palestine in 1938.

Pius XII's detractors prefer to criticize rather than simply look at the evidence. Two years ago, Pope Benedict XVI ordered the opening of the Vatican's archives up to 1939, containing much evidence of Eugenio Pacelli's activities leading up to his papacy. According to the sign-in sheets, few of Pius' critics have bothered to come to the archives to view the material.

Pinchas Lapide, a Jewish historian, theologian and Israeli ambassador, stated that the actions and policies of Pius XII saved as many as 860,000 Jews.

Albert Einstein, Golda Meir, the chief rabbi of Palestine, the chief rabbi of Rome and the heads of every Jewish organization showered praise upon him during his lifetime.

Were all these witnesses who lived through the war misguided?

Gary L. Krupp is president of the Pave the Way Foundation, which has many of the documents noted here online at [ptwf.org](http://ptwf.org) and which will soon publish a book with the main evidence in English, Hebrew, Spanish and French.

## A POLITICAL TEST FOR TEACHERS

U of Minnesota's ed-school travesty

**W**HEN a child doesn't finish his homework, who's at fault? The Race, Culture, Class and Gender Task Group in the University of Minne-

ADAM  
KISSEL

Did Johnny get a math problem wrong? Maybe it's because of society's "demands for assimilation to white, middle-class, Christian meanings and values."

The task group evidently wants to invade the thoughts, values, attitudes and beliefs of future teachers to make sure that they have the proper "dispositions" to be allowed to teach our youth. They recommend tests of "intercultural sensitivity" and "cultural intelligence." They

way. The Foundation for Individual Rights in Education, where I work, wrote the university's president a detailed letter last month. We pointed out that this proposal is the opposite of a liberal education in a free society because it would teach that the authorities get to decide



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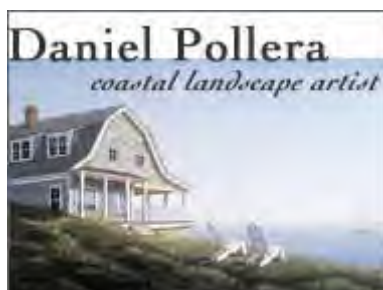
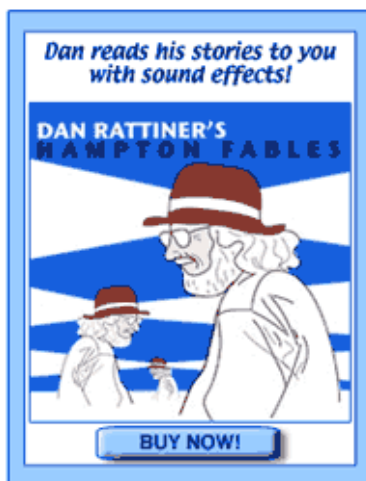
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## Local East Enders Are Granted An Audience With John Paul II

By Kelly Krieger

I can remember as a teenager attending a mass gathering with thousands of people in attendance when Pope John Paul II visited Long Island. I went with my mother, grandmother and sister and vividly recall watching him in the distance as he slowly rode by in his motorcade. Although physically far away, he was omnipresent.

On January 18th, an historic meeting took place at the Apostolic Palace in the Vatican City State of Rome. Five members of the Monte family of Montauk and more than sixty Rabbis from across the globe, along with seventy five others, bringing the total to 140 individuals, met as a group with Pope John Paul II.

The purpose of this gathering was to give thanks, pay tribute and show support of His Holiness for all his hard work on behalf of the Jewish people and for his efforts towards creating peace among different religions throughout the world. Considering the current state of affairs, the significance of this special day was perhaps even more powerful and spiritual than anticipated.

Commendatore Gary L. Krupp, President of the Pave the Way

Commendatore Gary L. Krupp, President of the Pave the Way Foundation, a New York based organization dedicated to bridging the gap between religions in the name of world peace, organized the event, and just happens to be a very close friend of the Monte family. He extended an invitation to thank them for their continuous support of his organization.

Recently back from this journey, Paul Monte took a few minutes to share details of his visit with me. He told me that it was a life-changing experience and he was grateful to have been able share it with several members of his family. His father, Angelo Monte Sr., who recently celebrated his 85th birthday, had never been to Italy and certainly had never met the Pope, and was thrilled and humbled. Also in attendance was Nick Monte, Lola Monte (Nick's wife), and Paul's brother, Chip.

On the morning of the meeting, the group was informed that everyone might not have the opportunity to personally meet the Pope. Eighty-four years old, he has battled with many ailments and needs to be careful not to over-exert himself.

That morning, nine buses drove the group to the Vatican. At approximately 11:30 a.m., the visitors were escorted to Sala Clementina in the Apostolic Palace where they were asked to wait. Less than half an hour later Pope John Paul II entered the room. Commendatore Krupp delivered his spiritual words of thanks, three of the Rabbis, each representing a different sect of the Jewish Faith, bestowed their blessings on His Holiness and then the Pope warmly greeted the group and thanked everyone for coming. He gave words of encouragement and reinforced the accomplishments of the Pave the Way Foundation. "We must gather all the religions together in the name of peace," he added. He ended with a pontifical blessing on all the members of the group and a heartfelt Shalom.

Everyone applauded and then patiently waited their turns. Gary Krupp stayed at the Pope's side while each person shared a brief but intimate moment with him. Paul, Angelo Sr., Nick, Lola, and Chip were at the end of the line and were unsure if they would be able to meet the Pope. And then, His Holiness motioned to continue and they all made their way toward him. Each stood before the Pope while he took their hands and nodded his head. Each member of the delegation was handed a pontifical medallion or a set of rosary beads as a remembrance of this historic visit.

Paul mentioned that the entire group was silent for quite a while after their encounters. "Being in his presence, an amazing warm feeling came over me when I shook his hand," Chip Monte said.

Gary Krupp was honored in 2000 by The Holy See and Pope John Paul II, and was invested as a Knights Commander of the Pontifical Order of St. Gregory the Great, making him only the seventh Jewish man in history to be honored this way. His work and dedication continues to grow, gaining common ground among various religious groups.

It can sometimes be difficult to watch the news and read the papers these days. Society deals with adversity in different ways. If we work together to educate our children and open their hearts, our future generations will be in a better place. It takes many individuals to form a group and a special bond. The Pave the Way Foundation is just one example of how we can make that happen.





FILM

# A New Front in the Pius Wars

*A film being screened at Cannes portrays the wartime pope as a hero who saved 800,000 Jews. The truth is far less inspiring*

BY MICHAEL COREN

PUBLISHED ON MAY 13, 2015

criticism · film · history · Judaism · Nazism · Pope Pius · religion · Shades of Truth · World War II

COMMENTS



CONDOR PICTURES

Pope Pius XII wears the yellow star in *Shades of Truth*.

**B**ACK IN 1999, British author John Cornwell published a controversial and widely publicized book called *Hitler's Pope: The Secret History of Pius XII*. The title was misleading on two levels: first, in that it implied and depicted Pius as a faithful Nazi; second, in that it assumed the man's story long had been kept a secret.

Six years later came a counterblast in the shape of *The Myth of Hitler's Pope: How Pope Pius XII Rescued Jews from the Nazis* by David G. Dalin, who is not only Jewish but also a rabbi.

So there we had it. A liberal Catholic accusing a pope of Nazism; a Jewish academic and ordained cleric praising the wartime pontiff as a friend of anti-Nazism and the Jewish people. The twenty-first-century Pius wars had begun.

And now, another front has opened, with the making by Catholic director and writer Liana Marabini of a movie called *Shades of Truth*, which will be shown at this month's Cannes Film Festival. The title does not appear to refer to the more famous and similarly named film about sado-masochism. However, it is somewhat painful to watch—a one-sided hagiography presenting a man who utters progressive aphorisms as he strides along Vatican hallways shaming his contemporaries as they fail to properly empathize with Europe's poor Jews. It also makes the outlandish claim that Pius saved 800,000 Jewish lives, a boast that even his most aggressive academic supporters would never make.



In one scene, which naturally is used in marketing materials for the film, Pius is shown wearing a yellow star pinned to his papal cassock. It never happened in real life, of course; and even in *Shades of Truth*, the scene is confined to a dream sequence. So it's misleading at best, if not noisily dishonest.

But imagine if the leader of world Catholicism really *had* worn such a symbol of degradation and genocide? Urban legend long has had it that the King of Denmark wore such a star as he rode the streets of Copenhagen in his carriage; it's not true, but the point is that those who knew him always accepted the anecdote because it was authentic to his character and attitude toward his Jewish subjects. The King of Morocco actually did request yellow stars for himself and his family when told that Moroccan Jews would have to wear them. And this from an Arab Muslim monarch living under occupation. But with Pius, the story simply doesn't fit. Even in dream.

THE STORY of Eugenio Pacelli, elected to the papacy in March 1939 as Pius XII, is complex. Anyone searching for absolute purity of motive and some sort of anachronistic philo-semitism and embrace of modern pluralism will be disappointed. He was a man of his time and his faith: obsessively frightened of Communism and its campaign against the Church; obviously unaware of who would triumph in the Second World War. His official actions consistently reflected these fears and uncertainties.

Pius XII almost certainly had no personal animus against Jewish people, always rejected the eugenics and intolerance of National Socialism, and on a personal level did what he could to save the lives of Jews around him. Before he became Pope, Cardinal Pacelli drafted the papal encyclical condemning Nazi racism and had it read from every pulpit. As Pope, he had the Vatican use its assets to ransom Jews from the Nazis, ran an elaborate escape route, and hid Jewish families in the papal palace of Castel Gondolfo. In 1945, Rabbi Herzog of Jerusalem, for example, thanked Pius, “for his lifesaving efforts on behalf of the Jews during the occupation of Italy.” When the pontiff died in 1958, Golda Meir, then Israeli foreign minister, delivered a eulogy at the United Nations praising the man for his work on behalf of her people.

For almost a generation, in fact, it was considered a political absolute that the Church was a member of a coalition of victims during the Second World War, and Pius was mentioned alongside Churchill and Roosevelt as part of the team of morally correct wartime leaders. It was only in the 1960s that the conversation around this issue began to change, partly because of the work of a German playwright named Rolf Hochhuth, who alleged in his 1963 play *The Deputy* that the Vatican not only had ignored the suffering of the Jews but tacitly and sometimes explicitly had supported the Nazis. The truth, however, is more of a *via media* than a *via dolorosa*.



While the Pope did not issue an outright attack on the Nazis' treatment of the Jews, his supporters argue that this was because the leaders of the Catholic Church in Holland had made just such a public statement condemning the Nazi deportation of the Jewish people. In response the Germans had arrested and murdered every Dutch Jewish convert to Catholicism they could find. (Tragically, those arrests and deportations were only a matter of time anyway.)

Pius was such a friend of the Jews, the argument continues, that when the Chief Rabbi of Rome, Israel Zolli, converted to Roman Catholicism after the war, he took Pius's name, Eugenio, in his christening as a tribute to the Pope's work on behalf of the Jews. That's also true but doesn't really change much. On a personal level, as noted above, Pius certainly did what he could to save lives; but on a public level—where multitudes could be saved—he did far less.

Pius was not “Hitler's Pope,” and the Nazis always considered him a threat. His failure was that he never made that threat a reality by speaking out resolutely against the Holocaust, invariably terrified of what would happen to the world's Catholics if he did and advised by some around him that the alternative to the Germans was the Soviets. It's an understandable dilemma, but a defiant Pope could have influenced hundreds of millions of Catholics, many of them serving in armies allied to the Germans. The risk would have

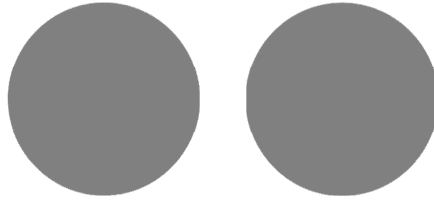
been enormous, but Christianity isn't supposed to be about safety and complacency.

Thus there are indeed numerous shades of truth around Pope Pius. Unfortunately, this risible movie only deepens the polarization and so makes it more difficult for a reasonable analysis to take place. The late **Sir Martin Gilbert**, one of the finest historians of the Holocaust and the Second World War and a man I was fortunate enough to call a friend, once put it like this:

This was a pre-Vatican II Catholic Church in the middle of a war that, for the most part, was not between Germans and the west but Nazis and Stalinists. If, say, John Paul II had been Pope, the story may have been different. Throw in subsequent rifts between the Catholic right and left, and the regrettable politicization of the Shoah and truth is extremely difficult to find.

The entire political and religious landscape has changed today, and some of these old battles obscure contemporary truths. Pius didn't act particularly badly for a man of his era but, I suppose, he did act particularly normally. For someone thought to be the direct successor to St. Peter, given the keys of the kingdom by Jesus Christ, that's just not good enough, no matter how well that truth is shaded.





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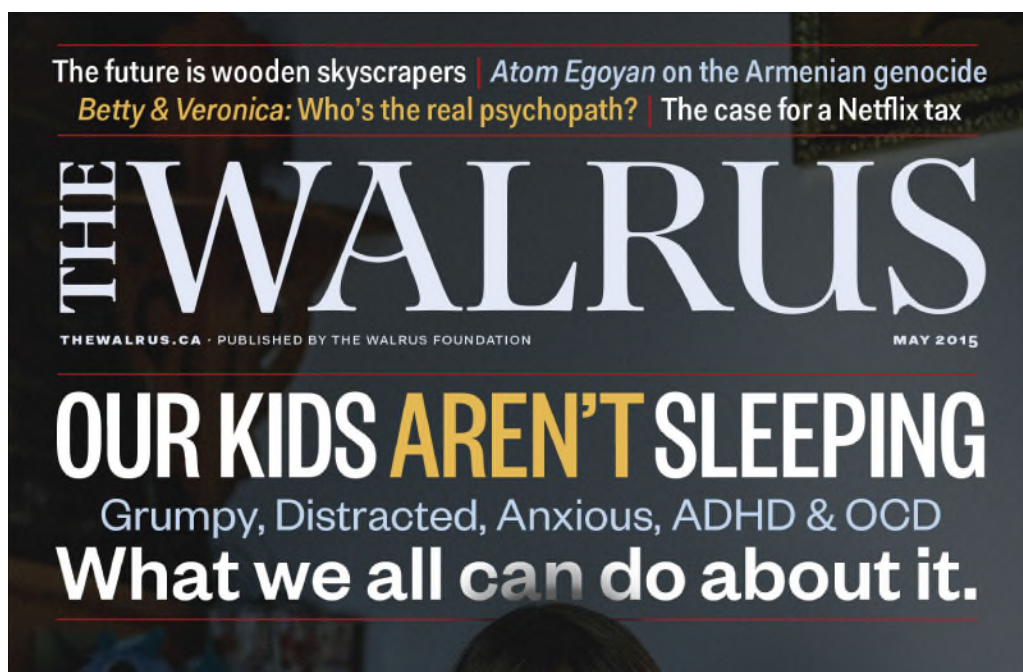
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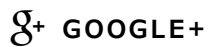
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WORLD APRIL 15, 2015

# Secret Archives Show Vatican Tried to Stop Armenian Genocide

The evidence for Pope Francis' condemnation of Turkey's extermination of Christians

Diane Montagna

VATICAN CITY — Why did Pope Francis' controversial comments on Sunday about the "Armenian Genocide" cause such a furor in Turkey?

To help understand the true history behind the 1915-16 atrocity, Aleteia interviewed the German historian and author, Dr. Michael Hesemann, who was in Rome for Sunday's Mass in St. Peter's Basilica commemorating the 100th anniversary of the genocide, otherwise known as Metz Yeghern [the Great Evil].

The atrocity involved the Ottoman government's systematic extermination of its minority Armenian subjects inside their historic homeland which lies within the territory constituting present-day Turkey. The total number of people killed in what is also known as the Armenian Holocaust is estimated at between 1 and 1.5 million.

In a new book entitled, *The Armenian Genocide* [Völkermord an den Armeniern], Hesemann reveals for the first time the content of never-before-published documents on "the greatest crime of World War I," and how Pope Benedict XV and Vatican diplomacy tried to stop the deportations of the Armenians into the Syrian desert, save the victims and prevent the massacre of an entire people.

In this interview, Hesemann shares his findings, which include evidence of Masonic involvement, and expresses both his admiration for Pope Francis for drawing attention to the genocide of Christians and ethnic minorities, and his disappointment over the absence of the German Ambassador to the Holy See at Sunday's commemorative Mass.

*Dr. Hesemann, what led you to write a book on what documents contained in the Vatican Archives reveal about the Armenian Genocide?*

Actually it was a kind of coincidence. I work as an historian for the "Pave the Way Foundation" in an intensive study of all the aspects of the life of Eugenio Pacelli, the man who eventually became Pope Pius XII.

From 1917-1925, Pacelli was Nuncio in Munich, so I went through the files of the Apostolic Nunciature in Munich, only to discover one folder with the title "Persecution of the Armenians".

I opened it and found a letter of the Archbishop of Cologne, Cardinal von Hartmann, to the Chancellor of the Reich, Graf (Count) Härtling, in which he calls the persecution of the Armenians "not less brutal than the persecutions of the Christians in the first centuries of Christianity." The Archbishop requested an urgent German intervention, unfortunately in vain.

In the same file I found a copy of a letter written by Pope Benedict XV to the Sultan, asking for mercy for the innocent Armenians. These documents both touched me and aroused my curiosity. I



felt I had just touched the tip of an iceberg and was sure I would find more data, and indeed I did — some 2500 pages so far.

I soon realized that no historian had ever worked with most of these documents, and that all this information was obviously unknown even to the leading experts on the Armenocide.

Given the importance of their content, I decided to write a book, putting the documents in the context of what we already know about the events of 1915-18.

*What was the most surprising and unexpected insight you discovered in the Vatican Archives about the Armenian genocide?*

The most surprising insight was that the Armenian genocide was in fact just part of a bigger plan — the extermination of all non-muslim minorities in the Ottoman Empire.

The ruling “Young Turk” movement came in contact with European ideas of nationalism and the concept that only a homogenous state can be a strong state. That is why they believed that the weakness of the Ottoman Empire was caused by its multi-religious and multi-ethnic character.

They wanted to “heal” this “weakness” by eliminating all foreign elements, which first meant the Christians who numbered 19% of the population in early 1914. Besides the Armenians, also Aramaic and Assyrian Christians, Catholic and Greek Orthodox Christians were persecuted and murdered.

The Turkish claim of a conspiracy between Russia and some Armenian leaders was nothing but a lie to justify those measures. If that were really the case, why did they kill innocent women and children, too? And why didn't they spare the other Christian groups, which were never under suspicion? Indeed, the Turkish Secretary of the Interior, Talaat Bey, quite frankly told Johann Mordtmann of the German Embassy, according to a report to Berlin: “The (Turkish) government uses the war to get rid of our internal enemies — the indigenous Christians of all denominations — without diplomatic interventions by foreign nations.”

This is also what we read in some of the Vatican documents, e.g. a report written by Fr. Michael Liebl, an Austrian Capuchin missionary, who learned in Samsun: “Not the Armenians, the Christians were sentenced (to death) at a secret meeting of the Young Turks 5 or 6 years ago in Thessaloniki.”

*What measures did Benedict XV take diplomatically to help save the Armenians from deportation into the Syrian desert?*

Already in June 1915, the Vatican had a vague idea of what had happened in Eastern Anatolia. One month later, there was no doubt about the horrible massacres carried out against most of the male Armenian population. For the whole of August 1915, Msgr. Dolci — the Apostolic Delegate in Constantinople — did everything humanly possible to interfere diplomatically — without any success.

When drastic reports reached the Vatican in September 1915, Pope Benedict XV wasted no more time and decided to act. He sent an autograph to Sultan Mehmet V, pleading for mercy for the Armenians. The Turks refused even to receive it. For two months, Msgr. Dolci tried everything to present it to its addressee, but it was not received by the Sultan.

Only when he asked both the German and the Austrian ambassador for help was he granted an audience. When another four weeks later the Sultan answered, most of the deportations were already completed. All promises of the Turks to end the massacres or spare one group or the other — or to let them return home — turned out to be lies.

In December, Pope Benedict referred to the failure of any diplomatic intervention in his allocution to the Cardinals at the Consistory of December 6, 1915. In it, he spoke of “those sorrowful people

of the Armenians, almost completely driven into their extermination.”

In June 1916, the Armenian Catholic Patriarch had to inform the Holy See: “The project of the extermination of the Armenians in Turkey is still going on. (...) The exiled Armenians ... are continuously driven into the desert and there stripped of all vital resources. They miserably perish from hunger, disease and extreme climate. (...) It is certain that the Ottoman government has decided to eliminate Christianity from Turkey before the World War comes to an end. And all this happens in the face of the Christian world.”

*Why is this only coming to light now?*

Well, good question. Of course, the files from the pontificate of Benedict XV have only been open since the 1990s. Besides this, not too many historians have access to them. And perhaps just nobody had any idea what he would find there — it’s only a guess.

*Among the documents contained in your book, you include a letter written by the Superior of the Capuchins in Ezrurum, Fr. Norbert Hofer, to the Vatican in October 1915, which states: “The punishment of the Armenian nation (for alleged uprisings) is merely a pretext used by the Masonic Turkish government to exterminate all Christian elements in this country.”*

*Many readers may be surprised to hear mention of the Masons in relation to the Armenian Genocide, particularly in light of the desire at the time to unite Turkey, with Sunni Islam as the state religion? Can you explain how the Masons factor into the Armenian genocide, and who are the “Young Turks” which you referred to earlier?*

Yes, of course. It would have been easy and rather populist to blame Islam for the Armenian genocide, especially as we are facing the horrible events of our own time in the very same region, with Islamic States’ massacre against Christians and Yazidis in the north of Syria and the Iraq.

But none of the responsible politicians, neither Talaat nor Enver nor Cemal Pasha, was a fanatic Muslim. The Young Turks were anything but fundamentalists. They were a young, revolutionary movement started by Turkish academics who had studied in most cases in Paris, where they came in contact with both the ideals of Masonry and European nationalism. Many of them were accepted by Masonic lodges and indeed the lodge of Thessaloniki became a kind of national headquarters for them.

Talaat Bey — the man responsible for the Armenocide — was even Grandmaster of the Grand Orient of the Turkish Masonry. That’s a historical fact. The ideology of the Young Turks can be described as “proto-fascism.” Only race did not play any role as the unifying element, since there is nothing like a “racially pure” Turk. Rather, it was substituted by religion, namely Sunni Islam.

Islam was therefore instrumentalized for political reasons. It gave all those who were involved in the killings a rationale, a justification for their deeds. But behind it was the master plan of a political ideology, which misused religion for its purposes, and so sought the homogenization of the Turkish nation.

*As an historian who has studied in depth the events and circumstances surrounding the Armenian genocide, particularly those documented in the Vatican archives, what do you make of Turkey’s reaction to Pope Francis’ statements on Sunday in which he called the Armenian massacre a “genocide”?*

I am very grateful to the Holy Father. On Sunday, we not only saw a beautiful, worthy and solemn commemoration of the Armenian martyrdom, we also experienced the victory of truth over diplomacy.

If you know how fanatically Turkey tries every means to debunk the events of 1915-1916, if you



follow the chronology of their threats against nations much bigger and more powerful than the Vatican — nations such as France, Germany and the US — you get an idea what it takes to stand up and call a “genocide” what was indeed the first genocide of the 20th century. Thank you, Pope Francis! What a great, wonderful, political pope who indeed acted as the moral conscience of the world and taught us that, as Christians, we should never be afraid of the truth.

The Turkish reaction to his brave remark could be expected. It is always the same. They claim that the Pope was misinformed, although he knows the truth from his own archives. By the way, when will the Turks open theirs?

The Turks even spoke of racism. Should we now assume that, from the Turkish point of view, it is not racist at all to kill nearly a whole nation, a religious and ethnic group, but it is racist to call this a genocide?

It is so sad that the Turks don’t realize how they exclude themselves from the community of civilized nations by such acts. I mean, I am German and my nation committed the most horrible crime in history, the Shoah. But at least we admitted what we did, we deeply regret it and we tried anything possible for reconciliation and compensation.

As a Catholic, I believe that every sin and every crime can be forgiven, if you only confess and regret. But what you neither regret nor confess cannot be forgiven either. Turkey only has one chance to overcome the trauma and guilt of the darkest chapter of its history, and that is to confess and regret! And we will all forgive. If not, these wounds will always be wide open, even after 100 years.

*What lessons does the history of the Armenian Genocide hold for us today, particularly in light of the present day persecution of Christians in Africa and the Middle East?*

If there is one lesson we should learn from the Armenian genocide, it is this: Never turn around, never look away when your brother suffers persecution.

We all, all nations of the civilized world and first of all Germany — Turkey’s ally — share the Turkish guilt, because we allowed this to happen. By opportunism, by giving other topics priority, by what Pope Francis rightly called “the globalization of indifference,” which is so evil. “Cain, where is your brother Abel?” That’s why nobody can ever say that he has nothing to do with the Armenian genocide, the holocaust or the fate of our Christian brothers in Syria and Iraq.

For ignoring their fate and their suffering makes us guilty, too. Not preventing a crime which happens before your very eyes makes you an accomplice of the perpetrator. We should never be ignorant, we should never be indifferent, but rather learn to act responsibly.

This is why I was so very ashamed that, of all the diplomats present in St. Peter’s Basilica that morning commemorating the Armenian martyrs, the one who was missing was Annette Schavan, the German Ambassador to the Holy See. Especially since, as I explained before, Germany as Turkey’s ally holds a special responsibility for their martyrdom. In her case, opportunism won over the truth. And that is a shame. We can only be people of the future if we are not afraid of the past.

**Diane Montagna** is Rome correspondent for Aleteia’s English edition.



## **The world seen from Rome**

<http://www.zenit.org/en/articles/film-on-pope-pius-xii-debuts-at-vatican>

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### **Film on Pope Pius XII Debuts at Vatican**

#### **Monday's Premier of "Shades of Truth" Also Marked Late Pope's Birthday**



**Vatican City, March 04, 2015 ([Zenit.org](http://www.zenit.org)) [Deborah Castellano Lubov](#) | 392 hits**

Many are still convinced Pope Pius XII did not help the Jews during World War II and much skepticism still surrounds his pontificate.

In a film that debuted Monday in the Vatican, the protagonist, an Italian-American investigative journalist and a Jew, had this same mentality—at first.

The movie, “Shades of Truth,” shows David Milan’s journey as he was commissioned to do an investigation on Pope Pius XII, which brought him from New York to Rome to the Holy Land and other parts of Europe, as well as his love story and its ups and downs.

Despite his initial resistance, the writer was determined to find the truth, even if that meant overturning his views to recognize all that Pope Pius XII did to save the lives of thousands of Jews.

Realizing that Pius XII had been wrongly considered "Hitler's Pope," the skeptical journalist sees his previously held convictions dismantle with each passing page and eyewitness, even through the research and knowledge of his own loved ones.

Written and directed by filmmaker Liana Marabini, the movie which premiered on the anniversary of the birth of Eugenio Pacelli in 1876 and his election as Pope with the name of Pius XII in 1939, starred actors Christopher Lambert, Gedeon Burkhard, David Wall, Marie-Christine Barrault, Giancarlo Giannini, Remo Girone, among others.

Produced by Condor Pictures, in association with Liamar Media World, the film is based on the content of about 100,000 pages of documents and testimonies of Jewish Holocaust survivors that, due to Pope Pius XII’s intervention, were saved from deportation.

The director, an admirer of the wartime Pontiff, studied for years these testimonies, along with the diplomatic activity that allowed him to save the lives of 800,000 Jews.

Gary Krupp, the Jewish director of Pave the Way Foundation, is known for his foundation’s deep investigation into Pope Pius XII and whether he helped the Jews. Krupp, in the film and in an interview with ZENIT, has admitted he grew up hating Pope Pius XII, but then, after thorough research by scholars in the Vatican and the



Holy Land, realized he “was a hero.” Vast documentation verifying the Pope’s efforts is available on the foundation’s website.

In fact, a moving part of the film, which some leaving the theater told ZENIT, was hearing how upon observing how greatly Pius XII helped the Jews in Rome, Rome’s Chief Rabbi at the time converted to Catholicism and took the name Eugenio.

The film's director admits that the work of Gary and his wife Merry on Pope Pius XII was an inspiration behind this film.

Some of the actors in the film, as well as the Krupps, expressed to ZENIT their hope that this would show the world the “truth” about Pope Pius XII, that, “He was a hero, who helped the Jews,” and must be better understood.

Many officials of the Roman Curia, journalists, actors, researchers, and even royalty were on hand for the premier as well as a press conference prior to the debut.

Pope Benedict XVI declared his predecessor Venerable in 2009. In 2014, Pope Francis announced his intention for the Vatican Secret Archives be opened to scholars in order to further study his predecessor's role during WWII. During his return flight from the Holy Land, the Holy Father said that Pius XII's beatification has been stalled due to the lack of a an approved miracle.

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On the NET:

Documentation of Pius XII Helping the Jews: [www.ptwf.org](http://www.ptwf.org)

(March 04, 2015) © Innovative Media Inc.

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**ZENIT**  
El mundo visto desde Roma



## **The world seen from Rome**

<http://www.zenit.org/en/articles/grand-mufti-of-jerusalem-issues-fatwa-condemning-murder-of-copts>

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### **Grand Mufti of Jerusalem Issues Fatwa Condemning Murder of Copts**



**In Wake of Recent Tragedies, Pave the Way Foundation Learns  
Grand Mufti Visited Rabbis, Egyptian, Jordanian Embassies to Express  
Condolences**

**Vatican City, February 27, 2015 ([Zenit.org](http://www.zenit.org)) [Deborah Castellano Lubov](#) | 176 hits**

The Grand Mufti of Jerusalem and Palestine and the preacher of the Al-Aqsa Mosqu has condemned the murder of the 21 Egyptian Copts in Libya.

His Eminence Sheikh Muhammad Hussein, the Grand Mufti, said, "This criminal assault is incompatible with religion and the noble moral values," reported the International Shia News Agency Shafaqna English.

"It is but a form of spreading corruption in the land and the spirit of conflict and division between members of the Arab peoples," he continued. "It aims at unsettling security and stability in the Arab and Muslim World and realizing suspicious goals of parties lying in wait for the Ummah along with its security and values. "

The group which carried out the criminal act, the religious leader described as "astray," "without values and morals that divine religions call for."

"Islam forbids any act that threatens the lives of safe and peaceful people," the Grand Mufti underscored, noting that the religion upholds that the human soul is protected and honored, and that Islam is a religion of tolerance, peace, justice, and love.

The Islamic leader also reaffirmed his belief that Arab peoples will overcome this crisis with wisdom and perseverance to make those who target them with evil, chaos, and sectarian strife, miss their opportunity to realize such a criminal incident.

In addition, he presented his warm condolences to the Arab Republic of Egypt, its president, government and people, especially the Coptic community on this momentous calamity.



Pave the Way Foundation has "a warm and friendly relationship" with the Grand Mufti of Jerusalem, says Gary Krupp, who co-founded the foundation with his wife, Merry.

He told ZENIT that while in Israel, they met with the Grand Mufti on Feb 16. At that time, Krupp said, His Eminence gave Krupp his Fatwa condemning the murders of the Coptic Christians.

"The Mufti told me personally," Krupp said, "that he went to the synagogue to express his condolences to the Rabbis on the murder of the Jews in France, he visited the Egyptian and Jordanian Embassies to offer his condolences on the murder of the Coptic Christians and the Jordanian pilot."

Krupp lamented that although "the highest number of media personnel per capita in the world is in Jerusalem, not one person published this important story." He explained that after Pave the Way had it translated and put it out, it was picked up by one Arabic paper with the full English translation.

Pave the Way Foundation is an organization dedicated to bridging the gap between religions and cultures through education and interreligious dialogue. According to their website, they "strive to eliminate the use of religion as a tool which, historically has been used, by some, to achieve personal agendas and to cause conflicts."

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On the NET:

Pave the Way Foundation: <http://www.ptwf.org/>

(February 27, 2015) © Innovative Media Inc.



## Knights of Columbus

Wilmington Council 1074

PO Box 1841

Wilmington, NC 28402

[www.kofc1074.org](http://www.kofc1074.org)

September 15, 2014

K of C Council 1074 Sponsoring Talk by Gary Krupp on Pope Pius XII



On Saturday, November 21<sup>st</sup>, 2015, Knights of Columbus Council #1074 will sponsor a talk by Gary Krupp, DCS, KC\*SG, OStJ, of the Pave the Way Foundation on Pope Pius XII. Mr. Krupp will describe the work of the Foundation and how they discovered the disinformation campaign about the actions of the Vatican during the Second World War. This prompted the organization to initiate a comprehensive search for primary source documentation in order to present the truth of the lifesaving actions of the Catholic Church under the papacy of Pope Pius XII. Pave the Way has actively sought eyewitnesses and scholarly testimony since 2006 and currently has over 76,000 pages of documented material available free of charge for international study on their website, [www.ptwf.org](http://www.ptwf.org). The talk will be held in Saint Mary's School Cafeteria behind the Basilica Shrine of Saint Mary, 412 Ann St, Wilmington, beginning at 10:30 AM.

Gary Krupp is a Doctor of Commercial Services. He was made a Knight Commander of the Pontifical Order of Saint Gregory of the Silver Star by Pope John Paul II and a member of the order of the Anglican Order St. John of Jerusalem by Queen Elizabeth II.

Pave the Way Foundation is a non-sectarian organization dedicated to achieving peace by closing the gap in tolerance, education and the practical relations between religions, through cultural, technological and intellectual exchanges. It strives to eliminate the use of religion as a tool, which, historically has been used, by some, to achieve personal agendas and to cause conflicts. Their slogan is "Embrace our Similarities Savor our Differences."

The Knights of Columbus, the world's largest Catholic fraternal men's organization was founded in 1882; Wilmington Council 1074 was formed in 1906.

Please address any questions concerning this press release to Frank Reck, Council Director at [council@kofc1074.org](mailto:council@kofc1074.org).





## Jewish historian honored by the Vatican speaks at Saint Stephen

**O**n March 14, 2015, Gary Krupp, a member of the papal household and most decorated Jewish person in Vatican history, came to Saint Stephen the First Martyr parish in Sanford. Knighted by Pope John II to the order of Saint Gregory the Great in 2000, Krupp shared with the audience of 120 people his ongoing efforts to reveal the truth about Pope Pius XII, and that Pope's efforts to save Jewish lives during World War II.

Krupp also spoke of the Pave the Way Foundation, which he founded with his wife, Meredith, 12 years ago. According to Krupp, Pave the Way is "the only organization in the world devoted to removing obstacles among the major world religions through gestures of goodwill." Krupp's philosophy is simple: when gestures of goodwill are extended, trust develops and obstacles are overcome.

Knighted by Saint John Paul II because of the charitable

work he did for Padre Pio Hospital, Krupp found himself in the perfect position to speak to the Vatican on behalf of rabbis and scholars who had previously been denied the opportunity to view the writings of Maimonides, the texts of which were kept in the Vatican library. As a result, through his diplomatic relations with the Vatican, Krupp arranged for a group of rabbis to view the writings of this great Jewish philosopher, texts they had longed to read in their original form. These rabbis were received by Pope John Paul II in the largest Jewish audience in history and his last private

audience before his death in 2005. Thus, with this first gesture of goodwill, the idea for Pave the Way Foundation was born.

Pave the Way Foundation also arranged for the donation to the Vatican library of the Bodmer Papyrus, the oldest written version of the Gospels of St. John and St. Luke, containing the oldest written version of the Lord's Prayer (circa 175-225 AD). The Bodmer Papyrus was presented to Pope Benedict XVI in 2007.

When it comes to Pope Pius XII, Krupp has an intensely personal reason for pursuing his years' long efforts to restore the Pope's good name. Growing up, Krupp believed Pope Pius XII was "Hitler's Pope." Krupp said this began with a smear campaign created by the Russian KGB with production of the play *The Deputy* in 1963. As a Jew, Krupp admits to growing up hating the Pope. "I was lied to," he says. Krupp noted that in the years between 1939 and 1948, no negative news articles were written about the Pope. Only after the smear campaign did the Pope's reputation as a Nazi sympathizer start to spread.

After reviewing tens of thousands of original documents and interviewing World War II Holocaust survivors who had been personally rescued by the actions of the Pope, Krupp discovered that the Roman Catholic Church saved as many as 847,000 Jews, from whom 25 percent of the world's 16 million Jews today are descended.

Through Pave the Way, Gary and Meredith Krupp, along with the support of scholars and contributors, the truth about Pope Pius XII is now coming to light.

**For more information about his work on behalf of Pope Pius XII, as well as other Pave the Way Foundation projects underway, go to [www.ptwf.org](http://www.ptwf.org)** – Mary Hood Hart, Faith

Formation Director, Saint Stephen the First Martyr, Sanford

WORLD APRIL 15, 2015

# Secret Archives Show Vatican Tried to Stop Armenian Genocide

The evidence for Pope Francis' condemnation of Turkey's extermination of Christians

Diane Montagna

VATICAN CITY — Why did Pope Francis' controversial comments on Sunday about the "Armenian Genocide" cause such a furor in Turkey?

To help understand the true history behind the 1915-16 atrocity, Aleteia interviewed the German historian and author, Dr. Michael Hesemann, who was in Rome for Sunday's Mass in St. Peter's Basilica commemorating the 100th anniversary of the genocide, otherwise known as Metz Yeghern [the Great Evil].

The atrocity involved the Ottoman government's systematic extermination of its minority Armenian subjects inside their historic homeland which lies within the territory constituting present-day Turkey. The total number of people killed in what is also known as the Armenian Holocaust is estimated at between 1 and 1.5 million.

In a new book entitled, *The Armenian Genocide* [Völkermord an den Armeniern], Hesemann reveals for the first time the content of never-before-published documents on "the greatest crime of World War I," and how Pope Benedict XV and Vatican diplomacy tried to stop the deportations of the Armenians into the Syrian desert, save the victims and prevent the massacre of an entire people.

In this interview, Hesemann shares his findings, which include evidence of Masonic involvement, and expresses both his admiration for Pope Francis for drawing attention to the genocide of Christians and ethnic minorities, and his disappointment over the absence of the German Ambassador to the Holy See at Sunday's commemorative Mass.

*Dr. Hesemann, what led you to write a book on what documents contained in the Vatican Archives reveal about the Armenian Genocide?*

Actually it was a kind of coincidence. I work as an historian for the "Pave the Way Foundation" in an intensive study of all the aspects of the life of Eugenio Pacelli, the man who eventually became Pope Pius XII.

From 1917-1925, Pacelli was Nuncio in Munich, so I went through the files of the Apostolic Nunciature in Munich, only to discover one folder with the title "Persecution of the Armenians".

I opened it and found a letter of the Archbishop of Cologne, Cardinal von Hartmann, to the Chancellor of the Reich, Graf (Count) Härtling, in which he calls the persecution of the Armenians "not less brutal than the persecutions of the Christians in the first centuries of Christianity." The Archbishop requested an urgent German intervention, unfortunately in vain.

In the same file I found a copy of a letter written by Pope Benedict XV to the Sultan, asking for mercy for the innocent Armenians. These documents both touched me and aroused my curiosity. I



felt I had just touched the tip of an iceberg and was sure I would find more data, and indeed I did — some 2500 pages so far.

I soon realized that no historian had ever worked with most of these documents, and that all this information was obviously unknown even to the leading experts on the Armenocide.

Given the importance of their content, I decided to write a book, putting the documents in the context of what we already know about the events of 1915-18.

*What was the most surprising and unexpected insight you discovered in the Vatican Archives about the Armenian genocide?*

The most surprising insight was that the Armenian genocide was in fact just part of a bigger plan — the extermination of all non-muslim minorities in the Ottoman Empire.

The ruling “Young Turk” movement came in contact with European ideas of nationalism and the concept that only a homogenous state can be a strong state. That is why they believed that the weakness of the Ottoman Empire was caused by its multi-religious and multi-ethnic character.

They wanted to “heal” this “weakness” by eliminating all foreign elements, which first meant the Christians who numbered 19% of the population in early 1914. Besides the Armenians, also Aramaic and Assyrian Christians, Catholic and Greek Orthodox Christians were persecuted and murdered.

The Turkish claim of a conspiracy between Russia and some Armenian leaders was nothing but a lie to justify those measures. If that were really the case, why did they kill innocent women and children, too? And why didn't they spare the other Christian groups, which were never under suspicion? Indeed, the Turkish Secretary of the Interior, Talaat Bey, quite frankly told Johann Mordtmann of the German Embassy, according to a report to Berlin: “The (Turkish) government uses the war to get rid of our internal enemies — the indigenous Christians of all denominations — without diplomatic interventions by foreign nations.”

This is also what we read in some of the Vatican documents, e.g. a report written by Fr. Michael Liebl, an Austrian Capuchin missionary, who learned in Samsun: “Not the Armenians, the Christians were sentenced (to death) at a secret meeting of the Young Turks 5 or 6 years ago in Thessaloniki.”

*What measures did Benedict XV take diplomatically to help save the Armenians from deportation into the Syrian desert?*

Already in June 1915, the Vatican had a vague idea of what had happened in Eastern Anatolia. One month later, there was no doubt about the horrible massacres carried out against most of the male Armenian population. For the whole of August 1915, Msgr. Dolci — the Apostolic Delegate in Constantinople — did everything humanly possible to interfere diplomatically — without any success.

When drastic reports reached the Vatican in September 1915, Pope Benedict XV wasted no more time and decided to act. He sent an autograph to Sultan Mehmet V, pleading for mercy for the Armenians. The Turks refused even to receive it. For two months, Msgr. Dolci tried everything to present it to its addressee, but it was not received by the Sultan.

Only when he asked both the German and the Austrian ambassador for help was he granted an audience. When another four weeks later the Sultan answered, most of the deportations were already completed. All promises of the Turks to end the massacres or spare one group or the other — or to let them return home — turned out to be lies.

In December, Pope Benedict referred to the failure of any diplomatic intervention in his allocution to the Cardinals at the Consistory of December 6, 1915. In it, he spoke of “those sorrowful people

of the Armenians, almost completely driven into their extermination.”

In June 1916, the Armenian Catholic Patriarch had to inform the Holy See: “The project of the extermination of the Armenians in Turkey is still going on. (...) The exiled Armenians ... are continuously driven into the desert and there stripped of all vital resources. They miserably perish from hunger, disease and extreme climate. (...) It is certain that the Ottoman government has decided to eliminate Christianity from Turkey before the World War comes to an end. And all this happens in the face of the Christian world.”

*Why is this only coming to light now?*

Well, good question. Of course, the files from the pontificate of Benedict XV have only been open since the 1990s. Besides this, not too many historians have access to them. And perhaps just nobody had any idea what he would find there — it’s only a guess.

*Among the documents contained in your book, you include a letter written by the Superior of the Capuchins in Ezrurum, Fr. Norbert Hofer, to the Vatican in October 1915, which states: “The punishment of the Armenian nation (for alleged uprisings) is merely a pretext used by the Masonic Turkish government to exterminate all Christian elements in this country.”*

*Many readers may be surprised to hear mention of the Masons in relation to the Armenian Genocide, particularly in light of the desire at the time to unite Turkey, with Sunni Islam as the state religion? Can you explain how the Masons factor into the Armenian genocide, and who are the “Young Turks” which you referred to earlier?*

Yes, of course. It would have been easy and rather populist to blame Islam for the Armenian genocide, especially as we are facing the horrible events of our own time in the very same region, with Islamic States’ massacre against Christians and Yazidis in the north of Syria and the Iraq.

But none of the responsible politicians, neither Talaat nor Enver nor Cemal Pasha, was a fanatic Muslim. The Young Turks were anything but fundamentalists. They were a young, revolutionary movement started by Turkish academics who had studied in most cases in Paris, where they came in contact with both the ideals of Masonry and European nationalism. Many of them were accepted by Masonic lodges and indeed the lodge of Thessaloniki became a kind of national headquarters for them.

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*As an historian who has studied in depth the events and circumstances surrounding the Armenian genocide, particularly those documented in the Vatican archives, what do you make of Turkey’s reaction to Pope Francis’ statements on Sunday in which he called the Armenian massacre a “genocide”?*

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The Turkish reaction to his brave remark could be expected. It is always the same. They claim that the Pope was misinformed, although he knows the truth from his own archives. By the way, when will the Turks open theirs?

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This is also what we read in some of the Vatican documents, e.g. a report written by Fr. Michael Liebl, an Austrian Capuchin missionary, who learned in Samsun: “Not the Armenians, the Christians were sentenced (to death) at a secret meeting of the Young Turks 5 or 6 years ago in Thessaloniki.”

*What measures did Benedict XV take diplomatically to help save the Armenians from deportation into the Syrian desert?*

Already in June 1915, the Vatican had a vague idea of what had happened in Eastern Anatolia. One month later, there was no doubt about the horrible massacres carried out against most of the male Armenian population. For the whole of August 1915, Msgr. Dolci — the Apostolic Delegate in Constantinople — did everything humanly possible to interfere diplomatically — without any success.

When drastic reports reached the Vatican in September 1915, Pope Benedict XV wasted no more time and decided to act. He sent an autograph to Sultan Mehmet V, pleading for mercy for the Armenians. The Turks refused even to receive it. For two months, Msgr. Dolci tried everything to present it to its addressee, but it was not received by the Sultan.

Only when he asked both the German and the Austrian ambassador for help was he granted an audience. When another four weeks later the Sultan answered, most of the deportations were already completed. All promises of the Turks to end the massacres or spare one group or the other — or to let them return home — turned out to be lies.

In December, Pope Benedict referred to the failure of any diplomatic intervention in his allocution to the Cardinals at the Consistory of December 6, 1915. In it, he spoke of “those sorrowful people

of the Armenians, almost completely driven into their extermination.”

In June 1916, the Armenian Catholic Patriarch had to inform the Holy See: “The project of the extermination of the Armenians in Turkey is still going on. (...) The exiled Armenians ... are continuously driven into the desert and there stripped of all vital resources. They miserably perish from hunger, disease and extreme climate. (...) It is certain that the Ottoman government has decided to eliminate Christianity from Turkey before the World War comes to an end. And all this happens in the face of the Christian world.”

*Why is this only coming to light now?*

Well, good question. Of course, the files from the pontificate of Benedict XV have only been open since the 1990s. Besides this, not too many historians have access to them. And perhaps just nobody had any idea what he would find there — it’s only a guess.

*Among the documents contained in your book, you include a letter written by the Superior of the Capuchins in Ezrurum, Fr. Norbert Hofer, to the Vatican in October 1915, which states: “The punishment of the Armenian nation (for alleged uprisings) is merely a pretext used by the Masonic Turkish government to exterminate all Christian elements in this country.”*

*Many readers may be surprised to hear mention of the Masons in relation to the Armenian Genocide, particularly in light of the desire at the time to unite Turkey, with Sunni Islam as the state religion? Can you explain how the Masons factor into the Armenian genocide, and who are the “Young Turks” which you referred to earlier?*

Yes, of course. It would have been easy and rather populist to blame Islam for the Armenian genocide, especially as we are facing the horrible events of our own time in the very same region, with Islamic States’ massacre against Christians and Yazidis in the north of Syria and the Iraq.

But none of the responsible politicians, neither Talaat nor Enver nor Cemal Pasha, was a fanatic Muslim. The Young Turks were anything but fundamentalists. They were a young, revolutionary movement started by Turkish academics who had studied in most cases in Paris, where they came in contact with both the ideals of Masonry and European nationalism. Many of them were accepted by Masonic lodges and indeed the lodge of Thessaloniki became a kind of national headquarters for them.

Talaat Bey — the man responsible for the Armenocide — was even Grandmaster of the Grand Orient of the Turkish Masonry. That’s a historical fact. The ideology of the Young Turks can be described as “proto-fascism.” Only race did not play any role as the unifying element, since there is nothing like a “racially pure” Turk. Rather, it was substituted by religion, namely Sunni Islam.

Islam was therefore instrumentalized for political reasons. It gave all those who were involved in the killings a rationale, a justification for their deeds. But behind it was the master plan of a political ideology, which misused religion for its purposes, and so sought the homogenization of the Turkish nation.

*As an historian who has studied in depth the events and circumstances surrounding the Armenian genocide, particularly those documented in the Vatican archives, what do you make of Turkey’s reaction to Pope Francis’ statements on Sunday in which he called the Armenian massacre a “genocide”?*

I am very grateful to the Holy Father. On Sunday, we not only saw a beautiful, worthy and solemn commemoration of the Armenian martyrdom, we also experienced the victory of truth over diplomacy.

If you know how fanatically Turkey tries every means to debunk the events of 1915-1916, if you



follow the chronology of their threats against nations much bigger and more powerful than the Vatican — nations such as France, Germany and the US — you get an idea what it takes to stand up and call a “genocide” what was indeed the first genocide of the 20th century. Thank you, Pope Francis! What a great, wonderful, political pope who indeed acted as the moral conscience of the world and taught us that, as Christians, we should never be afraid of the truth.

The Turkish reaction to his brave remark could be expected. It is always the same. They claim that the Pope was misinformed, although he knows the truth from his own archives. By the way, when will the Turks open theirs?

The Turks even spoke of racism. Should we now assume that, from the Turkish point of view, it is not racist at all to kill nearly a whole nation, a religious and ethnic group, but it is racist to call this a genocide?

It is so sad that the Turks don’t realize how they exclude themselves from the community of civilized nations by such acts. I mean, I am German and my nation committed the most horrible crime in history, the Shoah. But at least we admitted what we did, we deeply regret it and we tried anything possible for reconciliation and compensation.

As a Catholic, I believe that every sin and every crime can be forgiven, if you only confess and regret. But what you neither regret nor confess cannot be forgiven either. Turkey only has one chance to overcome the trauma and guilt of the darkest chapter of its history, and that is to confess and regret! And we will all forgive. If not, these wounds will always be wide open, even after 100 years.

*What lessons does the history of the Armenian Genocide hold for us today, particularly in light of the present day persecution of Christians in Africa and the Middle East?*

If there is one lesson we should learn from the Armenian genocide, it is this: Never turn around, never look away when your brother suffers persecution.

We all, all nations of the civilized world and first of all Germany — Turkey’s ally — share the Turkish guilt, because we allowed this to happen. By opportunism, by giving other topics priority, by what Pope Francis rightly called “the globalization of indifference,” which is so evil. “Cain, where is your brother Abel?” That’s why nobody can ever say that he has nothing to do with the Armenian genocide, the holocaust or the fate of our Christian brothers in Syria and Iraq.

For ignoring their fate and their suffering makes us guilty, too. Not preventing a crime which happens before your very eyes makes you an accomplice of the perpetrator. We should never be ignorant, we should never be indifferent, but rather learn to act responsibly.

This is why I was so very ashamed that, of all the diplomats present in St. Peter’s Basilica that morning commemorating the Armenian martyrs, the one who was missing was Annette Schavan, the German Ambassador to the Holy See. Especially since, as I explained before, Germany as Turkey’s ally holds a special responsibility for their martyrdom. In her case, opportunism won over the truth. And that is a shame. We can only be people of the future if we are not afraid of the past.

**Diane Montagna** is Rome correspondent for Aleteia’s English edition.

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FILM

# A New Front in the Pius Wars

*A film being screened at Cannes portrays the wartime pope as a hero who saved 800,000 Jews. The truth is far less inspiring*

BY MICHAEL COREN

PUBLISHED ON MAY 13, 2015

criticism · film · history · Judaism · Nazism · Pope Pius · religion · Shades of Truth · World War II

COMMENTS



CONDOR PICTURES

Pope Pius XII wears the yellow star in *Shades of Truth*.

**B**ACK IN 1999, British author John Cornwell published a controversial and widely publicized book called *Hitler's Pope: The Secret History of Pius XII*. The title was misleading on two levels: first, in that it implied and depicted Pius as a faithful Nazi; second, in that it assumed the man's story long had been kept a secret.

Six years later came a counterblast in the shape of *The Myth of Hitler's Pope: How Pope Pius XII Rescued Jews from the Nazis* by David G. Dalin, who is not only Jewish but also a rabbi.

So there we had it. A liberal Catholic accusing a pope of Nazism; a Jewish academic and ordained cleric praising the wartime pontiff as a friend of anti-Nazism and the Jewish people. The twenty-first-century Pius wars had begun.

And now, another front has opened, with the making by Catholic director and writer Liana Marabini of a movie called *Shades of Truth*, which will be shown at this month's Cannes Film Festival. The title does not appear to refer to the more famous and similarly named film about sado-masochism. However, it is somewhat painful to watch—a one-sided hagiography presenting a man who utters progressive aphorisms as he strides along Vatican hallways shaming his contemporaries as they fail to properly empathize with Europe's poor Jews. It also makes the outlandish claim that Pius saved 800,000 Jewish lives, a boast that even his most aggressive academic supporters would never make.



In one scene, which naturally is used in marketing materials for the film, Pius is shown wearing a yellow star pinned to his papal cassock. It never happened in real life, of course; and even in *Shades of Truth*, the scene is confined to a dream sequence. So it's misleading at best, if not noisily dishonest.

But imagine if the leader of world Catholicism really *had* worn such a symbol of degradation and genocide? Urban legend long has had it that the King of Denmark wore such a star as he rode the streets of Copenhagen in his carriage; it's not true, but the point is that those who knew him always accepted the anecdote because it was authentic to his character and attitude toward his Jewish subjects. The King of Morocco actually did request yellow stars for himself and his family when told that Moroccan Jews would have to wear them. And this from an Arab Muslim monarch living under occupation. But with Pius, the story simply doesn't fit. Even in dream.

THE STORY of Eugenio Pacelli, elected to the papacy in March 1939 as Pius XII, is complex. Anyone searching for absolute purity of motive and some sort of anachronistic philo-semitism and embrace of modern pluralism will be disappointed. He was a man of his time and his faith: obsessively frightened of Communism and its campaign against the Church; obviously unaware of who would triumph in the Second World War. His official actions consistently reflected these fears and uncertainties.

Pius XII almost certainly had no personal animus against Jewish people, always rejected the eugenics and intolerance of National Socialism, and on a personal level did what he could to save the lives of Jews around him. Before he became Pope, Cardinal Pacelli drafted the papal encyclical condemning Nazi racism and had it read from every pulpit. As Pope, he had the Vatican use its assets to ransom Jews from the Nazis, ran an elaborate escape route, and hid Jewish families in the papal palace of Castel Gondolfo. In 1945, Rabbi Herzog of Jerusalem, for example, thanked Pius, “for his lifesaving efforts on behalf of the Jews during the occupation of Italy.” When the pontiff died in 1958, Golda Meir, then Israeli foreign minister, delivered a eulogy at the United Nations praising the man for his work on behalf of her people.

For almost a generation, in fact, it was considered a political absolute that the Church was a member of a coalition of victims during the Second World War, and Pius was mentioned alongside Churchill and Roosevelt as part of the team of morally correct wartime leaders. It was only in the 1960s that the conversation around this issue began to change, partly because of the work of a German playwright named Rolf Hochhuth, who alleged in his 1963 play *The Deputy* that the Vatican not only had ignored the suffering of the Jews but tacitly and sometimes explicitly had supported the Nazis. The truth, however, is more of a *via media* than a *via dolorosa*.



While the Pope did not issue an outright attack on the Nazis' treatment of the Jews, his supporters argue that this was because the leaders of the Catholic Church in Holland had made just such a public statement condemning the Nazi deportation of the Jewish people. In response the Germans had arrested and murdered every Dutch Jewish convert to Catholicism they could find. (Tragically, those arrests and deportations were only a matter of time anyway.)

Pius was such a friend of the Jews, the argument continues, that when the Chief Rabbi of Rome, Israel Zolli, converted to Roman Catholicism after the war, he took Pius's name, Eugenio, in his christening as a tribute to the Pope's work on behalf of the Jews. That's also true but doesn't really change much. On a personal level, as noted above, Pius certainly did what he could to save lives; but on a public level—where multitudes could be saved—he did far less.

Pius was not “Hitler's Pope,” and the Nazis always considered him a threat. His failure was that he never made that threat a reality by speaking out resolutely against the Holocaust, invariably terrified of what would happen to the world's Catholics if he did and advised by some around him that the alternative to the Germans was the Soviets. It's an understandable dilemma, but a defiant Pope could have influenced hundreds of millions of Catholics, many of them serving in armies allied to the Germans. The risk would have

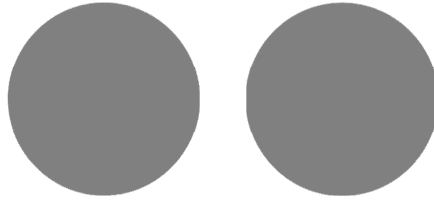
been enormous, but Christianity isn't supposed to be about safety and complacency.

Thus there are indeed numerous shades of truth around Pope Pius. Unfortunately, this risible movie only deepens the polarization and so makes it more difficult for a reasonable analysis to take place. The late **Sir Martin Gilbert**, one of the finest historians of the Holocaust and the Second World War and a man I was fortunate enough to call a friend, once put it like this:

This was a pre-Vatican II Catholic Church in the middle of a war that, for the most part, was not between Germans and the west but Nazis and Stalinists. If, say, John Paul II had been Pope, the story may have been different. Throw in subsequent rifts between the Catholic right and left, and the regrettable politicization of the Shoah and truth is extremely difficult to find.

The entire political and religious landscape has changed today, and some of these old battles obscure contemporary truths. Pius didn't act particularly badly for a man of his era but, I suppose, he did act particularly normally. For someone thought to be the direct successor to St. Peter, given the keys of the kingdom by Jesus Christ, that's just not good enough, no matter how well that truth is shaded.





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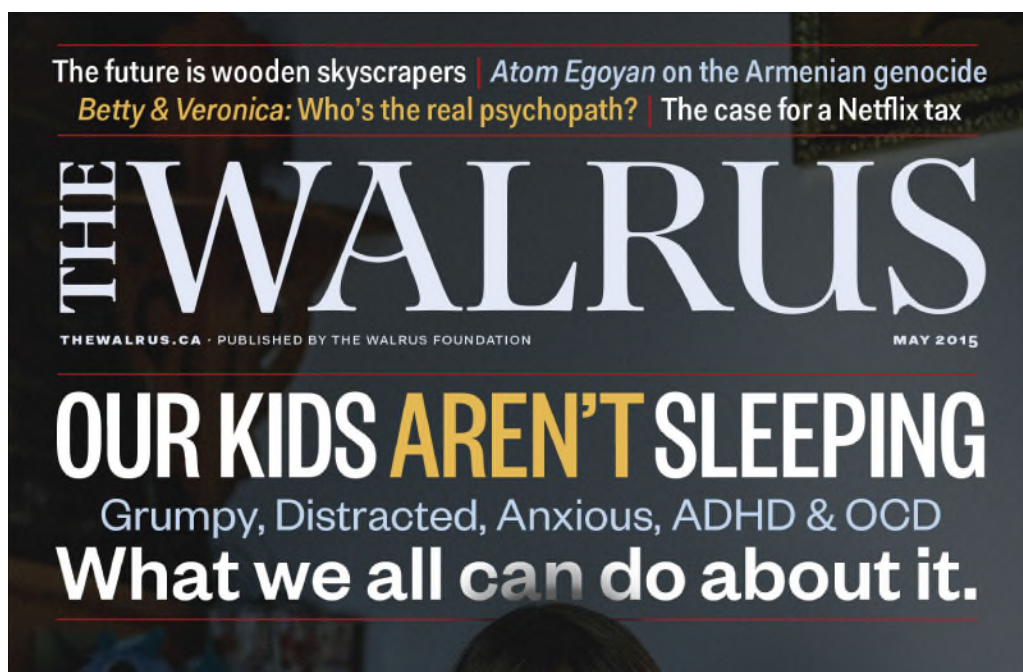
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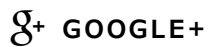
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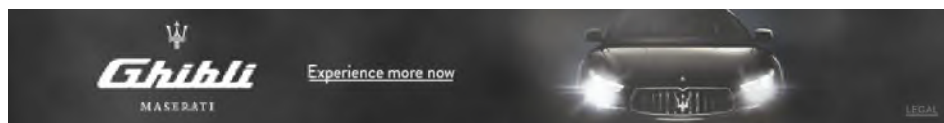
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# PTWF Commends Palestinian Muslim Professor Mohammad Dajani for Taking Al-Quds University

## Students on Historic Visit to Auschwitz

PTWF applauds Professor Dajani's efforts to educate Palestinian students on the true history of the Holocaust.

PR Newswire

NEW YORK, April 14, 2014

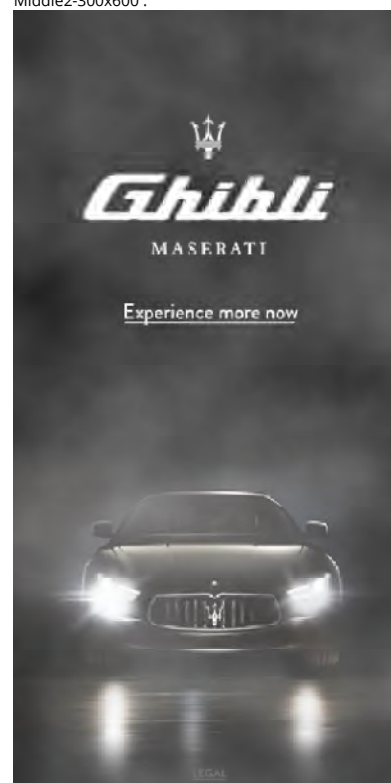
NEW YORK, April 14, 2014 /PRNewswire-USNewswire/ -- [Pave the Way Foundation \(PTWF\)](#), a nonsectarian organization whose mission is to achieve peace by eliminating non-theological obstacles and initiating historic gestures between the world's religions, commends the recent actions of Professor Mohammad S. Dajani Daoudi in his sincere effort to achieve peace through truth and historical accuracy. Professor Dajani [recently brought 30 Palestinian university students to visit the Auschwitz concentration camp](#).

Mohammed S. Dajani Daoudi is the founder of the [Wasatia](#) movement, which promotes moderation in Islam, and the director of the American Studies department at Al-Quds University.

Facing criticism from some Palestinian leaders, Professor Dajani conducted this historic visit to Auschwitz in order to reveal the truth of Jewish suffering during the Holocaust. [PTWF](#) commends Professor Dajani for his important efforts to show the true history of the Holocaust, to counter an atmosphere of Holocaust denial and historical revision, aimed only to incite hatred.

[Gary Krupp, Founder and President of PTWF](#), stated, "Throughout history, those with private agendas have distorted history to achieve their goals. The masses have been deceived by manipulating media in concert with these efforts. Media manipulation has been a necessary tool to inspire hatred, violence and war."

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Professor Mohammed Dajani has inspired countless Palestinian students to achieve their legitimate aspirations by recognizing the virtues of the three faiths of Abraham.

[Chairman of PTWF, Elliot Hershberg](#), said, "The precepts of Islam, Christianity, and Judaism demand justice through truth. Yet, some will attempt to revise history to justify provocative actions and statements. A solid foundation of truth from all sides is essential if peace in the Middle East is ever to be achieved."

#### About Pave the Way Foundation

[PTWF](#) is a nonsectarian public foundation working to identify and resolve obstacles between religions through cultural, educational and technological gestures. Our mission is to ultimately remove the use of religion as a tool to justify private agendas.

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## A Recent History of Papal Acts Impacting Jewish Catholic Relations. What Does the Future Hold After Benedict XVI?

*By Gary Krupp, President, Pave the Way Foundation*



Having endured 2000 years of persecution, Jews may have a justified distrust of Christians. Today some Christians have expressed support for the enemies of Israel, further fueling this potential for distrust. Mindful of this reality, we must also acknowledge those Christian individuals and groups who have made positive efforts in support of Jews. Specifically we should take a look at the Roman Catholic Church's actions in recent decades, attempting to reverse centuries of hostility towards Jews, in an official capacity. The church's October 1965 Declaration on the Relation of the Church with Non-Christian Religions (Nostra Aetate) made a clear statement. The document, released by Pope Paul VI and originated by Pope John XXIII before his death, was deliberate and steadfast. The declaration decries all displays of anti-Semitism made at any time by anyone. These powerful words have guided the church's actions throughout the ensuing decades. The impact of modern papacies since the 1960's represent important symbolic trends towards friendlier relations in the current era.

Moreover, our work with Pave the Way Foundation (PTWF) has uncovered evidence (including large numbers of documents, news reports and acknowledged historical events) showing that this relationship with the Jewish people was forcefully moved forward far earlier than the 1960's, by Pope Pius XII (Eugenio Pacelli.) Posted on our website ([www.ptwf.org](http://www.ptwf.org)) are numerous original documents and news reports of this surprising reality.

Pacelli's love for the Jewish people began with his childhood relationship with an Orthodox Jewish friend, Guido Mendes. Young Eugenio attended Shabbat meals at the Mendes home, and learned to speak some Hebrew. He borrowed books of the great Rabbis from his friend. This spiritual link to the origins of Christianity influenced Pacelli's relationship with the Jewish people, beginning when he entered the priesthood and ultimately ascended to the Seat of St. Peter on March 2nd, 1939. Documents show that it was Pacelli's direct action from 1917 through 1947 that ultimately led to the creation of the modern state of Israel.

As Pope Pius XII, his directives instructed Catholics worldwide to do everything possible to save the Jews from the onslaught of Nazism. Upon Pacelli's death in 1959, his successor was the Vatican's Ambassador to Bulgaria, Archbishop Angelo Roncalli (Pope John XXIII). Carrying his predecessor's policies forward, Pope John XXIII is today widely regarded as a hero to the Jewish people. Most notably he is praised for his issuance of false baptismal papers and other actions to save Jews during the Shoah. Later in his papacy, he is credited with convening the Second Vatican Council, which culminated with the historic declaration, Nostre Aetate. The declaration absolved Jews of the crime of deicide, the



[Jewish Classifieds](#)

crucifixion of Jesus Christ. Deicide was historically used to justify atrocities against the Jewish people for centuries, along with the lies of Blood Libel and the Protocols of Zion.

Ultimately, Pope John XXIII died before *Nostre Aetate* was released. His successor, Pope Paul VI, was another member of the Roman Curia during the wartime papacy of Pius XII, Giovanni Montini. Paul VI announced *Nostre Aetate* on October 28, 1965.

Pope Paul VI also ordered a team of Jesuit historians to comb through the official diplomatic documents of the WWII wartime Secret Archives, currently closed under canonical seal, to publish the Acts and Documents of the Holy See during the Second World War. These 11 volumes in 12 books identify over 9000 diplomatic documents which, he hoped, would prove that the allegations of his predecessor Pope Pius XII were wrong. The intent was to end the new false allegations, which endangered Jewish - Catholic relations. Pave the Way Foundation asked for and was given permission to digitize this collection along with the Acts of the Holy See 1909-1965. The contents are available to historians on our website [www.ptwf.org](http://www.ptwf.org) and on the Vatican website: [http://www.vatican.va/archive/atti-ufficiali-santa-sede/index\\_en.htm](http://www.vatican.va/archive/atti-ufficiali-santa-sede/index_en.htm) worldwide to study this important resource.

Most of the Jewish world is more familiar with the next Bishop of Rome, Pope John Paul II, himself a victim of Nazi brutality in his native Poland. (John Paul II succeeded the brief papacy of John Paul I who died soon after his election). Without question the Jewish world has come to acknowledge John Paul II as one of the great Catholic leaders, who further enhanced Catholic-Jewish relations with demonstrated gestures. Most significantly, similar to Pope Pius XII's formation from his Jewish friend Guido Mendes, John Paul II's childhood Jewish friend Jerzy Kluger, (PTWF advisor in Italy until his death in 2011) had an historical impact on this great man's future actions towards the Jewish people.

John Paul instituted normalization with the State of Israel in 1994. He visited Israel March 2000, placing his prayer for forgiveness of Jewish persecution throughout Christian history in the Kotel. He mourned the murdered Jewish martyrs of the Shoah in the Hall of Remembrance at Yad Vashem, and most significantly was the first Pope since St. Peter to visit the Great Synagogue in Rome as gesture of brotherhood. His personal devotion to the Jewish people was quietly pointed out after his death when he remembered the former Chief Rabbi of Rome Elio Toaff in his will. Rabbi Toaff so welcomed Pope John Paul II to the synagogue April 13, 1986 with the words of Psalm 118:26 "Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord."

Pave the Way Foundation had the honor of thanking Pope John Paul II with the largest private Jewish audience in history January 18, 2005, where we recognized his historic gestures to the Jewish people and to the State of Israel. We brought 168 Jewish leaders from around the world to thank this great pontiff. A Conservative, Orthodox, and Reform rabbi each blessed the Pope in the Papal palace on that historic day. The video of this historic event is on our website, [www.ptwf.org](http://www.ptwf.org). Sadly, this was to be his last major audience as he fell ill 11 days later. Having a personal relationship with Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger before he was elected Pope April 19, 2005, gave us the opportunity to discuss Jewish-Catholic, and Vatican-Israeli relations with this wonderfully brilliant, yet shy man. This relationship would prove invaluable with our reaching out to him after his election.

Pope Benedict XVI previously held the post of the president of the Holy office or the sacred congregation for the doctrine of the faith for 24 years. In his capacity, he had the responsibility to write much of the edicts of the church and its relations with the Jewish people and Israel. We knew that, as pope, he would move the church along the same path of reconciliation as his predecessors. Pope Benedict XVI was different, however. His devotion to faith and personal drive caused him to take positions which were controversial but would have a far reaching impact.

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*About the author: Gary Krupp is the co-founder and president of the Pave the Way Foundation. The only non-sectarian organization in the world, whose mission is to improve relations between the world's religions through historic gestures of good and by identifying and eliminating obstacles between the faiths. Mr. Krupp is the only Jewish man ever to have been elected as an Officer Brother into the Anglican Order of St John and knighted into the Pontifical Equestrian Order of St. Gregory the Great by Pope John Paul II and raised in rank by Pope Benedict XVI.*



# A Recent History of Papal Acts Impacting Jewish Catholic Relations. What Does the Future Hold After Benedict XVI?

*By Gary Krupp*

*President, Pave the Way Foundation*

Having endured 2000 years of persecution, Jews may have a justified distrust of Christians. Today some Christians have expressed support for the enemies of Israel, further fueling this potential for distrust. Mindful of this reality, we must also acknowledge those Christian individuals and groups who have made positive efforts in support of Jews. Specifically we should take a look at the Roman Catholic Church's actions in recent decades, attempting to reverse centuries of hostility towards Jews, in an official capacity.

The church's October 1965 Declaration on the Relation of the Church with Non-Christian Religions (*Nostra Aetate*) made a clear statement. The document, released by Pope Paul VI and originated by Pope John XXIII before his death, was deliberate and steadfast. The declaration decries all displays of anti-Semitism made at any time by anyone. These powerful words have guided the church's actions throughout the ensuing decades. The impact of modern papacies since the 1960's represent important symbolic trends towards friendlier relations in the current era.

Moreover, our work with Pave the Way Foundation (PTWF) has uncovered evidence (including large numbers of documents, news reports and acknowledged historical events) showing that this relationship with the Jewish people was



atrocities against the Jewish people for centuries, along with the lies of Blood Libel and the Protocols of Zion.

Ultimately, Pope John XXIII died before *Nostra Aetate* was released. His successor, Pope Paul VI, was another member of the Roman Curia during the wartime papacy of Pius XII, Giovanni Montini. Paul VI announced *Nostra Aetate* on October 28, 1965.

Pope Paul VI also ordered a team of Jesuit historians to comb through the official diplomatic documents of the WWII wartime Secret Archives, currently closed under canonical seal, to publish the Acts and Documents of the Holy See during the Second World War. These 11 volumes in 12 books identify over 9000 diplomatic documents which, he hoped, would prove that the allegations of his predecessor Pope Pius XII were wrong. The intent was to end the new false allegations, which endangered Jewish - Catholic relations. Pave the Way Foundation asked for and was given permission to digitize this collection along with the Acts of the Holy See 1909-1965. The contents are available to historians on our website [www.ptwf.org](http://www.ptwf.org) and on the Vatican website: [http://www.vatican.va/archive/att-ufficiali-santa-sede/index\\_en.htm](http://www.vatican.va/archive/att-ufficiali-santa-sede/index_en.htm) worldwide to study this important resource.

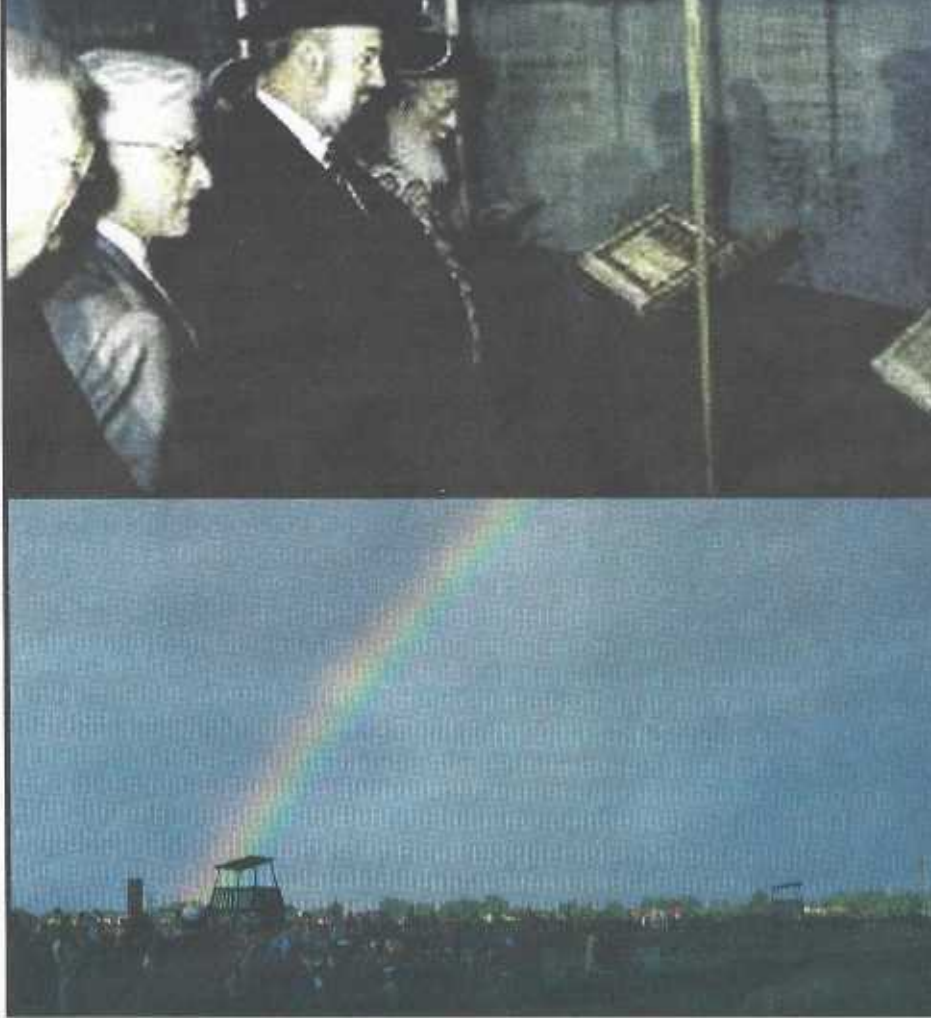
Most of the Jewish world is more familiar with the next Bishop of Rome, Pope John Paul II, himself a victim of Nazi



forcefully moved forward far earlier than the 1960's, by Pope Pius XII (Eugenio Pacelli.) Posted on our website ([www.ptwf.org](http://www.ptwf.org)) are numerous original documents and news reports of this surprising reality.

Pacelli's love for the Jewish people began with his childhood relationship with an Orthodox Jewish friend, Guido Mendes. Young Eugenio attended Shabbat meals at the Mendes home, and learned to speak some Hebrew. He borrowed books of the great Rabbis from his friend. This spiritual link to the origins of Christianity influenced Pacelli's relationship with the Jewish people, beginning when he entered the priesthood and ultimately ascended to the Seat of St. Peter on March 2nd, 1939. Documents show that it was Pacelli's direct action from 1917 through 1947 that ultimately led to the creation of the modern state of Israel.

As Pope Pius XII, his directives instructed Catholics worldwide to do everything possible to save the Jews from the onslaught of Nazism. Upon Pacelli's death in 1959, his successor was the Vatican's Ambassador to Bulgaria, Archbishop Angelo Roncalli (Pope John XXIII). Carrying his predecessor's policies forward, Pope John XXIII is today widely regarded as a hero to the Jewish people. Most notably he is praised for his issuance of false baptismal papers and other actions to save Jews during the Shoah. Later in his papacy, he is credited with convening the Second Vatican Council, which culminated with the historic declaration, *Nostre Aetate*. The declaration absolved Jews of the crime of deicide, the crucifixion of Jesus Christ. Deicide was historically used to justify



**Top: PTWF initiated the largest private Jewish audience in history to thank Pope John Paul II, for his efforts to further reconciliation with the Jewish people and the State of Israel. 2nd photo: Gary Krupp with Pope Benedict XVI. 3rd photo: PTWF arranges for the Vatican Library to loan their original Maimonides documents to Israel. Bottom: A rainbow appeared over Auschwitz as Pope Benedict prayed at the monument to the martyrs.**

brutality in his native Poland. (John Paul II succeeded the brief papacy of John Paul I who died soon after his election). Without question the Jewish world has come to acknowledge John Paul II as one of the great Catholic leaders, who further enhanced Catholic-Jewish relations with demonstrated gestures. Most significantly, similar to Pope Pius XII's formation from his Jewish friend Guido Mendes, John Paul II's childhood Jewish friend Jerzy Kluger, (PTWF advisor in Italy until his death in 2011) had an historical impact on this great man's future actions towards the Jewish people.

John Paul instituted normalization with the State of Israel in 1994. He visited Israel March 2000, placing his prayer for forgiveness of Jewish persecution throughout Christian history in the Kotel. He mourned the murdered Jewish martyrs of the Shoah in the Hall of Remembrance at Yad Vashem, and most significantly was the first Pope since St. Peter to visit the Great Synagogue in Rome as gesture of brotherhood. His personal devotion to the Jewish people was quietly pointed out after his death when he remembered the former Chief Rabbi of Rome Elio Toaff in his will. Rabbi Toaff so welcomed Pope John Paul II to the synagogue April 13, 1986 with the words of Psalm 118:26 "Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord."

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