

## 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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The voice of the Pope and the Church in dialogue with the world

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17/09/2008 18.28.29

## True Legacy of Pope Pius XII

(17 Sep 08 - RV) A conference in Rome examining the papacy of Pius XII came to a close today, after three days of intense labours under the sponsorship of the New York-based Pave the Way Foundation.

Fr. Dennis McManus is the current keeper of the archives of Jesuit Fr. Dennis Graham, who spent three decades gathering all the information he could find in connection with Pope Pius XII's relationship with and actions in behalf of Jews, especially during the war years.

On the sidelines of the conference, Fr. McManus told us about how Fr. Graham came to be involved in the search for the true legacy of the pope who led the Church through the dark days of World War II...

- Church

15/09/2008 18.49.54

Special Symposium Opens on Pope Pius

12/09/2008 18.55.12 Pope Benedict XVI to **Depart for Paris** 

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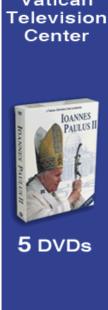
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# CLERICAL WHISPERS

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#### FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 2008

# The Two Sides of Pacelli. Courageous as Pope, **Too Cautious as Secretary of State**

Benedict XVI praises Pius XII for helping the Jews during the war. But "La Civiltà Cattolica" criticizes his actions as cardinal, when he reacted feebly to the racial laws. Here is the article from the journal, published with the imprimatur of the Vatican authorities

Receiving the representatives of the Jewish foundation Pave the Way - in Rome for a symposium



This is the first time that Joseph Ratzinger, as pope, has spoken out so directly about his great and controversial predecessor. He will speak about him again next October 9, at the Mass that will be celebrated on the 50th anniversary of his death.

The address by Benedict XVI made an even greater impact in that his judgment of the actions of Pius XII coincides with the relatively positive views expressed by the Jews of the Pave the Way Foundation.

Also during these same days, a book has been released in Italy by Andrea Riccardi, a professor of Church history and the founder of the Community of St. Egidio. His book is also very positive, and documents the actions of Pope Pacelli to help the persecuted Jews. The 424-page volume, published by Laterza, is entitled "L'inverno più lungo. 1943-44:

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Pio XII, gli ebrei e i nazisti a Roma [The longest winter. 1943-44: Pius XII, the Jews, and the Nazis in Rome]."

\* \* \*

But on the same Thursday, September 18, on which Benedict XVI expressed himself in such favorable terms about Pius XII, an article was published in "La Civiltà Cattolica" that draws Pacelli – secretary of state under Pope Pius XI at the time – in more muted tones.

"La Civiltà Cattolica" isn't just any journal. By statute, all of its articles are reviewed line by line by the Vatican secretariat of state before they are printed. And this supervision has been even more stringent since Cardinal Tarcisio Bertone became secretary of state.

It was therefore somewhat startling that the author of the article, the Jesuit historian Giovanni Sale, attributed to Pacelli in 1938 – the year of the promulgation of the anti-Jewish racial laws in Italy – a diplomatic prudence that "today it is embarrassing to defend."

More precisely, this is what Sale says in one passage of his reconstruction:

"It now seems embarrassing for the Catholic historian, especially after the openness of Vatican Council II in this matter, to defend this kind of viewpoint and manner of proceeding in moral or religious categories."

The article in "La Civiltà Cattolica" does not directly criticize secretary of state Pacelli. But it demonstrates how the caution of Vatican diplomats at the time, in reacting to the racial laws, not only exposed itself to legitimate criticisms, but didn't even produce the hoped-for results.

On the other hand, the article highlights Pius XI's desire to defend the Jews more energetically and condemn the racial laws more drastically. Pius XI, nonetheless, found himself muzzled twice over. His most incisive words and writings never saw the light of day, both because of the censorship of the Fascist regime, which banned the Italian Catholic press from publishing the pope's speeches against racism, and because of the caution of the secretariat of state, which prevented "L'Osservatore Romano" itself – the newspaper of the Holy See – from printing any papal texts that were believed to be too imprudent.

As proof of this, Sale has gathered numerous documents from the Vatican archives and from those of "La Civiltà Cattolica." For example, from an unpublished memoir by Monsignor Domenico Tardini, at the

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time a close collaborator of secretary of state Pacelli, it emerges that Pius XI was extremely irritated over the fact that "L'Osservatore Romano" did not publish, on November 15, 1938, a strongly worded protest that he had written against the racial laws, addressed to the king of Italy, Vittorio Emanuele III, together with the reply from the king. Instead of these two documents, there was only a listless article that said little or nothing. A few days later, the pope also failed to have published in "L'Osservatore" a text that he had dictated seeking to revive the essence of his protest. In both cases, it was Pacelli who blocked the printing of the papal tetxs in the newspaper of the Holy See.

Sale will recount these and other actions on the part of Vatican authorities at the time in other articles scheduled for publication in "La Civiltà Cattolica," for the 70th anniversary of the anti-Jewish laws of 1938.

But here are the principal passages of the article published in the latest issue of the authoritative journal, dated September 20, 2008:

# The first anti-Jewish measures, and the Declaration of the Fascist Grand Council

by Giovanni Sale S.I.

[...] It is sometimes said that the anti-Jewish legislation adopted in Italy beginning in September of 1938 was, in comparison with that in force in other totalitarian countries, more mild and perhaps more humane. This is a myth that must be debunked. On the contrary, some of the measures enacted by the Fascist government were even more severe and persecutory than the ones in effect in Nazi Germany: for example, Germany did not have a law on the generalized expulsion of Jewish foreigners; moreover, the wholesale expulsion of Jewish students from the public schools was enacted by the government in Berlin two months after it came into effect in Italy, and it was put into effect gradually. [...]

The anti-Semitic legislation, especially regarding schools, was received by the majority of Italians, especially by the Catholics, with great regret and sometimes with anger; many letters were sent to the Vatican by private individuals or by groups and associations (including non-Jewish associations), calling upon Church authorities, and upon the pope in particular, to intervene with the Duce in defense of the "beleaguered Jews." [...]

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The day after the adoption of the decree-law on the schools, September 6, 1938, Pius XI delivered a memorable address against racism and anti-Semitism: it was the first time that this had been done in such an explicit and direct manner. Unfortunately, it was not released in Italy – in fact, on August 5, minister Alfieri had instructed the prefects to prevent the pope's statements against racism from being published in Catholic journals and newspapers – and this tremendously favored the racist cause and gave the impression that the pope, for political reasons, was not taking a position on such a grave matter. Many Catholic intellectuals, including Dossetti, learned about this by reading Catholic journals from outside of Italy.

The famous address was delivered in Castel Gandolfo, where the pope had been staying for some time, before a group of Belgian pilgrims, many of whom worked in the media. The complete text, published by "Documentation Catholique," was transcribed by a member of the group while the pope was speaking. The Vatican newspaper, "L'Osservatore Romano," published the text but removed the part concerning the Jews, while the "current events" section of "La Civiltà Cattolica" didn't even mention it. The pope's words are reported by the Belgian Catholic journal in a rather lively manner: "At this point, the pope was unable to contain his emotion . . . and, weeping, he cited the passages from Paul that demonstrate our spiritual descent from Abraham [...] Anti-Semitism is incompatible with the sublime thought and the reality evoked in this text. Anti-Semitism is a hateful movement, with which we Christians should have nothing at all to do [...] It is not permissible for Christians to participate in anti-Semitism. We recognize that everyone has the right to self-defense, and can take the necessary action to safeguard his legitimate interests. But anti-Semitism is inadmissible. Spiritually, we are all Semites." The pope's words condemning anti-Semitism, spoken in an emotional voice, were strong and clear.

The secretariat of state took a rather prudent approach to this matter, thinking that in this way it could obtain some sort of concrete benefit for the Jews, especially for the ones who had converted to Catholicism. Fr. Pietro Tacchi Venturi, the pope's emissary to Mussolini, was charged with handling the delicate matter of the Jews with the governing authorities. A note from the secretariat of state dated September 8, 1938, suggested that the Jesuit draw the attention of the authorities to the Jews who had converted to Catholicism and had been baptized: "Would it not be fair," asked the writer, "that, independently of their origin, Jewish converts who have entered mixed marriages in keeping with canon law [...] should be considered Catholics, and not Jews always and no matter what, simply because their parents were

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  Communist party attacks

  archbishop of Hanoi

Jewish?" In other words, they were asking the Fascist government to make its criterion of discrimination not biological-racial, but religious, meaning membership in a particular religious faith, in this case Judaism.

It now appears embarrassing for the Catholic historian, especially after the openness of Vatican Council II in this matter, to defend this kind of viewpoint and manner of proceeding in moral or religious categories. But the task of the historian is to reconstruct, as much as objectively possible, the historical narrative, seeking to understand the mentality and culture of the subject in question, without ideological bias. According to the Catholic culture of the time, although not everyone agreed with this principle, it seemed that the Church's duty was to protect its own faithful first of all, but without neglecting the sense of justice and charity due to all human beings.

In the light of this principle, one can better understand the later interventions by Church authorities in this matter. Fr. Tacchi Venturi's efforts on behalf of the Jews did not achieve much success, in part because Mussolini was strongly determined to carry forward his racial policy, and he did not want to be in second place in this after his German ally. In an audience on September 9, before the first anti-Jewish decree-laws, the pope explicitly told the Jesuit to send Mussolini the following message: "As an Italian, the pope is truly saddened to see an entire history of Italian good sense forgotten, in order to open the door or the window to a wave of German anti-Semitism." Two days before this, on September 7, Fr. Tacchi Venturi had told the Duce that "because of news and information that, unfortunately, is reliable, the Holy Father is very concerned that this aspect or appearance of anti-Semitism attributed to the measures taken in Italy against the Jews could provoke the Jews and the entire world to retaliations that may not be insignificant to Italy." [...]

\* \* \*

The fact remains that, beginning with the publication of the "Race manifesto," relations between the Italian government and the Holy See – or better, between Mussolini and Pius XI – gradually deteriorated, so much so that the Duce said in private that the pope was a disaster for Italy and for the Church. For its part, the international press made an exaggerated caricature out of this antagonism, to the point of speculating that the pope might leave the Eternal City and Italy: "Following the recent conflict of ideas," the nuncio to Paris, V. Valeri, wrote to the secretariat of state, "that has manifested itself between the authorities of the Italian Fascist regime and the Holy See concerning racism, certain French press outlets, which have followed

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the episode widely and up close, have gone to the point of forecasting nothing less than the future possibility of an exile of the papacy from Rome, and, even more frequently, the election of a non-Italian pope." This fact, which was also reported by the Parisian Catholic newspaper "La Croix," demonstrates the seriousness of the conflict between the Fascist government and the Holy See because of the racial question and the anti-Jewish legislation universally condemned by Catholics.

But for reasons of prudence, the Holy See organized its attack against the new discriminatory legislation not by making reference to motivations of a rational character, founded on natural law – like, for example, the right of all men not to be discriminated against for reasons of race or religion, in the same way in which Pius XI had done on various occasions – but by resorting to its own legal firepower, in particular canon law and the Concordat of 1929, in order to defend first of all the rights of Jewish Catholics, without pre-judging those of the others. What was gained by following this approach?

Very little, although the Holy See hoped to obtain much more. Through the work of Fr. Tacchi Venturi, with the circular issued by the national education ministry dated October 23, 1938, baptized children of the Jewish race were permitted to attend private Catholic schools, even state-certified ones. "As far as unbaptized Jews are concerned," a Vatican note says, "the Rev. Fr. Tacchi Venturi has revealed that, as far as he remembers, in the past Catholic schools usually did not admit Jewish or unbaptized students, for obvious religious and moral reasons. This norm seems all the more compelling now that acting differently could seem like opposition to government policy." The Jesuit's mediation was also able to bring a few baptized Jewish teachers to teach in statecertified Catholic schools, prompting a sharp warning from the authorities. This provision had previously been granted by minister Bottai for religious sisters of Jewish origin. The Fascist government already considered this a very special concession, in that it impinged upon the biological principle underlying the legislation.

More conflict between the Fascist government and the Holy See was created by certain statements made by R. Farinacci while he was in Nuremberg on the occasion of the national Nazi congress. In remarks published on May 15 in the newspaper of the SS, "Das Schwarze Korps," Farinacci criticized Pius XI's frequent speeches on racism. [...] The interview was received with great displeasure at the Vatican; Pius XI was personally offended by it [...] On September 21, 1938, the cardinal secretary of state sent to the Italian ambassador to the Holy See a note of protest over Farinacci's disrespectful and offensive

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comments toward "the august person of the Holy Father."

Meanwhile, the Vatican was receiving dozens of requests from Jews affected by the government regulations, asking the pope to do something for them. The Vatican documentation now made available shows that the Holy See did what was possible, frequently intervening through its own intermediary with the governmental authorities to meet the needs of the Jews, especially those who had been baptized. It should be remembered, in fact, that from the humanitarian point of view, baptized Jews were in dire need of papal support, because they no longer benefited from the protection of their community of membership, which had rejected them, nor from the support given by international Jewish communities. The soul of this action on behalf of the Jews, now facing social discrimination, was Fr. Tacchi Venturi, who in spite of his limitations – above all his propensity to understand and often accept the "reasons" of the regime – exerted himself with great generosity for this cause.

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After the government measures of September 5 and 7, the second step in the journey toward the introduction in Italy of legislation apparently discriminatory toward Jewish citizens was constituted by the deliberations adopted by the Fascist Grand Council of October 6-8, 1938, destined to establish the fundamental pillars of later anti-Jewish legislation. [...]

For the moment, the Holy See decided not to intervene directly: it is known, in fact, that any public intervention, in addition to exasperating Mussolini, who was now completely unsympathetic toward the elderly pope, would certainly have harmed the cause of the Jews, and not only those who had been baptized. So the decision was made to wait for the legislative measures that would follow the declarations of the Grand Council, in such a way as to be able to intervene practically with the government authorities for the mitigation of the anti-Jewish legislation, which was already promising to be harsh and oppressive.

We are convinced that at that moment, an intervention by the Holy See and by the pope against the declarations of the supreme body of Fascism would have unleashed an open conflict between the regime and the Vatican, thereby playing the game of those who, like Farinacci, may have wanted a sort of reckoning between the two institutions, to show the world "who's really the boss in Italy." We also know that at that time, Mussolini was determined to block any maneuver by the Vatican on behalf of the Jews, and to oppose the pope's appeals forcefully: the

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problem of race, or better of the Jews, had to be resolved with determination, as his Nazi colleague had done in Germany, without caring about the opposition of the Christian confessions, and in particular of the Catholic Church.

For this reason, the prudence that the Holy See demonstrated at that moment was determined by the desire to save what could be saved, and in any case not to make the anti-Jewish legislation even more strict while it was still being finalized. It must be added to this that the dominant mentality regarding the Jewish problem in part of the Italian Catholic world at that time was marked by a certain anti-Judaism rooted in past and even recent religious and political-cultural differences: we recall that for many, it was not easy to shed this mindset and pass directly to the other side, seeing the Jew as an "elder brother" to be loved and, especially at that delicate moment, to be helped.

So the only question that was presented to the authorities at the time was that of "mixed marriages" [between Catholics and Jews], because this matter directly concerned the rights of the Church and the Concordat: in this matter, in fact, the Holy See could intervene without the fear of provoking a backlash from the public authorities. It was noted that the disposition of the Grand Council concerning this matter introduced into the Italian legal system a new and absolute impediment to the celebration of marriage, harming one of the rights of the Church, in particular that of granting dispensations for disparity of worship, considered absolutely necessary for the salvation of souls. So the legislators were asked not to establish an absolute and general ban on the celebration of mixed marriages, but if anything to work with Church authorities on how to keep these under control, through a special joint permit from the government and the Holy See.

In any case, it is not true, as is sometimes repeated, that the Holy See responded passively to the anti-Jewish legislation, or that it intervened only, as in the matter of mixed marriages, to protect specifically Catholic and confessional interests: instead, albeit with discretion, it sought to prepare hearts for the future battle against the new regulations issued by the regime.

A Vatican document drafted immediately after the statements from the Grand Council informs us in this regard about the "secret" directives from the secretariat of state. The action of the Holy See, the document says, should follow two directions: "Persuasive action toward the government. By means of suitable persons equipped with the right qualities, it would be good to try to sway influential persons in the regime – and not only the head of the government – to make them

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understand the sad consequences of an exaggerated racial policy that does not limit itself to measures intended to fortify the populace, but goes to the excess of racism with provisions that harm justice and the Church's rights. [...] It should also be explained that in the case of discord with the Holy See, fascism would be at the greater disadvantage." The other direction concerns action toward the clergy. First of all, it was asked that all metropolitan archbishops should be sent special private instructions, to be communicated to the other bishops, "to see that the clergy not show any support for the magazine La Difesa della Razza [The Defense of the Race]," considered harmful and not in keeping with the Church's teaching on this matter.

In particular, all of the Italian clergy were urged "not to pass up any opportunity to emphasize, with the appropriate prudence of course, the harm and the consequences of extreme nationalism and racism. This could be done with special meetings of the clergy, without giving the impression that any action against the government is intended. [...] This seems necessary above all at the present moment, when there is no freedom of the press, and often even the few and feeble Catholic newspapers are obliged to publish certain foolish things about racism." It was also asked that the same action be carried out in the major seminaries, being attentive however not to violate the letter of the agreement signed on August 16 by the Holy See and the Fascist government.

As has already been said, the Holy See, at that time, chose to act against the new anti-Jewish regulations by discreet means, and relying on the effectiveness of its "domestic diplomacy," a choice not shared by many, but one that in the near term seemed the only one possible, and even the most effective.

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Sotto Voce

(Source: Chiesa)

POSTED BY SOTTO VOCE AT 9/26/2008 12:01:00 AM

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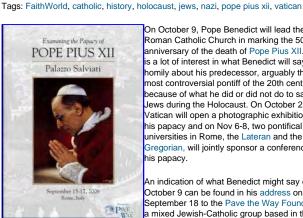
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On October 9, Pope Benedict will lead the Roman Catholic Church in marking the 50th anniversary of the death of Pope Pius XII. There is a lot of interest in what Benedict will say in his homily about his predecessor, arguably the most controversial pontiff of the 20th century because of what he did or did not do to save Jews during the Holocaust. On October 21, the Vatican will open a photographic exhibition on his papacy and on Nov 6-8, two pontifical universities in Rome, the Lateran and the Gregorian, will jointly sponsor a conference on nis papacy.

An indication of what Benedict might say on October 9 can be found in his address on September 18 to the Pave the Way Foundation. a mixed Jewish-Catholic group based in the United States and headed by Gary Krupp, a

The New Hork Times

POPE IS CONCERNED FOR JEWISH YOUNG

Jew who is also a Knight Commander of the Pontifical Equestrian Order of St Gregory the Great. Pave the Way held a unique three-day symposium in Rome in the days leading up to their audience with the pope at his summer residence at Castel Gandolfo.

o Global News The title of the symposium was "Examining the Papacy of Pope Pius XII". It was attended by, among others, panalists such as Sister Magherita Marchione, an American nun who is feisty despite her 86 years and who has written extensively in defence of Pius, Fr. Peter Gumpel, the Jesuit who is the relator of the cause for Pius' sainthood, Eugene J. Fisher, who was in charge of Catholic-Jewish relations for the U.S. National Conference of Catholic Bishops (NCCB) from 1997 to 2007, and Andrea Tornielli, an Italian journalist who has has written extensively on Pius XII and whose most recent biography on the pontiff was released last year.

> One interesting aspect of the symposium was the 200-page dossier that it produced. It is a very useful, user-friendly compendium in defence of Pius. While much of the material was already known to scholars, seeing it all between two covers could potentially sway some of Pius's detractors.



For example, it contains a confidential 1939 State

knew Pius when he was Vatican nuncio in Berlin before the war and before he became pope. He said that, in a meeting with the then Cardinal Eugenio Pacelli, the future pontiff described Hitler as "not only as an untrustworthy scoundrel but as a fundamentally wicked person." The diplomat said Pius had told him he "opposed unalterably every compromise with National

Department memo from a U.S. diplomat who

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The dossier also includes many other entries from individuals and scholars aimed at debunking the concept made popular first in 1963 with the publication of Rolf Hochhuth's play The Deputy, which accused Pius of being an anti-Semite and a Hitler collaborator, and later in 1999 following John Cornwell's highly controversial book calling Pius Hitler's Pope. The symposium's dossier also includes copies of of newspaper clippings from The New York Times, Reuters, The Associated Press, Palestine Post (later Jerusalem Post) and other news organisations in the period before, during and after the war reporting on Pius efforts to help the Jews and his speeches on their behalf.

While the dossier, much of which is available on-line, may not convince the most hardened of Pius' detractors, it certainly is a very useful addition to the ongoing debate in what may prove to be a pivitol year.

Rome isn't the only place where Pius is under review. In Germany, Hubert Wolf, a Catholic priest and church history professor at Münster University, has just published Papst und Teufel (Pope and Devil), a study of Vatican relations with Germany in the turbulent period from 1917 to 1939. Based on documents from the Vatican archive, whose files have been opened up until Pius's election as pope in 1939.



Wolf recounts the internal Vatican debates on how to deal with the Nazis, whether to put Hitler's Mein Kampf on the Index of Prohibited Books (they didn't) and how to speak out against growing anti-Semitism in Germany (through the 1937 encyclical Mit brennender Sorge).

What do you think about Pius? Has he been maligned? Is the tide of opinion turning in his favour?

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Thursday September 18, 2008

# Pope says Pius XII "spa effort" to help Jews

By Philip Pullella

VATICAN CITY (Reuters) - Pope Benedict on Thurs defended his wartime predecessor Pius XII against do enough to help the Jews, saying Pius "spared no during World War II.

The pope spoke to members of the U.S.-based Pave the Way Foundation, a mixed Jewish-Catholic group which held a symposium in Rome on the papacy of Pius, who reigned from 1939 to

The symposium prepared a 200-page compilation of documents, diplomatic cables and newspaper clippings from the period -- soline of against accusations he did do enough to help the Jews, saying Plus "spared no effort the period of the peri newspaper clippings from the period -- some of much to help Jews during the war and was thanked by Jewish leaders.

"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." Benedict told the group at his summer residence south of Rome.

Some Jews have maintained that Pius did not do enough to save Jews while the Vatican and those Jews who support him say he worked behind the scenes to help because more direct intervention would have worsened the situation.

But Benedict praised the symposium for drawing 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".

Gary Krupp, an American Jew who is president and founder of Pave the Way, told the pope the group's investigation "directly contradicts the negative perception of the pope's war time activities".

#### CAMP SURVIORS THANKED POPE

The pope noted that in November, 1945, some six months after the end of the war, 80 delegates of German concentration camps came to the Vatican to thank Pius.

The symposium's documents included numerous newspaper clippings of Jewish leaders thanking Pius during and after the conflict and former Israeli Prime Minister Golda Meir saying: "When fearful martyrdom came to our people in the decade of Nazi terror, the voice of the pope was raised for the victims".

The issue of Pius' papacy is one of the most difficult in Catholic-Jewish relations and the pope said that nearly five decades after his death "not all of the genuine facets of his diverse pastoral activity have been examined



Pope Benedict XVI waves as he Pope Benedict AVI waves as ne leads his general audience in Paul VI Hall at the Vatican September 17, 2008. Pope Benedict on Thursday forcefully defended his wartime predecessor Pius XII against accusations he did not on their behalf during World War II. (REUTERS/Max Rossi)

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The Vatican will on Oct. 9 mark the 50th anniversary of Pius' death with a conference and photo exhibition.

Historians have been calling on the Vatican to open up all its archives on the period.

The Vatican says while some of the archives of the period are still closed for organisational reasons, most of the significant documentation regarding Pius is already open to scholars.

Last year, the Vatican's saint-making department voted in favour of a decree recognising Pius's "heroic virtues," a major hurdle in a long process toward possible sainthood that began in 1967. But Pope Benedict has so far not approved the decree.

Some Jewish groups have said the Vatican should freeze the beatification process but others say it is an internal Church matter.

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BizzyBlog Manifesto CYMnow.com MonetaryMatters Search View Archives September 28, 2008 Positivity: Pope Benedict praises symposium on Pius XII for uncovering the historic truth Filed under: Positivity - TBlumer @ 7:00 am From Vatican City: Sep 18, 2008 Pope Pius XII, has drawn the interest and scrutiny of many people over the last few decades, but as Pope Benedict XVI spoke to the Pave the Way Foundation at Castel Gandolfo today, he highlighted that previous investigation into the late Pope's efforts to save Jews from the Nazis and fascists have been biased. Around noon today at the Pope's summer residence, he received Mr. Gary Krupp, the president of the Pave the Way Foundation and other members of the organization Mr. Krupp and his wife, who are Jewish, founded Pave the Way to fight against religious intolerance and prejudice through educational, cultural and technological means. As part of those efforts, Pave the Way organized a symposium to conduct an in-depth investigation into Pius XII's life and his pastoral and humanitarian work. Noting that 50 years have passed since the October 9, 1958 death of the Servant of God Pius XII, the Holy Father pointed out that although "so much has been written and said of him during these last five decades, ... not all of the genuine facets of his diverse pastoral activity have been examined in a just light." The symposium aimed to address some of these deficiencies by "conducting a careful and documented examination of many of his interventions, especially those in favor 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." the Pope said. "When one draws close to this noble Pope," observed Benedict XVI, "one can 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. Pope Benedict then went on to thank the foundation for "the vast quantity of documented material which you have gathered, supported by many authoritative testimonies," because, as he explained "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 of the many aspects of the symposium that Pope Benedict praised was how the foundation's work "had drawn attention to Pope Pius' 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

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had done for them. One special event that Benedict XVI recalled, "Pius XII's meeting on the 29th 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." .....

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Pope Benedict XVI's address at Symposium On Pius

Monday, 22 September 2008

# Pope Benedict XVI's address at Symposium On Pius XII

Thursday, 19 September 2008 (Source: Vatican Website)

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 XIII's meeting on the 29th 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

Labels: Jews, Pius XII, Pope, Shoah, Speeches at Monday, September 22, 2008

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## Pius XII 'spared no effort' for Jews, Benedict XVI says

Posted on Sep 18, 2008 06:34am CST.

Print Friendly Version

By JOHN L. ALLEN JR. Rome

Pope Benedict XVI today defended his controversial predecessor, Pius XII, saying the wartime pope "spared no effort" to save Jews during the Holocaust. It marked the first time that Benedict has directly responded to charges that Pius XII remained aloof during the Nazi massacre.

Benedict said that many of the pope's humanitarian initiatives were "made secretly and silently," because "in that difficult historical moment, only in this way was it possible to avoid the worst and save the greatest number of Jews."

Pius XII was pope from 1939 to 1958, and Oct. 9 of this year will mark the 50th anniversary of his death. A decree of "heroic virtue," the first formal step toward declaring Pius XII a saint, is currently awaiting Benedict's signature.

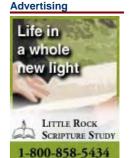
In recent decades, controverdsy has swirled around whether Pius XII said enough, or did enough, to denounce Hitler and the Nazis. Among other things, the debate has complicated Catholic/Jewish relations.

Benedict spoke today at Castel Gandolfo during an audience for participants in a Sept. 15-17 conference dedicated to Pius XII, which was organized by an American foundation called "Pave the Way." Its founder and president is an American Jew named Gary Krupp, and several rabbis were present at today's event.

In an indirect reference to the controversies unleashed by critical works such as John Cornwell's 1999 book *Hitler's Pope*, Benedict said that although much has been written about Pius XII in recent years, "not all of the genuine facets of his diverse pastoral activity have been examined in a just light."

Benedict praised the actions of Pius XII during the war years, "especially those in favor 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."

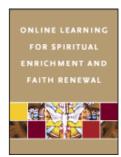
"This courageous and paternal dedication was recognized and appreciated during and after the terrible world conflict by Jewish communities and individuals who showed their gratitude for what the



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Pope had done for them," Benedict said.

"One need only recall Pius XII's meeting on the 29th 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," he said.

Benedict said that he hopes the 50th anniversary of Pius' death will stimulate "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."

In his remarks to the pope, Krupp said his foundation took up the question of Pius XII because the debate surrounding him is "a source of friction and misunderstanding," and that what they're uncovered is "stunning."

"It directly contradicts negative impressions of the pope's wartime record," Krupp said, who wore the Jewish yarmulke while speaking to Benedict. He pointed especially to eyewitness accounts testifying to various efforts from Pius XII on behalf of Jews.

Krupp, who arranged an audience for a group of rabbis with John Paul II in January 2005 to thank him for his efforts to improve Jewish/Catholic relations, reminded Benedict that in the immediate wake of World War II many Jews thanked Pius XII. Some, he said, even proposed that a forest of 860,000 trees be planted in Israel, reflecting one estimate that Pius XII was responsible for saving 860,000 Jewish lives.

Krupp said his foundation intends to turn over the results of its research on Pius XII to both the Vatican and to major Holocaust memorials around the world.

"We call upon these institutions to review the new information, in order to redefine perceptions of this papacy," he said.

Also present for the audience were several leading Catholic defenders of Pius XII, including Filippini Sr. Margherita Marchione of Farleigh Dickinson University in New Jersey; Ronald Rychlak, a Catholic law professor at the University of Mississippi; William Doino, author of *The Pius War*; Andrea Tornielli, a prominent Italian journalist; and Fr. Peter Gumpel, relator for the sainthood cause of Pius XII. Eugene Fisher, a former staff expert for the U.S. bishops on Catholic/Jewish relations, was also part of the delegation.

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#### Pope Benedict XVI - Addresses

"Not All the Genuine Facets Have Been Examined In a Just Light" Address of H.H. Pope Benedict XVI
To Gary Krupp on Pope Pius XII Symposium
Castel Gandolfo, Italy
September 18, 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 29th 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

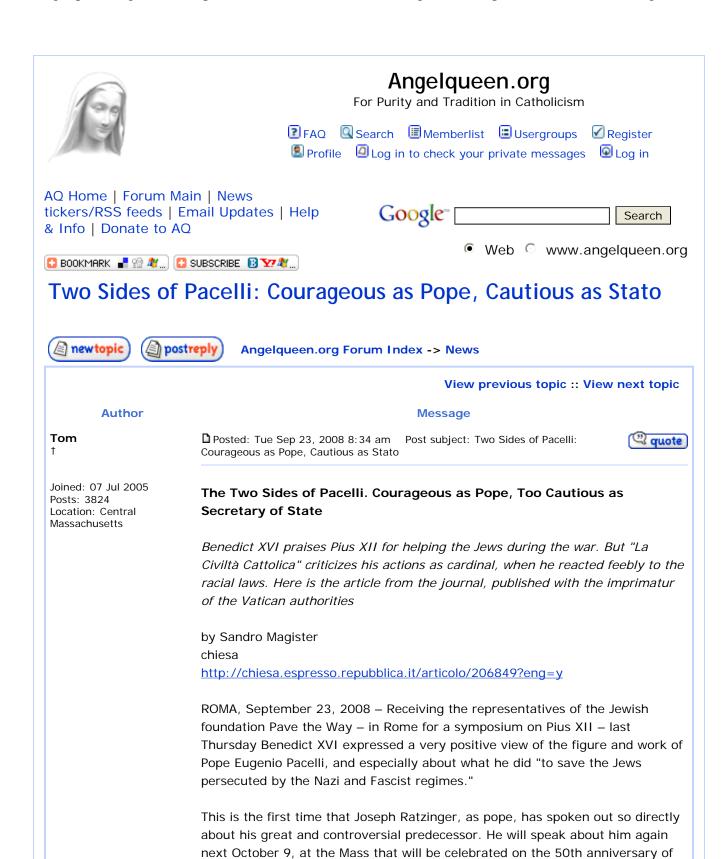
reconciliation. It is my great hope that this year, which marks the fiftieth-anniversary of my venerated predecessor's death, will provide the opportunity to promote in-depth studies of various aspects of his life and his works in order to come to know the historical truth, overcoming every remaining prejudice. With these sentiments I invoke upon you and the proceedings of your symposium an abundance of divine blessings.

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## Look at the One they Pierced!



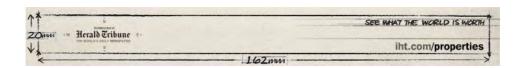
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The address by Benedict XVI made an even greater impact in that his judgment of the actions of Pius XII coincides with the relatively positive views expressed

by the Jews of the Pave the Way Foundation.

his death.







# Pope defends wartime predecessor

By Philip Pullella Reuters

Published: September 18, 2008

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VATICAN CITY: Pope Benedict on Thursday forcefully defended his wartime predecessor Pius XII against accusations he did not do enough to help the Jews, saying Pius "spared no effort" on their behalf during World War II.

The pope spoke to members of the U.S.-based Pave the Way Foundation, a mixed Jewish-Catholic group which held a symposium in Rome on the papacy of Pius, who reigned from 1939 to 1958.

The symposium prepared a 200-page compilation of documents, diplomatic cables and newspaper clippings from the period -- some of them previously unpublished -- showing Pius did much to help Jews during the war and was thanked by lewish leaders

"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," Benedict said.

"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," Benedict told the group at his summer residence south of Rome.

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Some Jews have maintained that Pius did not do enough to save Jews while the Vatican and those Jews who support him say he worked behind the scenes to help because more direct intervention would have worsened the situation.

But Benedict praised the symposium for drawing 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".

Gary Krupp, an American Jew who is president and founder of Pave the Way, told the pope the group's investigation "directly contradicts the negative perception of the pope's war time activities".

#### CAMP SURVIORS THANKED POPE

The pope noted that in November, 1945, some six months after the end of the war, 80 delegates of German concentration camps came to the Vatican to thank Pius.

The symposium's documents included numerous newspaper clippings of Jewish leaders thanking Pius during and after the conflict and former Israeli Prime Minister Golda Meir saying: "When fearful martyrdom came to our people in the decade of Nazi terror, the voice of the pope was raised for the victims".

The issue of Pius' papacy is one of the most difficult in Catholic-Jewish relations and the pope said that nearly five decades after his death "not all of the genuine facets of his diverse pastoral activity have been examined in a just light".

The Vatican will on October 9 mark the 50th anniversary of Pius' death with a conference and photo exhibition.

Historians have been calling on the Vatican to open up all its archives on the period.

#### Video



The Week Ahead - Sept. 15, 2008
The IHT's managing editor, Alison Smale, discusses the week in world news.



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The Vatican says while some of the archives of the period are still closed for organisational reasons, most of the significant documentation regarding Pius is already open to scholars.

Last year, the Vatican's saint-making department voted in favour of a decree recognising Pius's "heroic virtues," a major hurdle in a long process toward possible sainthood that began in 1967. But Pope Benedict has so far not approved the decree.

Some Jewish groups have said the Vatican should freeze the beatification process but others say it is an internal Church matter.

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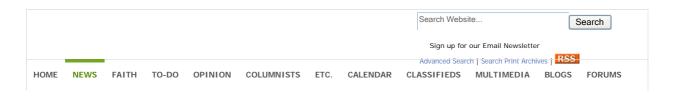
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#### Jewish leader says Pope Pius XII has been demonized falsely

BY CAROL GLATZ - CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE MONDAY, 15 SEPTEMBER 2008

Pope Pius XII has been demonized and his legacy of helping Jews during World War II has been poisoned by inaccurate and incomplete historical accounts, said the Jewish founder and president of Pave the Way



Church from 1939 to 1958, is seen in an undated formal portrait - CNS photo

Comments (0)

"We have to change history" and tell the world the truth about this wartime pope "who saved so many lives," Gary Krupp, foundation president, told Catholic News Service,

He spoke at the start of a Sept. 15-17 symposium that studied the papacy of Pope Pius and unveiled new evidence of the pope's hidden acts and orders aimed at saving Jews from the Nazis.

The symposium, sponsored by the U.S.-based foundation, featured Catholic and Jewish speakers and video footage of interviews with people who were saved from the Holocaust through the church's intervention

"The scholars, the historians have failed, they've simply failed over the last 45 years" to retrieve and present firsthand accounts from eyewitnesses, Holocaust survivors, diplomats and archival material, Krupp said.

Some authors also have based their accounts not on facts, but opinions and "nonsense" which "are poisoning the memory of this man," Krupp said.

He told CNS Sept. 15 he grew up hating Pope Pius, thinking the pontiff did nothing to stop the slaughter of 6 million Jews.

But years later, he was shocked to discover through his own amateur research that the pope had been far more active in directing a clandestine network of safe houses for people escaping Nazi persecution through the church's religious orders, communities, convents and seminaries in Europe.

Krupp said of the 60-70 guests he invited to attend the symposium, all of them had been suspicious of or  $negative\ toward\ Pope\ Pius'\ actions\ during\ the\ war.\ Audience\ members\ included\ rabbis\ or\ their$ representatives from Europe and Israel.

He said experience showed that if a European leader was outspoken against Nazi persecution, it did nothing to reverse the injustices. On the contrary, it resulted in accelerated or widened persecution of the Jews and those speaking out on their behalf, he said. Therefore, keeping the pope and the church's good works hidden was crucial, he said.

Krupp said the time has come for the world "to forgive Pius XII for not talking the talk but truly commend him for walking the walk.

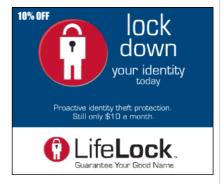
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#### **INSIDE TODAY'S BULLETIN**

Reputation Of Pope Pius XII Could Affect Relations Between Catholics, Jews By John P. Connolly, The Bulletin 09/24/2008

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This is the third and final part in a series on Pope Pius XII.

The Catholic Church has had a rocky road in the past when it has come to its relationships with other religions.

This fact, coupled with the controversy that surrounds Pope Pius XII, has made Catholic leaders reluctant to push the debate. Any stance that is too contentious could hurt relations between the Vatican and the Jewish community, and nobody wants to see decades of progress toward good relations marred by a careless statement. But some Jewish

commentators who say the Church needs to explain Pius XII's actions and accuse the late pontiff of not have cared about the fate of Jews fleeing from the Holocaust.

John Cornwell, Cambridge professor who wrote critically about Plus XII in his book Hitler's Pope, said the actions he criticizes Plus XII for were mistakes, not faults.



"I believe that his conduct, as a Vatican lawyer, then as a diplomat in Germany, and, finally, when he was secretary of state in the Vatican, was largely that devoted to strong centralization of the Catholic Church," he told The Bulletin. "When the Church centralizes, it runs the risk of weakness at the periphery: I contend that this policy made German Catholicism weaker, undermining its potential for resistance (as did not happen in the late 19th century against Bismark when Pius IX liberated Catholics from obedience to the German state). It was independence from the Vatican, and a resistance to pressures from Paul VI to create concordats with Communism, that enabled the future John Paul II to build up a strong Polish Church that eventually prompted the process that brought down the Soviet Union. The story of Pius XII and his place in history indicates a warning, rather than a condemnation, that the same mistakes should be avoided."

The Vatican, however, hasn't stopped affirming the good it says Pius XII did for the Jews in World War II. Pave the Way Foundation, an organization dedicated to bridging the gap in tolerance and understanding between religions, has an interest in bringing the controversy about Pius XII to a peaceful close. It sees the dangers the Pius XII debate could do to relations between Judaism and Catholicism and decided to compile as much evidence as it could on Pius XII's efforts to save Jews during the war.

The result? A 200-page compilation of documents, diplomatic cables and newspaper clippings from the period - some of which were previously unpublished. The evidence gathered by Pave the Way showed that Jewish leaders thanked Pius XII publicly, both during and after the war.

"An important witness to the role of Pius XII in wartime Italy is Rabbi Israel Zolli, chief rabbi of Rome during the Nazi occupation and persecution of Jews," wrote Sr. Margherita Marchione, an historian of Pius XII in her short book titled, Did Pius XII Help The Jews? "A biblical scholar whose courage and integrity cannot be challenged, Rabbi Zolli was hidden in the Vatican. He was an eyewitness to the deportation of Rome's Jews by the Gestapo in 1943. He was converted to Catholicism and took the name Eugenio in Baptism in honor of Pius XII."

In his book Antisemitismo, Rabbi Zolli was firm in his conviction that Pius XII worked hard to help the Jews.

"World Jewry owes a great debt of gratitude to Pius XII for his repeated and pressing appeals for justice on behalf of the Jews," wrote Rabbi Zolli. "And, when these did not prevail, for his strong protests against evil laws and procedures."

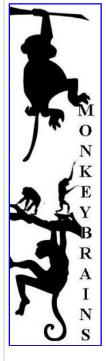
The Pave the Way Foundation efforts culminated in a symposium marking the 50th anniversary of Pius XII's death. The symposium included Bishop Salvatore Fisichella, rector of Rome's Pontifical Lateran University, Fr. Gianfranco Ghirlanda S.J., rector of Rome's Pontifical Gregorian University, and Msgr. Walter Brandmuller, president of the Pontifical Committee for Historical Sciences.

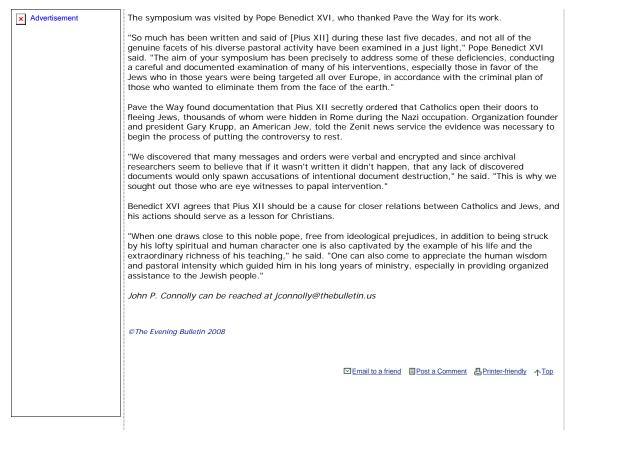
"Various different historical situations of great significance came together in the life of Pius XII," said Bishop Fisichella. "The genocide of the Jews, the communist occupation of various Christian nations, the Cold War, new advances of science and the innovations of certain schools of theology."



#### Daily Provocation

"The ultimate result of shielding men from the effects of folly is to fill the world with fools." -Herbert Spencer





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# POPIN' AIN'T EASY



SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 2008

# More Exoneration for Pope Pius XII

The Pave the Way Foundation is an interreligious group that just held a symposium on the heroism of Pius XII in saving Jews during the Holocaust. Zenit gives a good treatment of the whole thing here. Basically, Pius XII wasn't Hitler's Pope and was actually instrumental in saving thousands of lives.

Shocking, I know. I'm sure that Wills, Cornwell, and Foxman are all printing up their retractions and apologies for all the horrible things they've said about such a holy man. Suffice to say, I really am curious about how much evidence these jerks need before they stop slandering the Holy Father. Foxman probably wants video of Pius renouncing Christ and praying in a synagogue. Being that Wills and Cornwell are such hypocrites, I doubt there's anything that will



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convince them to change their minds outside of a Road to Damascus moment.

Still, the path seems to be getting clearer now. All readers please continue to pray for this wonderful pope's canonization.

POSTED BY THROWBACK AT 6:32 AM

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# Rome symposium to study Pius' legacy

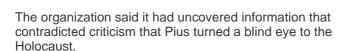
Published: 09/15/2008

A symposium in Rome will reveal new information about the controversial wartime Pope Pius XII.

Pave the Way, a U.S.-based, nonsectarian organization that promotes interreligious dialogue, is sponsoring the three-day Share on Facebook
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symposium that begins Monday to study the papacy of Pope Pius XII. Earlier this year, Pave the Way announced it was investigating Pius' papacy by interviewing eyewitnesses and gathering publicly available documentation and newspaper accounts.



"We have discovered many personal intercessions of Pope Pius XII which directly contradict the impression that he remained silent and did nothing to save Jewish lives," said Pave the Way President Gary Krupp.

Krupp has close ties with the Vatican. In January 2007, he became the first Jewish man to be knighted by two popes when he was promoted to the highest Pontifical Order of St. Gregory the Great. He received a previous papal knighthood in 2000.

A spokesman for Pave the Way said the meeting is expected to "present new documentation that has never been revealed before" regarding Pius XII.

#### More Breaking News from JTA

- Sarah Palin will speak at next week's Jewish-sponsored rally to protest Mahmoud Ahmadinejad at the United Nations.
- Top advisers to John McCain will meet with Jewish community leaders.
- Jews of Libyan origin have asked Italy to include them in a \$5 billion reparations package.
- Ehud Olmert expressed sorrow for Palestinian refugees who fled Israel in 1948.
- A video appearance at a beauty pageant by convicted Nazi war criminal Erich Priebke has provoked outrage.







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Last Updated: Thursday, September 18, 2008, 14:54

# Pius XII 'spared no effort' to help Jews - Pope

## External »

• Pave the Way Foundation

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Pope Benedict today forcefully defended his wartime predecessor Pius XII against accusations he did not do enough to help the Jews, saying Pius "spared no effort" on their behalf during World War II.

The pope spoke to members of the US-based Pave the Way Foundation, a mixed Jewish-Catholic group which held a symposium in Rome on the papacy of Pius, who reigned from 1939 to 1958.

The symposium prepared a 200-page compilation of documents, diplomatic cables and newspaper clippings from the period - some of them previously unpublished - showing Pius did much to help Jews during the war and was thanked by Jewish leaders.

"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," Pope Benedict said.

"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," Pope Benedict told the group at his summer residence south of Rome.

Some Jews have maintained that Pius did not do enough to save Jews while the Vatican and those Jews who support him say he worked behind the scenes to help because more direct intervention would have worsened the situation.

But Pope Benedict praised the symposium for drawing 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".

Gary Krupp, an American Jew who is president and founder of Pave the Way, told the Pope the group's investigation "directly contradicts the negative perception of the pope's war time activities".

The Pope noted that in November, 1945, some six months after the end of the war, 80 delegates of German concentration camps came to the Vatican to thank Pius.

The symposium's documents included numerous newspaper clippings of Jewish leaders thanking Pius during and after the conflict and former Israeli Prime Minister Golda Meir saying: "When fearful martyrdom came to our people in the decade of Nazi terror, the voice of the pope was raised for the victims".

The issue of Pius' papacy is one of the most difficult in Catholic-Jewish relations and the pope said that nearly five decades after his death "not all of the genuine facets of his diverse pastoral activity have been examined in a just light".

The Vatican will on October 9th mark the 50th anniversary of Pius' death with a conference and photo exhibition.

Historians have been calling on the Vatican to open up all its archives on the period.

The Vatican says while some of the archives of the period are still closed for organisational reasons, most of the significant documentation regarding Pius is already open to scholars.

Last year, the Vatican's saint-making department voted in favour of a decree recognising Pius's "heroic virtues," a major hurdle in a long process toward possible sainthood that began in 1967. But Pope Benedict has so far not approved the decree.

Some Jewish groups have said the Vatican should freeze the beatification process but others say it is an internal Church matter.

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Pope Benedict XVI's address at Symposium On Pius

Tuesday, 23 September 2008

## Interfaith symposium defends Pius XII

Cathnews Published: September 19, 2008

A Rome interfaith symposium organised by US Catholics and Jews has backed the record of Pope Pius XII with documents showing the World War II pope intervened publicly and privately to save Jews

<u>European Jewish News</u> reports the symposium, organised by the Pave the Way Foundation to mark the 50th anniversary of the death of Pope Pius XII, brought together Catholics and Jews in his defence

The foundation claims the late Pope was the victim of a sinister "myth" to the effect that he was insensitive to the fate of Jews terrorised by Germany's Nazi regime and its death camps.

The group collected documentation aiming to prove Pius XII intervened publicly as well as in secret to save Jews and to encourage Catholic institutions to shelter them.

These documents include diplomatic telegrams and testimony of people saved thanks to his intervention, according to the symposium.

The foundation is asking that Yad Vashem, the Holocaust memorial in Jerusalem, withdraw from its permanent exhibition a text that the group considers defamatory towards Pius XII.

In February, the Vatican said it would not block steps under way for the beatification of Pius XII, despite criticism from many historians and numerous Jewish associations about the former pontiff's attitude towards the Holocaust.

Gary Krupp, an American Jew who is president and founder of Pave the Way, told the Pope the group's investigation "directly contradicts the negative perception of the pope's war time activities," Haaretz adds.

In an address to the Pave the Way Foundation, Pope Benedict said that "when one draws close to this noble Pope, free from ideological prejudices", one must recognise the "courageous dedication" of Pope Pacelli to saving as many Jews as possible from the Nazi devastation during the second world war.

Praising the symposium organisers, Pope Benedict noted that in November 1945, some six months after the end of the war, 80 delegates of German concentration camps came to the Vatican to thank Pius.

The symposium's documents included numerous newspaper clippings of Jewish leaders thanking Pius during and after the conflict and former Israeli Prime Minister Golda Meir saying: "When fearful martyrdom came to our people in the decade of Nazi terror, the voice of the Pope was raised for the victims."

"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", the Pope said.

"It is my great hope", he concluded, "that this year, which marks the 50th 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.

During his visit to Paris last week, Pope Benedict also reminded representatives from France's Jewish community that Pius XII had called Nazism a period of "darkness".

The Pope will celebrate a mass on October 5 in the Vatican's Saint Peter's Basilica to mark the anniversary.

See also:

Pope Pius XII tried to save European Jews: Rome symposium (European Jewish Press, 18/9/08)
Pope: Pius XII spared no effort, including secret ones, to save Jews (AsiaNews, 18/9/08)
Pope Benedict: Pius XII 'spared no effort' to help Jews during WWII (Haaretz, 18/9/08)

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#### MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 2008

## Interfaith symposium defends Pius XII

A Rome interfaith symposium organised by US Catholics and Jews has backed the record of Pope Pius XII with documents showing the World War II pope intervened publicly and privately to save Jews.



European Jewish News reports the symposium, organised by the Pave the Way Foundation to mark the 50th anniversary of the death of Pope Pius XII, brought together Catholics and Jews in his defence.

The foundation claims the late Pope was the victim of a sinister "myth" to the effect that he was insensitive to the fate of Jews terrorised by Germany's Nazi regime and its death camps.

The group collected documentation aiming to prove Pius XII intervened publicly as well as in secret to save Jews and to encourage Catholic institutions to shelter them.

These documents include diplomatic telegrams and testimony of people saved thanks to his intervention, according to the symposium.

The foundation is asking that Yad Vashem, the Holocaust memorial in Jerusalem, withdraw from its permanent exhibition a text that the group considers defamatory towards Pius XII.

In February, the Vatican said it would not block steps under way for the beatification of Pius XII, despite criticism from many historians and numerous Jewish associations about the former pontiff's attitude towards the Holocaust.

Gary Krupp, an American Jew who is president and founder of Pave the Way, told the Pope the group's investigation "directly contradicts the negative perception of the pope's war time activities," *Haaretz* adds.

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In an address to the Pave the Way Foundation, Pope Benedict said that "when one draws close to this noble Pope, free from ideological prejudices", one must recognise the "courageous dedication" of Pope Pacelli to saving as many Jews as possible from the Nazi devastation during the second world war.

Praising the symposium organisers, Pope Benedict noted that in November 1945, some six months after the end of the war, 80 delegates of German concentration camps came to the Vatican to thank Pius.

The symposium's documents included numerous newspaper clippings of Jewish leaders thanking Pius during and after the conflict and former Israeli Prime Minister Golda Meir saying: "When fearful martyrdom came to our people in the decade of Nazi terror, the voice of the Pope was raised for the victims."

"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", the Pope said.

"It is my great hope", he concluded, "that this year, which marks the 50th 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.

During his visit to Paris last week, Pope Benedict also reminded representatives from France's Jewish community that Pius XII had called Nazism a period of "darkness".

The Pope will celebrate a mass on October 5 in the Vatican's Saint Peter's Basilica to mark the anniversary.

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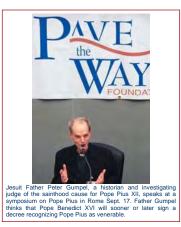
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# Pope Benedict says Pope Pius worked bravely, secretly to help Jews

By Carol Glatz Posted: 9/26/2008





VATICAN CITY (CNS) -- Pope Pius XII worked courageously, secretly and silently to help save Jews targeted by the Nazis' "criminal plan ... to eliminate them from the face of the earth," said Pope Benedict XVI.

"Wherever possible, (Pope Pius) spared no effort in intervening in their favor" and providing organized assistance to the Jews either directly or through others, including Catholic religious institutes, Pope Benedict told participants in an international symposium dedicated to examining the papacy of Pope Pius.

The pope held a Sept. 18 private audience at his summer residence south of Rome with some 80 attendees of the Sept. 15-17 symposium organized by the U.S.-based Pave the Way Foundation. Participants included members of the foundation and representatives of the Jewish community, including rabbis and scholars from around the world. The Vatican published a text of the remarks

Thanking the foundation for its efforts in seeking the truth, Pope Benedict said that "not all of the genuine facets" of Pope Pius' pontificate have been examined "in just light" in the 50 years since his death.

Critics have said they believe Pope Pius did not speak out clearly enough in defense of the Jews during World War II or was indifferent toward the victims of Nazism.

Pope Benedict said many of Pope Pius' efforts to support the Jews were "made secretly and silently" because "in that difficult historical moment, only in this way was it possible to avoid the worst and save the greatest number of Jews."

Gary Krupp, Jewish founder and president of the Pave the Way Foundation, told the pope in his speech that "the Catholic Church under the pontificate of Pius XII was instrumental in saving the lives of as many as 860,000 Jews from certain death at Nazi hands."

Krupp told Catholic News Service after the audience that Pope Benedict "was very appreciative" of the organization's extensive research, which had revealed clearly that the current negative perception of Pope Pius "is completely wrong."

He presented the pope with nine video testimonies of Holocaust survivors and other eyewitnesses to Vatican humanitarian efforts, as well as the 200-page book of documentation compiled by the foundation and unveiled at the Rome symposium.

Dozens of Jewish representatives who believed Pope Pius had done nothing to help the Jews during the Holocaust had been invited to the symposium.

Many accepted the invitation, but some publicly critical of Pope Pius and representatives from three major Jewish museums did not attend even though the foundation had offered to pay for a live video feed if they were unable to travel to Rome.

Symposium organizers wanted to convince curators of the Yad Vashem Holocaust Memorial in Jerusalem that a picture display of Pope Pius at the memorial is historically inaccurate and should be changed. The captions accompanying the pope's picture state he did nothing to condemn the Nazis and their slaughter of the Jews.

David Nekrutman, executive director of the Israeli-based Center for Jewish-Christian Understanding and Cooperation, told CNS the exhibit at Yad Vashem should be taken down "juntil it's done correctly."

The display makes the pope look like he was a Nazi collaborator "and that image affected me



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#### PAVE THE WAY FOUNDATION'S ADDRESS TO POPE

#### Working to "End the Malevolent and the Illegal Use of Religion"

CASTEL GANDOLFO, Italy, SEPT. 18, 2008 (Zenit.org).- Here is the address Gary Krupp, president of the Pave the Way Foundation, gave today upon meeting Benedict XVI at the apostolic palace of Castel Gandolfo, south of Rome.

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The Pope granted an audience to the participants of the congress "Examining the Papacy of Pope Pius XII," which was organized by the foundation. The three-day symposium ended Wednesday.

You Holiness, The mission of Pave the Way Foundation is to end the malevolent and the illegal use of religion. We begin this process by establishing credible and trusted relationships through our historic gestures of good will and with the identification and elimination of obstacles between

Some examples of our projects are that we worked for over 20 years to help the equipment acquisition of the hospital of St. Padre Pio here in Italy. We worked behind the scenes to remove obstacles and to move the fundamental agreements with the Israeli government and the Holy See. We initiated the Jewish thank you to Pope John Paul II for his efforts to achieve religious reconciliation. We brought the manuscripts of Maimonides for the first time in history from the Vatican Library to the state of Israel, and in 2007, we implemented the gift to your library of the oldest manuscripts of the Gospels of St. John and St. Luke, the Bodmer papyrus.

Your Holiness, for all of these benevolent projects I wish recognize, in your presence, one who has dedicated over 20 years behind the scenes to help us to complete this vital work: Doctor

In the furtherance of our mission, Pave the Way has identified the papacy of Pope Pius XII as a source of friction and misunderstanding. Accordingly, we have undertaken an independent investigation to identify significant documents and to video record eyewitness testimony. I wish to report to you that results of this investigation are stunning, and directly contradict the negative perception of the Pope's wartime activities

All of the documented material that we have gathered, including the transcript of our just completed three-day symposium, will be turned over to your pontifical institutions and to the internationally recognized Holocaust centers for further study.

Based on their review of these new materials, and in the interest of maintaining their historical integrity and accuracy, we call upon these institutions to carefully review this new information in order to redefine the current perception on this papacy.

This year, for Catholics, Oct. 9, 2008, will be the commemoration the 50th anniversary of the death of Pope Pius XII, for Jews that date is also significant as it is our holiest Jewish holiday Yom Kippur, our Day of Atonement. May this providential date usher in a new effort to correct the historical record and bring to light the truth of this papacy.

I wish to close with a passage from a book written by Ambassador Pinchas Lapide, a former Israeli consul general in Italy, and a Jewish theologian: "No Pope in history has been thanked more heartily by Jews upon his death in 1958. Several suggested in open letters that a Pope Pius XII forest of 860,000 trees be planted on the hills of Judea in order to fittingly honor the memory of the late Pontiff, because the Catholic Church under the pontificate of Pius XII was instrumental in saving the lives of as many as 860,000 Jews from certain death at Nazi hands."

You Holiness, we humbly ask you to keep the mission of Pave the Way Foundation and its vital work to end the malevolent use of religion in your prayers, and thank you for allowing us this time today

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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,

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 29th of November 1945 with 80 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 indepth 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.

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 opportunità 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 anni 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 promosso 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



Thursday, 18th September 2008 - 16:21CET

#### Pius XII "spared no effort" to help Jews

Pope Benedict today forcefully defended his wartime predecessor Pius XII against accusations he did not do enough to help the Jews, saying Pius "spared no effort" on their behalf during World War II. The Pope spoke to members of the US-based Pave the Way Foundation, a mixed Jewish-Catholic group which held a symposium in Rome on the papacy of Pius, who reigned from 1939 to 1958.

The symposium prepared a 200-page compilation of documents, diplomatic cables and newspaper clippings from the period -- some of them previously unpublished -- showing Pius did much to help Jews during the war and was thanked by Jewish leaders.

"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," Pope Benedict said.

"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," Pope Benedict told the group at his summer residence south of Rome.

Some Jews have maintained that Pius did not do enough to save Jews while the Vatican and those Jews who support him say he worked behind the scenes to help because more direct intervention would have worsened the situation.

But Pope Benedict praised the symposium for drawing 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".

Gary Krupp, an American Jew who is president and founder of Pave the Way, told the Pope the group's investigation "directly contradicts the negative perception of the Pope's war time activities".

The Pope noted that in November, 1945, some six months after the end of the war, 80 delegates of German concentration camps came to the Vatican to thank Pope Pius.

The symposium's documents included numerous newspaper clippings of Jewish leaders thanking Pope Pius during and after the conflict and former Israeli Prime Minister Golda Meir saying: "When fearful martyrdom came to our people in the decade of Nazi terror, the voice of the pope was raised for the victims".

The issue of Pope Pius' papacy is one of the most difficult in Catholic-Jewish relations and the pope said that nearly five decades after his death "not all of the genuine facets of his diverse pastoral activity have been examined in a just light".

The Vatican will on October 9 mark the 50th anniversary of Pope Pius' death with a conference and photo exhibition.

Historians have been calling on the Vatican to open up all its archives on the period.

The Vatican says while some of the archives of the period are still closed for organisational reasons, most of the significant documentation regarding Pope Pius is already open to scholars.

Last year, the Vatican's saint-making department voted in favour of a decree recognising Pope Pius's "heroic virtues," a major hurdle in a long process toward possible sainthood that began in 1967. But Pope Benedict has so far not approved the decree.

Some Jewish groups have said the Vatican should freeze the beatification process but others say it is an internal Church matter.

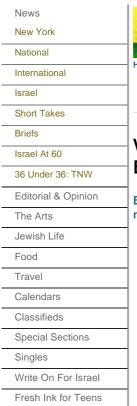
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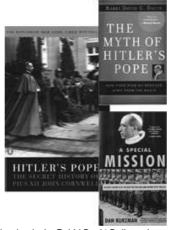
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# Wartime Pope's Reappraisal New Battleground In Culture War

Books, conferences are latest sign of effort to rehabilitate Pius XII. Left, right split over his legacy.



New books by Rabbi David Dalin and Dan Kurtzman, right, refute accusations of Pope Pius' pro-Nazi leanings. John Cornwell, author of "Hitler's Pope," now more measured in criticism.

by Steve Lipman Staff Writer

A politically awar

A politically aware teenager in Queens in the 1960s, Gary Krupp shared the prevailing opinion of Pope Pius XII, the controversial leader of the Roman Catholic Church during World War II. "I grew up hating him," Krupp says. Today, he is one of the pope's most vocal defenders in the Jewish community.

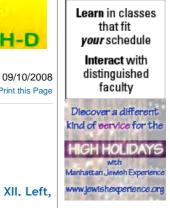
A seminary student in England in his 20s, John Cornwell is at 68 a prominent journalist and historian in his homeland, known for his criticism of Catholicism. His 1999 book, "Hitler's Pope: The Secret History of Pius XII," depicted Pius as sympathetic to Nazi Germany and indifferent to the persecution of European Jewry. Today, he says he may have overstated his original criticism of the pope.

A rumor that has circulated since World

War II, but earned little credence among historians, is that the Third Reich regarded Pius as sympathetic to the Jews and targeted him for a kidnapping, planning to take him hostage during the Nazis' occupation of the Vatican. Pius, according to this rumor, feared for his life and declined to openly oppose the Final Solution.

Today, says author Dan Kurzman, his research has substantiated the kidnapping rumor, but he says the pope was neither an anti-Semite nor a coward.

Fifty years after Pius' death and 45 years after the publication of the play that left a permanent black mark on his legacy, the record of the man who is both proposed for











sainthood and dismissed as a Nazi accomplice is the subject of an ongoing debate among

Jewish and Catholic scholars. The last few years have seen the appearance of several books examining his wartime actions or inaction, and Pius is emerging as a battleground in wider cultural and political wars.

The pope's reputation is undergoing a re-examination in some circles, if not rehabilitation. In November, the Vatican will host a conference that will

emphasize the religious teachings of Pius, whose path to being declared a saint is apparently on the slow track because of the controversy over his behavior during World War II. The commemorations are designed to "clarify the complexity" of the pope's career, says Msgr. Salvatore Fisichella, rector of the Lateran University, cosponsor of the event

And Krupp, founder of the Pave the Way Foundation, a New York-based independent, interfaith organization that fosters closer relations between Judaism and Catholicism, will convene an international symposium in Rome next week to study the pope's actions in the Holocaust. "Examining the Papacy of Pius XII," Sept. 15-18, will bring together some 130 scholars, including defenders and detractors of the pope, for the first such major reappraisal of Vatican behavior from 1939 to 1945.

"No matter how contentious this subject may be," frequently dividing Jews who consider Pius XII a villain and Catholics who describe him as a hero, "we feel that we can help repair the rift by researching the truth and presenting our results to those on both sides of the issue," Krupp says.

The symposium is the latest sign of an attitude shift in Pius' favor in recent years in parts of the Jewish community, mostly among scholars, as well as neoconservatives and those working to improve ecumenical ties. Pius' defenders point to the claim last year by lon Mihai Pacepa, a former Romanian intelligence officer who defected to the United States, that "The Deputy" was part of a KGB-orchestrated plot to weaken the Catholic Church by discrediting its wartime head.

Other prominent Jewish defenders of the pope include Rabbi Daniel Lapin, president of the interfaith Toward Tradition organization; Rabbi David Dalin, author of "The Myth of Hitler's Pope: How Pope Pius XII Rescued Jews from the Nazis" (Regnery Publishing, 2005); and columnists David Klinghoffer and Don Feder.

"When I started college in 1966, 'The Deputy' was required reading for incoming freshmen," Feder wrote in 2005. "The liberal establishment — which had long loathed the Catholic Church for its positions on sexual morality — embraced this toxic fiction as revealed truth."

The charges against Pius XII are part of a "black legend," according to Andrea Tornielli, author of a recent Italian biography of the pope.

Many defenders of Pius, both Jews and Catholics, claim that his name has been slandered, sometimes by critics who use him as a backhanded means to attack the contemporary Church.

This Kulturkampf is being fought mainly at the leadership level, by scholars and theologians in the Jewish and Catholic communities. "For most Catholics, Pius is not an issue," says Australian writer Paul O'Shea, whose "A Cross Too Heavy: Politics and the Jews of Europe, 1917-1943" (Rosenberg Publishing), is being issued next month in this country

Pius' reputation has remained black "on the 'Jewish street," says Steven Bayme, director of contemporary Jewish life at the American Jewish Committee.

For those who care, Pius' record during the Holocaust offers fodder for emotional, subjective, often ahistorical arguments, since the Vatican has not fully released its wartime archive records that could more fully reveal the extent of the pope's behavior and feelings

The debates "sometimes have less to do with history and more to do with [advocates'] political agenda," says Holocaust historian Michael Berenbaum.

"There's no question that Pius' legacy has been exploited and tossed around as a way to further both liberal and conservative views of Catholicism," says author and social commentator Thane Rosenbaum.

The overlap of Pius and contemporary politics is reflected by the identity of some of the principal voices — among his defenders are Rabbi Lapin, whose Toward Tradition

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Private & small parties in English, no lines with priority entrance www.vaticantoursinc.com organization fosters conservative, interfaith activities, and Regnery Publishing, which calls itself "the nation's leading conservative publisher"; among his most prominent critics are Cornwell, a former seminary student in Great Britain who is frequently at odds with the contemporary Church.

Without firm documentation, Pius' legacy during the war remains open to speculation, the subject of books that appear in recent years with regularity. "I don't think the record is going to be that exonerating," even if scholars gain full access to the archives, says Berenbaum.

For decades, the legacy of the pope has been one of the major issues separating the Jewish and Catholic communities. Pius, who had earned the praise of Jewish leaders after his death in 1958 but fell into posthumous disfavor when Rolf Hochhuth's 1963 play, "The Deputy," depicted the former Cardinal Eugenio Pacelli as an unfeeling diplomatturned-pontiff, came to be seen as an anti-Semite, as a supporter of Nazi Germany, as a powerful religious leader who impotently remained silent while the Jews of Europe were being was murdered, as a pragmatic politician who put Vatican neutrality and Catholic interests before the lives of threatened Jews.

Cornwell's book claims that "from an early stage in his career Pacelli betrayed an undeniable antipathy toward the Jews." Pius' name "will always be linked with Hitler's persecution of the Jews," Noel writes.

While thousands of Jewish lives were unquestionably saved in the Holocaust by ordinary Catholics, and by low-ranking clergy members, the current debate in Jewish circles centers on the pope's role: did Catholics act because of or despite Pius' example, or with his tacit approval?

Enter the new books.

"Much historical work since [the publication of 'The Deputy' has shown positive aspects of Pius' work," British historian Martin Gilbert tells The Jewish Week in an e-mail interview. He adds that he reserves judgment on the pope's wartime actions pending "the full opening of the Vatican wartime archives."

Cornwell says he has "reconsidered in a minor way the terms in which I phrased the culpability of Pius XII during the war." He has not, however, recanted his largely critical opinion of the pope, he says. "He had an obligation to explain his silence and diplomatic language with regard to the Holocaust after the war, when the pressures were lifted."

"There is no evidence that the pope was an anti-Semite," says Kurzman, author of "A Special Mission: Hitler's Secret Plot to Seize the Vatican and Kidnap Pope Pius XII" (Da Capo Press, 2007). "It's not fair to say that he was pro-Hitler. The facts are against it. He was a bitter enemy of Hitler."

Kurzman's book, based on decades of interviews and archival work, documents that Hitler, infuriated by what he saw as Pius' unremitting sympathy for the victims of the Final Solution, ordered a Nazi officer, stationed in occupied Italy late in the war, to storm the Vatican and take Pius hostage. The pope would probably have been killed as part of the operation, the book suggests.

Hitler eventually dropped the plan, to avoid the inevitable storm of negative publicity, Kurzman says.

"Hitler hated the pope," he says.

"Contrary to the charges of critics, he was consistently anti-Nazi in words and actions, both before and after he became pope" writes Sister Margherita Marchione, a zealous defender of Pius XII and professor emerita at Fairleigh Dickinson University. "Pius XII spoke out many times against Nazi atrocities, without mentioning names. But the whole world knew to whom he was referring."

The pope orchestrated rescues of Jews in Slovakia, Poland and Turkey; helped a childhood friend escape to neutral Switzerland and served as an intermediary between England and perpetrators of a German plot to assassinate Hitler, his defenders say. They say Pius did not turn his back on European Jewry, but publicly spoke against the Third Reich in often-coded terms, and clandestinely encouraged Catholic institutions throughout the continent to help endangered Jews, while sheltering thousands of Italian Jews in Rome's Catholic institutions.

In the hierarchal Catholic Church, none of the institutions would open their doors to outsiders without the pope's explicit instructions, Pius' defenders say.

"In a remarkable interview given to 'Inside the Vatican' ... [Msgr. John Patrick] Carroll-Abbing," the founder of Boys' Town and Girls' Town of Italy who served in the Papal Household during WWII and participated in rescue work, "recounted how the pope directly ordered him to save the Jews," Rabbi Dalin writes.

Tibor Baranski, a seminary student in Budapest during the war who was honored by Yad Vashem for his role, under the auspices of the Vatican ambassador to Hungary, in saving

at least 3,000 Jewish lives, says he saw at least two handwritten letters from the pope with directions to protect Jews. "This is not a myth," he says, adding that Papal Nuncio [Ambassador] Angelo Rotta reported Baranski's activities to the pope "at least twice a week"

"Pius sent a letter by hand to the bishops instructing them to open all convents and monasteries throughout Italy so that they could become safe refuges for Jewish people," lawyer and author Ronald Rychlak writes in "Hitler, the War and the Pope" (Genesis Press, 2000). "All available church buildings — including those in Vatican City — were put to use. Catholic hospitals were ordered to admit as many Jewish patients as possible, even if their ailments were fictitious."

Pius alluded to Jewish persecution in his speeches and publications, but did not identify the Nazis' victims' as Jews, in order to prevent an increase in reprisals, Rychlak and other scholars say. Many Jews agreed with the pope's approach, some scholars say. "All evidence shows that he believed his approach would best serve Jewish victims of the Nazis," Rychlak writes.

Daniel Goldhagen, author of "A Moral Reckoning: The Role of the Catholic Church in the Holocaust and its Unfulfilled Duty of Repair" (Vintage Books, 2002), disagrees. "It is hard to defend the Church of this era as a moral institution, at least with regard to Nazism and the Holocaust," he writes. "The Church, the pope, the national churches, bishops and priests generally failed during the Holocaust."

Pius "did not show courage," says Fred Rosenbaum, a San Francisco-based Jewish educator who spent a sabbatical year conducting archival research in Rome about the pope.

"The terrible tragedy of Pius was his inability to speak clearly in defence of the Jews as the principal victims of the Nazis and his sincere belief that he had said all that he could," O'Shea writes. "While many Catholics believed there was a directive from Pius to rescue and hide Jews, there is not one shred of written or oral evidence that points to any instructions. To search for such evidence is akin to seeking a written command of Hitler to murder all the Jews of Europe. It would be odd if such a document existed."

Among the most vocal critics of Pius are members of the Italian Jewish community, who remain convinced that the pope failed to speak out when a roundup of Rome's Jews took place a few hundred yards from Pius' Vatican window in October, 1943.

"Pio XII [the pope's Italian name] is a huge issue for the Jews of Italy," says Maurizio Molinari, a Rome native and New York correspondent for Turin's La Stampa newspaper. "Pio XII did very little, if nothing at all. Anyone who lived in Rome at that time knows that, including my mother, my grandmother and many, many others."

Wartime discussions in Church circles about dangerous life-saving operations were usually verbal, defenders of Pius say; written communications were usually veiled in code, and incriminating documents were burned.

Until the record is clear, the canonization of Pius should be shelved, say such voices as the Israeli government and the Anti-Defamation League.

"I have been of the opinion for a long time that the truth lies somewhere in between the extremes of complicity and virtue," says Rabbi David Rosen, international director of Interreligious Affairs of The American Jewish Committee.

The desire of some Jewish defenders of Pius to advance Jewish-Catholic relations skewers their objectivity, Rosenbaum says. "I want to have better relations between Jews and Catholics," he says, adding, "I think it has to be based on truth and an honest examination of the facts."

Gary Krupp, coordinator of next week's Pius symposium in Rome, says Jewish critics of the pope risk damaging the reputation of a man who saved "more Jewish lives" than any religious or political leader during World War II.

"This is something we should be ashamed of," he says. Krupp, who was knighted by Pope John Paul II in 2000, says he speaks in Pius' defense for the sake of the Jewish community — to build Catholic support for an increasingly isolated and vulnerable Israel.

"This is for the Jewish people," he says. "This is for the State of Israel."

Vatican representatives may participate in the symposium, Krupp says, but the Church is not involved in planning or supporting the event.

"This is my responsibility," he says. "As a Jew, this is my obligation."

E-mail: steve@jewishweek.org.

# Telegraph.co.uk

# Pope defends wartime predecessor

The Pope has for the first time publicly defended the wartime record of a predecessor, Pope Pius XII, who for decades has been accused of failing to speak out against the Holocaust.

By Nick Squires in Rome Last Updated: 7:27AM BST 19 Sep 2008

Pope Benedict XVI said new research showed that the former Pontiff "spared no effort" in trying to save Jews from extermination by Nazi Germany and fascist Italy.

Pope Pius XII has been criticised by scholars and Jewish groups for not taking a firm, public stance against Hitler.

His alleged ambivalence to the deportation and murder of Jews has been the subject of several books, one of them entitled Hitler's Pope.



Pope Pius XII has been criticised by scholars and Jewish groups for not taking a firm, public stance against Hitler Photo: GETTY

He is moving towards sainthood despite accusations that he kept silent about the Holocaust.

"(Pius XII) spared no effort, wherever it was possible, to intervene (for Jews) directly or through instructions given to individuals or institutions in the Catholic Church," Pope Benedict told a conference which presented new work on Pius ahead of the 50th anniversary of his death on October 9.

Pius, who was pope from 1939 to 1958, had to work "secretly and silently" to "avert the worst and save the highest number of Jews possible," Benedict said, repeating assertions made by Vatican experts in the past.

The Pope also restated that Pius was thanked by Jewish groups during and after the war for saving the lives of thousands of Jews.

He cited a meeting Pius had in the Vatican in November 1945 with 80 death-camp survivors who "thanked him personally for his generosity".

He said he hoped that further investigation would reinforce "the historical truth, overcoming all remaining prejudice".

The head of the Roman Catholic Church was addressing representatives from the US-based Pave the Way Foundation during their visit to his summer residence, Castel Gandolfo, on Thursday.

Benedict XVI thanked the foundation for compiling information that shows the "organised assistance" Pius XII

gave to the Jewish people.

Pave the Way claims Pius XII was the victim of a sinister "myth".

"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," the Pope told his guests.

The foundation is asking that Yad Vashem, the Holocaust memorial in Jerusalem, withdraw from its permanent exhibition a text the group considers defamatory towards Pius XII.

Pope Pius's supporters say he was cautious about publicly denouncing Hitler and the Holocaust because he believed criticism would have made the Nazi regime intensify its persecution of Jews.

Supporters have also pointed out that, under the Pope's orders, monasteries, convents and other Catholic institutions gave sanctuary to Jews, hiding them from deportation. Many were also given protection in the Vatican.

Pius XII, took a crucial step on the way to sainthood last year when a panel of senior Catholic prelates voted in favour of recognizing his "heroic virtues" - the key requirement for beatification and the penultimate stage before sainthood.

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#### RELIGIÃO

#### Vaticano Papa em defesa de Pio XII

Bento XVI saiu hoje em defesa do Papa guiou a Igreja Católica durante a II Guerra Mundial. O Santo Padre considera que Pio XII não poupou esforços para ajudar os judeus.

Sobre Pio XII, Bento XVI não tem dúvidas: "não poupou esforços" para ajudar "directamente" os judeus. E pede que sejam superados os "preconceitos"

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A posição foi assumida esta quinta-feira numa audiência concedida à associação "Pave the Way Foundation", fundada pelo judeu norte-americano Gary Krupp, que promoveu um congresso por ocasião do 50.º aniversário da morte de Pio XII

Bento XVI lembrou a acção desenvolvida através de católicos, a título individual, e das instituições da Igreja, para salvar os judeus da perseguição nazi

Bento XVI falou das "não poucas intervenções" realizadas secretamente por Pio XII, dada a situação concreta num "complexo momento histórico", de forma a evitar o pior e "salvar o major número possível de judeus"

O Papa recordou que a finalidade do encontro sobre Pio XII foi a de preencher algumas lacunas, sobretudo em relação à defesa dos judeus

A documentação reunida pela Pave the Way mostra que o Papa interveio tanto pública quanto secretamente para salvar judeus, além de pedir a entidades católicas de todo o mundo que os protegessem. Entre os documentos, há telegramas e testemunhos de pessoas que agradecem a mediação papal.

A organização pede que seja retirado da exposição permanente do Yad Vashem, o monumento ao Holocausto de Jerusalém, um texto que "difama" Pio XII

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#### **CONOCER LA VERDAD HISTORICA SOBRE PIO XII SIN PREJUICIOS**



Malo O O O Bueno Calificar Escrito por Ecclesia Digital iueves. 18 de septiembre de 2008

CIUDAD DEL VATICANO, 18 SEP 2008 .- El Papa recibió este mediodía en Castelgandolfo a los participantes en un simposio sobre la figura y la acción pastoral y humanitaria de Pío XII, promovido por la "Pave the Way Foundation", cuyo presidente es Gary Krupp.

Tras recordar que ha transcurrido medio siglo de la muerte del Siervo de

Dios Pío XII (9 octubre 1958), el Santo Padre afirmó que "se han escrito y se han dicho muchas cosas sobre él en estos cinco decenios, pero no siempre se han enfocado correctamente los diferentes aspectos de su multiforme acción pastoral"

"El objetivo de vuestro simposio ha sido precisamente colmar algunas de estas lagunas mediante un análisis documentado sobre muchas de sus intervenciones, sobre todo aquellas a favor de los judíos, que en aquellos años eran perseguidos en toda Europa de acuerdo con el plan criminal de los que querían eliminarlos de la faz de la tierra"

Benedicto XVI subrayó que "cuando se estudia sin prejuicios ideológicos la noble figura de este Papa (...) se aprecia la sabiduría humana y la intensidad pastoral que lo guiaron en su largo ministerio, y de modo particular en la organización de las ayudas al pueblo judío"

Gracias a la documentación recogida y a los "testimonios acreditados", el simposio, continuó, "ofrece a la opinión pública la posibilidad de conocer mejor lo que Pío XII realizó a favor de los judíos perseguidos por los regímenes nazi y fascista"

El Papa puso de relieve que en los trabajos del simposio habían destacado numerosas intervenciones realizadas secreta y silenciosamente, precisamente porque dadas las situaciones concretas de aquel difícil momento histórico, solo de esa manera era posible evitar lo peor y salvar al mayor número posible de judíos". La "valiente y paterna dedicación" del pontífice "fue reconocida y apreciada durante y después de la terrible guerra mundial por comunidades y personalidades judías, que manifestaron su gratitud por lo que había hecho por ellos"

El Santo Padre dio las gracias a la "Pave the Way Foundation" por "la constante acción en promover las relaciones y el diálogo entre las religiones, de modo que ofrezcan un testimonio de paz, de caridad y de reconciliación"

"Espero que este año en que se conmemora el 50 aniversario de la muerte de Pío XII -concluyó- ofrezca la oportunidad de promover estudios más profundos sobre varios aspectos de su persona y de su actividad, para conocer la verdad histórica, superando todos los prejuicios restantes" AC/SIMPOSIO PIO XII/KRUPP

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IMPRESSUM





## Rabbiner Rosen: "Wahrheit über Pius XII. liegt in der Mitte"

Römische Tagung der amerikanischen interreligiösen Stiftung "Pave the Way" über Pius XII. und dessen Rettungsversuche für Juden - Rolle verschiedener Nuntien besonders in Lateinamerika stand im Mittelpunkt

Rom-Lissabon, 17.9.08 (KAP) Die Rolle verschiedener Apostolischer Nuntien während des Zweiten Weltkriegs besonders in Lateinamerika - stand im Mittelpunkt der am Mittwoch zu Ende gegangenen römischen Tagung der amerikanischen interreligiösen Stiftung "Pave the Way", die Papst Pius XII. gewidmet war. Anlass ist der bevorstehende 50. Todestag des Pacelli-Papstes. Anliegen der US-Stiftung war es, das Engagement des Papstes zu Gunsten jüdischer Menschen aufzuzeigen. "Pave the way"-Präsident ist Gary Krupp, ein New Yorker Jude. Wie Krupp in Rom erklärte, habe Pius XII. "mehr Juden in der Geschichte gerettet als irgendein anderer Papst". Die Position Krupps ist in der jüdischen Gemeinschaft der englischsprachigen Ländern allerdings umstritten. Der Präsident des "International Jewish Committee on Interreligious Consultations" (IJCIC), Rabbiner David Rosen, versucht, im Streit zu vermitteln. "Ich bin seit langem der Meinung, dass die Wahrheit hier in der Mitte liegt. Sie liegt irgendwo zwischen den beidenExtremen 'Komplizenschaft mit den Nazis' und 'Heldenhaftigkeit'", so Rosen im Blick auf die römische Tagung in einem Interview mit der New Yorker "Jewish Week".

Bei der römischen Tagung wurde u.a. die Rolle des Nuntius in der Dominikanischen Republik von 1939 bis 1946, Erzbischof Maurilio Silvani, dargestellt, wie die portugiesische katholische Nachrichtenagentur "Ecclesia" am Mittwoch berichtete. Silvani habe demnach während des Krieges jährlich zwei Mal Telegramme erhalten, er möge Staatschef General Rafael Trujillo aufsuchen und ihn um die Ausstellung neuer Visa für verfolgte Juden bitten. Der Auftrag sei direkt von Pius XII. gekommen.

In der Folge jedes Besuchs hätten jeweils zirka 800 Juden Visa erhalten, so der Bericht. Insgesamt seien es von 1939 bis 1945 zirka 11.000 Verfolgte gewesen, die in Lissabon an Bord gegangen und in Santo Domingo an Land gegangen seien.

Trujillo, der 1961 ermordet wurde, hatte bis zum Ende seiner Herrschaft enge und gute Beziehungen zur katholischen Kirche. 1954 hatte er Papst Pius XII. im Vatikan besucht und ein Konkordat zwischen dem Heiligen Stuhl und der Dominikanischen Republik unterzeichnet. (ende)

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#### donderdag, 18 september

#### Paus breekt lans voor Pius XII

geplaatst: donderdag, 18 september 2008, 15.20 uur

Paus Pius XII (1939-1958) heeft volgens paus Benedictus XVI al het mogelijke gedaan om joden te redden van de nazivervolging. Waar mogelijk is Pius XII "rechtstreeks of door opdrachten aan andere personen of inrichtingen van de katholieke Kerk" opgekomen voor de joden, aldus de paus donderdag tegenover deelnemers aan een bijeenkomst over de Pacelli-paus in Castel Gandolfo. Deze interventies hebben deels in het geheim plaatsgevonden. In de concrete situatie van toen was dat vaak de enige manier "om het ergste te voorkomen en het grootste aantal joden te redden", zei Benedictus XVI.

In Rome vindt een symposium plaats van de Amerikaanse stichting *Pave the Way* (bereidt de weg) over de rol van Pius XII tijdens de jodenvervolging. Aanleiding is de vijftigste sterfdag van de paus op 9 oktober.

Benedictus XVI hekelde de "tekortkomingen" in de historische voorstelling van zijn voorganger. Bij alles wat in de afgelopen vijftig jaar over Pius XII geschreven en gezegd is, is niet ieder aspect van zijn activiteit als zielzorger in het juiste licht onderzocht. Een benadering zonder ideologische vooroordelen toont een "nobele paus" en een "groot geestelijk en menselijk karakter".

Van joodse zijde is de "moedige en vaderlijke inzet" van Pius XII erkend. Benedictus herinnerde eraan dat al op 29 november 1945 een delegatie van tachtig joodse ex-kampgevangenen Pius XII opzocht om hem voor zijn hulp tijdens de vervolging te bedanken.

De paus sprak de hoop uit dat de vijftigste sterfdag van de Pacelli-paus aanleiding zal zijn voor een diepgaande studie over diens leven en werk. Het gaat erom "de historische waarheid te erkennen en ieder oud vooroordeel te overwinnen".

Voor Pius XII loopt sinds 1974 een proces tot zaligverklaring. Tegenstanders beweren dat de paus destijds niet voldoende tegen de Holocaust heeft geprotesteerd. De voorstanders van zaligverklaring wijzen erop dat door diens toedoen tijdens de Duitse bezetting van Rome in 1943/1944 meer dan 4.000 Romeinse joodse kinderen in kerkelijke instellingen werden ondergebracht en zo uit de klauwen van de SS zijn gered. (KN/KNA)

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Last Updated: Thursday, September 18, 2008, 14:54

# Pius XII 'spared no effort' to help Jews - Pope

#### External »

• Pave the Way Foundation

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Pope Benedict today forcefully defended his wartime predecessor Pius XII against accusations he did not do enough to help the Jews, saying Pius "spared no effort" on their behalf during World War II.

The pope spoke to members of the US-based Pave the Way Foundation, a mixed Jewish-Catholic group which held a symposium in Rome on the papacy of Pius, who reigned from 1939 to 1958.

The symposium prepared a 200-page compilation of documents, diplomatic cables and newspaper clippings from the period - some of them previously unpublished - showing Pius did much to help Jews during the war and was thanked by Jewish leaders.

"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," Pope Benedict said.

"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," Pope Benedict told the group at his summer residence south of Rome.

Some Jews have maintained that Pius did not do enough to save Jews while the Vatican and those Jews who support him say he worked behind the scenes to help because more direct intervention would have worsened the situation.

But Pope Benedict praised the symposium for drawing 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".

Gary Krupp, an American Jew who is president and founder of Pave the Way, told the Pope the group's investigation "directly contradicts the negative perception of the pope's war time activities".

The Pope noted that in November, 1945, some six months after the end of the war, 80 delegates of German concentration camps came to the Vatican to thank Pius.

The symposium's documents included numerous newspaper clippings of Jewish leaders thanking Pius during and after the conflict and former Israeli Prime Minister Golda Meir saying: "When fearful martyrdom came to our people in the decade of Nazi terror, the voice of the pope was raised for the victims".

The issue of Pius' papacy is one of the most difficult in Catholic-Jewish relations and the pope said that nearly five decades after his death "not all of the genuine facets of his diverse pastoral activity have been examined in a just light".

The Vatican will on October 9th mark the 50th anniversary of Pius' death with a conference and photo exhibition.

Historians have been calling on the Vatican to open up all its archives on the period.

The Vatican says while some of the archives of the period are still closed for organisational reasons, most of the significant documentation regarding Pius is already open to scholars.

Last year, the Vatican's saint-making department voted in favour of a decree recognising Pius's "heroic virtues," a major hurdle in a long process toward possible sainthood that began in 1967. But Pope Benedict has so far not approved the decree.

Some Jewish groups have said the Vatican should freeze the beatification process but others say it is an internal Church matter.

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## Pope Pius XII tried to save European Jews: Rome symposium

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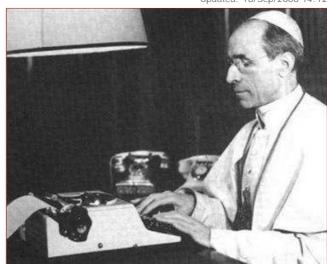


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ROME (AFP)---Pope Pius XII, who the Catholic Church may beatify, tried to save European Jews from Nazi extermination during World War II, according to a conference on the pontiff in Rome that concluded Wednesday.

The symposium, organised by a US-based group on inter-religious dialogue called the Pave the Way Foundation, brought together Catholics and Jews to defend Pius XII.

The foundation claims the former leader of the Roman Catholic Church was

the victim of a sinister "myth" to the effect that he was insensitive to the fate of Jews terrorised by Germany's Nazi regime and its death camps.

The group collected documentation aiming to prove Pius XII intervened publicly as well as in secret to save Jews and to encourage Catholic institutions to shelter them.

These documents include diplomatic telegrams and testimony of people saved thanks to his intervention, according to the symposium.

Pius XII served as pope from 1939-1958 and his role during the war is viewed as controversial. Many historians accuse him of staying silent and doing little to intervene during the Holocaust, when the Nazis killed some six million Jews in Europe.

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The foundation is asking that Yad Vashem, the Holocaust memorial in Jerusalem, withdraw from its permanent exhibition a text that the group considers defamatory towards Pius XII.

The symposium was held on the 50th anniversary of the death of Pius XII. The current pope, Benedict XVI, will celebrate a mass on October 5 in the Vatican's Saint Peter's Basilica to mark the event.



During his visit to Paris last week, Pope Benedict XVI reminded representatives from France's Jewish community that Pius XII had called Nazism a period of "darkness".

In February, the Vatican said it would not block steps under way for the beatification of Pius XII, despite criticism from many historians and numerous Jewish associations about the former pontiff's attitude towards the Holocaust and the killing of six million Jews during World War II.

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#### Pope Benedict praises 'truths' on Pius XII's World War II role

Posted: Thu, 18 Sep 2008 13:37:05 GMT

Author: DPA

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papal summer residence situated south of Rome.

"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," Benedict said.

Italian-born Pius XII, who reigned from 1939 until his death in 1958, has been accused by some of showing indifference to the Nazi massacre of the Jews and of failing to speak out against Hitler

But the Vatican and other supporters say he strove to save those persecuted by the Nazis, including opening the doors of monastries, convents and other Church premises to shelter Jews.

Benedict is expected to preside over a Mass commemorating the 50th anniversary of Pius' death on October 9.

immediate predecessor John Paul II, stirred controversy during his pontificate, by approving moves for Pius XII's beatification - the first step towards sainthood.

Vatican officials earlier this year reported no progress in the process since since May 2007 when the Roman Catholic Church's saint- making department voted in favour of a decree recognizing Pius's "heroic virtues."

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Castel Gandolfo. Italy - Pope Benedict Jewish people," Benedict said.

The pontiff was addressing participants of the symposium, organized by the Pave the Way Foundation, a US-based group including Jews and Catholics that promotes improved relations between

XVI on Thursday thanked the organizers of a symposium examining role played during World War II by Pius XII - a pope criticized by some for his stance towards the Nazi-led persecution of Jews. Benedict, referring to Pius as "this noble Pope" said the symposium's work had helped appreciate that pontiff's "human wisdom and pastoral intensity... especially in providing organized assistance to the

followers of different religions.

Benedict met them at Castel Gandolfo the

Vatican Museum

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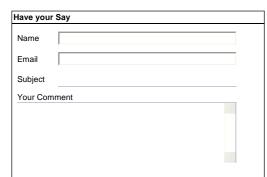
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# Understanding the historical truth about Pius XII

September 18, 2008

Vatican City, September 18, 2008 (MetroCatholic) - Today the Pope met participants in a

symposium on the life and the pastoral and humanitarian work of Pope Pius XII. The symposium was promoted by the Pave the Way Foundation, the president of which is Gary Krupp.

Recalling that 50 years have passed since the death, on 9 October 1958, of Servant of God Pius XII, the Holy Father pointed out that although "so much has been written and said of him during these last five decades, ... not all of the genuine facets of his diverse pastoral activity have been examined in a just light".

"The aim of your symposium", he continued, "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, ... one can come to appreciate the human wisdom and pastoral intensity which guided him in his long years of ministry, especially in providing organised 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", said the Holy Father.

He then pointed out how the work of the symposium had drawn attention to Pope Pius' "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 recognised 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".

Pope Benedict thanked 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", he concluded, "that this year, which marks the 50th 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".

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#### Benedikt XVI. přijal účastníky symposia o Piu XII.

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Benedikt XVI. přijal účastníky symposia věnovaného Piu XII. a Židům, které od 15 právy září pořádá v Římě nadace Pave the Way. Jak řekl její předseda, Gary Krupp, jeho cílem je "ukázat světu pravdivý obraz Pia XII, který za II. světové války zachránil životos 22:06 mnoha Židů."

Ninona zidu.

<u>Církev Darwina neodsoudila</u>

Svatý otec ocenil práci nadace, která shromáždila rozsáhlou dokumentaci působení tohoto papeže ve prospěch Židů. A vyjádřil přání, aby letošní rok, na který připatke 2008 22:04 50. výročí smrti Pia XII., byl příležitostí k prohloubení historické pravdy překonávající rozšířený hlad je neslýchaným skandálem, mons.

"Tolik bylo o něm bylo v těchto pěti desetiletích napsáno a řečeno a ne vždy byl<mark>gjiordano ke zprávě FAO</mark> různé aspekty jeho rozličných pastoračních aktivit ukazovány v pravém světle. Cílem vašeho symposia je právě podrobit kritice některé z těchto nedostatků a vést pedlivý008 22:03 a dobře doložený výzkum celé řady jeho intervencí, zejména ve prospěch Židů, pros byli v oněch letech po celé Evropě obětí zločinného plánu těch, kdo je chtěli sm<u>ésk</u>z<sub>ádá odvolání kubánského</sub>

Z židovské strany bylo už podle papeže Benedikta XVI. uznáno odvážné a otcovské nasazení papeže Pacelliho. Upozornil na to, že už 29. listopadu 1945 navštívila18.9.2008 22:02 tehdejšího papeže delegace osmdesáti vězňů koncentračních táborů, aby Piu Xlardinál Bertone v Chorvatsku poděkovali za jeho pomoc během doby pronásledování.

Od roku 1974 probíhá beatifikační proces papeže Pia XII. Jeho odpůrci tvrdí, že Plus XII. během druhé světové války nedostatečně protestoval proti vraždění židů. Benedikt XVI. přijal účastníky Naopak zastánci blahořečení odkazují na zásahy papeže během německé okupareosia o Piu XII. Říma, díky nimž bylo v církevních institucích zachráněno více než 4 tisíce židů před zatčením jednotkami SS.

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#### CONFERENCE DETAILS EFFORTS BY POPE PIUS XII TO RESCUE JEWS

**SEPTEMBER 18, 2008** 

Jewish conference organizer: Pius 'saved more Jews than all the other world leaders and religious leaders combined'

As a 3-day conference on Pope Pius XII and the Holocaust concludes in Rome, John Allen speaks with organizer Gary Krupp, who concludes that Pius XII "saved more Jews than all the other world leaders and religious leaders combined." Vatican Radio interviews the keeper of the archives of the late Father Robert Graham (1912–97), the Jesuit historian and defender of Pope Pius.

In a message to conference participants, Pope Benedict XVI called attention to the "vast quantity of documented material" showing the "organized assistance to the Jewish people" by "this noble Pope."

Source(s): tbese links will take you to other sites, in a new window.

- John Allen: American Jew comes to the defense of Pius XII (National Catholic Reporter)
- True legacy of Pope Pius XII (Vatican Radio)
- Papal message: Understanding the historical truth about Pius XII (VIS)
- Jewish leader says Pope Pius XII has been demonized falsely (Sept. 16 CWN News Brief)

Asia News VATICAN Pope: Pius XII spared no effort, including secret ones, to save Jews vatican pope benedict xvi pope pius xii jews jewish holocaust nazi germany holocaust Receiving the Pave the Way Foundation, Benedict XVI affirms that "when one draws close to this noble Pope, free from ideological prejudices", one must recognize the "courageous dedication" of Pope Pacelli to saving as many Jews as possible from the Nazi devastation during the second world war.

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**VATICAN** 

Pope: Pius XII spared no effort, including secret ones, to save Jews Receiving the Pave the Way Foundation, Benedict XVI affirms that "when one draws close to this noble Pope, free from ideological prejudices", one must recognize the "courageous dedication" of Pope Pacelli to saving as many Jews as possible from the Nazi devastation during the second world war.



Castel Gandolfo (AsiaNews) - When one approaches the figure of Pius XII "free from ideological prejudices", one must recognize his "courageous and paternal dedication" to saving, wherever possible, the greatest possible number of Jews, which included working "secretly and silently". A congress organized by the Pave the Way Foundation 50 years after the death of Pope Pacelli gave Benedict XVI the opportunity to recall

the "historical truth" about Pius XII's efforts to save Jews, which were recognized after the war by many Jewish figures, including 80 delegates of concentration camp survivors.

"So much has been written and said" about Pius XII, the pope noted, over the past five decades, "and not all of the genuine facets of his diverse pastoral activity have been examined in a just light". "When one draws close to this noble Pope, free from ideological prejudices", he continued, "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

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INDIA – ITALY
Shame on India, Europe
and the world
by Bernardo Cervellera



It is shameful that India's

Christians, an important element for the country's social and economic development, are being massacred whilst the world's governments and humanitarian



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"Thanks to the vast quantity of documented material which you have gathered", Benedict XVI told those present, "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 South East courageous and paternal dedication was recognized and appreciated during and after the terrible world conflict by Jewish communities and North Asia individuals who showed their gratitude for what the Pope had done for South West them. One need only recall Pius XII's meeting on the 29th 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".





Benedict XVI finally expressed the "great hope" that this year "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".

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associations remain silent in what is another example of "Christianophobia." Italian bishops call on the faithful to take part tomorrow in a day of prayer and fasting in remembrance of the Blessed Teresa of Kolkata. SAUDI ARABIA -**ISLAM** Islam and Saudi Arabia, champions of dialogue? by Samir Khalil Samir



The Saudi king takes more steps to show

openness towards Christians, Jews and other religions. The most urgent reason is to rectify Islam's violent image but also stems from a new attitude towards inter-faith dialogue towards the People of the Book (Jews, Muslims and Christians), but also atheists, Hindus and Buddhists.

CHINA

The truth about China and the Olympic Games by Bao Tong



Chinese leaders need the Olympic

Games to be legitimate in the eyes of the world and show off their successes. However, the stability they achieved is a consequence of the Tiananmen massacre. More importantly, keeping up appearances and saving face cannot hide the fact that the government in Beijing is incapable of providing justice to its people. Here is an essay by one of the most influential dissidents in today's China.

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#### PAPA: BENEDETTO XVI, PIO XII DIFESE EBREI DA NAZISMO E **FASCISMO**

(ASCA) - Citta' del Vaticano, 18 set - Papa Pio XII, "non risparmio" sforzi, ovunque fosse possibile, per intervenire direttamente oppure attraverso istruzioni impartite a singoli o ad istituzioni della Chiesa cattolica in favore degli ebrei". Lo ha detto questa mattina papa Benedetto XVI, ricevendo in udienza i partecipanti al Simposio sulla figura di papa Pacelli organizzato dalla "Pave the Way Foundation"

La Fondazione, promossa dall'ebreo statunitense Gary Krupp, da anni raccoglie testimonianze e documenti per sfatare quella che il Segretario di Stato vaticano, card.

Tarcisio Bertone, ha definito una volta la "leggenda nera" attorno a Pio XII e al suo atteggiamento nei confronti della Shoah.

Le parole di papa Ratzinger potrebbero preludere a un passo in avanti decisivo nel processo di beatificazione di papa Pacelli. Lo stesso pontefice aveva chiesto un ulteriore esame delle testimonianze storiche da parte di un apposito gruppo di lavoro istituito presso la Segreteria di Stato, dopo che la Congregazione per le Cause dei Santi ha sostanzialmente completato la sua indagine del fascicolo di papa Pacelli e sarebbe pronta a dare il via libera alla beatificazione.

Significativamente, parlando alla comunita' ebraica francese a Parigi, papa Benedetto XVI, condannando duramente ogni forma di antisemitismo, aveva citato Pio XII, insieme al suo predecessore Pio XI, di cui era stato Segretario di Stato.

Papa Ratzinger ha evidenziato oggi i "non pochi interventi" compiuti da papa Pacelli "in modo segreto e silenzioso proprio perche', tenendo conto delle concrete situazioni di quel complesso momento storico, solo in tale maniera era possibile evitare il peggio e salvare il piu' gran numero possibile di ebrei". "Questa sua coraggiosa e paterna dedizione - ha aggiunto - e' stata del resto riconosciuta ed apprezzata durante e dopo il tremendo conflitto mondiale da comunita' e personalita' ebraiche che non mancarono di manifestare la loro gratitudine per quanto il Papa aveva fatto per loro".

"Tanto si e' scritto e detto di lui in questi cinque decenni - ha proseguito il pontefice - e non sempre sono stati posti nella giusta luce i veri aspetti della sua multiforme azione pastorale". "Scopo del vostro simposio - ha detto rivolto ai partecipanti del Simposio - e' 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 anni venivano colpiti ovunque in Europa, in ossequio al disegno criminoso di chi voleva eliminarli dalla faccia della terra".

"Questa sua coraggiosa e paterna dedizione - ha concluso - e' stata del resto riconosciuta ed apprezzata durante e dopo il tremendo conflitto mondiale da comunita' e personalita' 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 generosita' dal Papa dimostrata verso di loro, perseguitati durante il terribile periodo del nazifascismo".

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#### **VATICAN: 'RESEARCH CLEARS PIUS XII'**

Benedict defends record of wartime pontiff



(ANSA) - Vatican City, September 17 - New research clears controversial wartime pope Pius XII from the accusation that he did not do enough to save Jews, Pope Benedict XVI said on Thursday.

It is the first time the pope has come out publicly to defend the record of his WWII predecessor, who is moving towards sainthood despite accusations of keeping silent about the Holocaust.

"(Pius XII) spared no effort, wherever it was possible, to intervene (for Jews) directly or through instructions given to individuals or institutions in the Catholic Church," Benedict told a conference which presented new work on Pius ahead of the 50th anniversary of his death on October 9.

Pius had to work "secretly and silently" to "avert the worst and save the highest number of Jews possible," Benedict

said, repeating assertions made by Vatican experts in the past.

The pope also restated that Pius was thanked by Jewish groups during and after the war.

He cited a meeting Pius had in the Vatican in November 1945 with 80 death-camp survivors who "thanked him personally for his generosity".

The pope thanked the Pave the Way Foundation, made up of Catholics and Jews, for uncovering the evidence in favour of Pius.

He voiced the hope that further studies can reinforce "the historical truth, overcoming all remaining prejudice". Benedict's statement on the new research - which has not yet been made public - follows last year's assertion by his No.2, Cardinal Tarcisio Bertone, that people ignore evidence disproving Pius was indulgent towards Hitler.

Pius was the victim of a "black legend", said Bertone, the Vatican Secretary of State.

Bertone said the idea that Pius was culpably silent while Nazis exterminated millions of Jews "has become so firmly established that even scratching it is an arduous task".

Critics, among them many Jewish associations, argue that a firm, public stance from the pope could have changed the course of the war and stopped Hitler earlier.

They also question his decision to shelve a document fiercely critical of Nazism which had been prepared by his predecessor, Pius XII.

Bertone said Pius was cautious about publicly denouncing Hitler and the Holocaust because he believed this would have made the Nazi regime intensify its persecution of Jews.

Supporters have also pointed out that, under the pope's orders, convents, monasteries and other Catholic institutions threw open their doors to Jews who were hidden and protected there. Many were also hidden in the Vatican.

Pius XII, who was pope from 1939 to 1958, took a crucial step on the way to sainthood last year when a panel of top Catholic prelates voted in favour of recognising Pius's "heroic virtues".

This is the key requirement for beatification, the penultimate stage before sainthood. Procedures to canonise the pontiff have moved slowly since they started in 1967, partly because of the controversy over his stance on Nazism.

Jewish groups in Italy and abroad have repeatedly urged the Vatican not to push forward the pontiff's beatification "at any cost", noting that Pius's actions were a "delicate issue" in Christian-Jewish relations.

They have acknowledged Pius helped Jews but say he should have spoken out against Hitler. Pius's conduct during WWII has been the subject of several books, one of them entitled Hitler's Pope.

photo: Pius XII

» 2008-09-19 00:30 - TopNews



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Spettacolo al San Paolo. In gol Vitale, Denis e Maggio

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sexta-feira, 19 de Setembro de 2008 - Liturgia do dia

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Voltar

#### Papa defende Pio XII

Bento XVI considera que o seu predecessor não poupou esforços para ajudar os judeus e pede que sejam superados os «preconceitos» sobre esta figura



Bento XVI saiu esta Quinta-feira em defesa de Pio XII, o Papa que guiou a Igreja Católica durante a II Guerra Mundial, considerando que o mesmo "não poupou esforços" para ajudar "directamente" os judeus e pedindo que sejam superados os "preconceitos" em relação a esta figura

A posição foi assumida numa audiência concedida à associação "Pave the Way Foundation", fundada pelo judeu norte-americano Gary Krupp, que promoveu um

congresso por ocasião do 50.º aniversário da morte do Papa Pacelli.

O actual Papa lembrou a acção desenvolvida através de católicos, a título individual, e das instituições da Igreja, para salvar os judeus da perseguição nazi.

"Sabemos que o Servo de Deus não poupou esforços, sempre que possível, para intervir em defesa dos judeus. De facto, as suas intervenções, muitas vezes secretas e silenciosas, foram inúmeras", indicou.

Bento XVI falou das "não poucas intervenções" realizadas secretamente por Pio XII, dada a situação concreta num "complexo momento histórico", de forma a evitar o pior e "salvar o maior número possível de judeus".

Frisando que Pio XII viveu num período difícil, no século passado, marcado pelo conflito mundial, Bento XVI agradeceu aos presentes pela atenção que dirigiram à figura e incansável acção pastoral e humanitária de Pio XII, nos 50 anos da sua morte, em busca da verdade histórica.

O Papa recordou que a finalidade do encontro sobre Pio XII foi a de preencher algumas lacunas, com uma atenciosa e documentada análise da sua acção e intervenções, sobretudo em relação à defesa dos judeus, que, naqueles anos de conflito, eram "perseguidos e extinguidos da face da terra".

"Graças ao vasto material por vós recolhido, enriquecido por numerosos e credíveis testemunhos, o vosso encontro ofereceu à opinião pública a possibilidade de conhecer melhor e mais profundamente o que Pio XII promoveu e realizou em prol dos judeus perseguidos pelos regimes nazi e fascista", precisou.

A documentação reunida pela Pave the Way mostra que o Papa interveio tanto pública quanto secretamente para salvar judeus, além de pedir a entidades católicas de todo o mundo que os protegessem. Entre os documentos, há telegramas e testemunhos de pessoas que agradecem a mediação papal.

A organização pede que seja retirado da exposição permanente do Yad Vashem, o monumento ao Holocausto de Jerusalém, um texto que "difama" Pio XII.

O presidente do PTWF, Gary Krupp, precisou que "muitos historiadores esperam que os arquivos vaticanos daquele período estejam completamente abertos, mas a história pode ser verificada pelo relato daqueles que a viveram".

Uma dos testemunhos que mais impressionou Krupp foi o do Arcebispo Giovanni Ferrofino (96 anos), secretário do então núncio no Haiti, D. Maurílio Silvani, de 1939 a 1946. Num vídeo que será projectado amanhã, 17 de Setembro, e que faz parte do arquivo da Fundação PTWF, D. Ferrofino fala sobre os telegramas que recebia do Papa Pio XII duas vezes por ano, para conseguir os vistos necessários aos judeus que escapavam da Europa ocupada pelos nazis

Cada vez que recebia o telegrama, D. Giovanni Ferrofino visitava o presidente da República Dominicana, General Trujillo, para pedir, em nome do Papa, 800 vistos. Este procedimento acontecia duas vezes por ano, entre 1939 até 1945. Isso significa que, graças a Pio XII, cerca de 11 mil judeus terão embarcado em Portugal e ficado a salvo na República Dominicana.

 $Internacional \mid Agência \; Ecclesia \mid 18/09/2008 \mid 11:43 \mid 3446 \; Caracteres \mid 203 \mid Bento \; XVII1. \\$ 

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# SUNLIT UPLANDS

FAITH, FREEDOM, DEFENSE OF THE WEST, RENEWAL OF THE CULTURE

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 2008

# Conference Details Efforts by Pope Pius XII to Rescue Jews

From Catholic World News



Jewish conference organizer: Pius 'saved more Jews than all the other world leaders and religious leaders combined'

As a 3-day conference on Pope Pius XII and the Holocaust concludes in Rome, John Allen speaks with organizer Gary Krupp, who concludes that Pius XII "saved more Jews than all the other world leaders and religious

Photo By Marie Freeman Blue Ridge Blog

"PROVE ALL THINGS; HOLD FAST THAT WHICH IS GOOD."

-- 1 THESSALONIANS 5:21

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leaders combined." Vatican Radio interviews the keeper of the archives of the late Father Robert Graham (1912-97), the Jesuit historian and defender of Pope Pius.

In a message to conference participants, Pope Benedict XVI called attention to the "vast quantity of documented material" showing the "organized assistance to the Jewish people" by "this noble Pope."

Source(s): these links will take you to other sites, in a new window.

- John Allen: American Jew comes to the defense of Pius XII (National Catholic Reporter)
- True legacy of Pope Pius XII (Vatican Radio)
- Papal message: Understanding the historical truth about Pius XII (VIS)
- Jewish leader says Pope Pius XII has been demonized falsely (Sept. 16 CWN News Brief)

POSTED BY DANIEL J. CASSIDY AT 9:40 PM ABELS: HOLOCAUST, POPE PIUS XII

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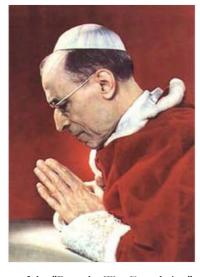
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#### THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 2008

#### Benedict XVI on Pius XII, the Pastor Angelicus



Pope Benedict XVI received today representatives of the "Pave the Way Foundation", an interreligious organization which has recently held a symposium on the papacy of Pius XII, of most glorious memory. These are Pope Benedict's words:

#### 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.

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- The Gregorian Rite
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- Ite ad Thomam

RORATE CÆLI Page 2 of 3

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 29th 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.

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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.

 $\label{eq:Benedict XVI}$  Meeting with the participants of the "Pave the Way Foundation" symposium September 18, 2008

posted by New Catholic at 11:05 AM

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#### **Politica**

Fascismo/ Autocritica gesuiti: Chiesa sbaglio'.Papa 'loda' Pio XII

Imbarazzante su leggi razziali, Ratzinger: Pacelli salvò ebrei

postato 45 min fa da APCOM

Roma, 18 set. (Apcom) - "Imbarazzante". Si racchiude in una sola parola la definizione di 'Civiltà Cattolica', la rivista dei gesuiti le cui bozze sono prima riviste in Segreteria di Stato, dell'atteggiamento tenuto nel 1938 dalla Santa Sede in occasione della pubblicazione da parte del fascismo delle leggi razziali

"Imbarazzo" per la scelta del Vaticano di "agire con mezzi discreti e puntando sull'efficacia della propria diplomazia domestica" contro le leggi varate da Mussolini, finalizzando in particolare la propria azione a mettere in salvo prima di tutto gli ebrei italiani convertiti al cattolicesimo.

"In quell'occasione - afferma l'autore dell'articolo, il gesuita padre Giovanni Sale - il Vaticano decise di tenere un atteggiamento piuttosto prudente", chiedendo "al governo fascista di usare come criterio discriminatorio non il dato biologico-razziale, ma quello religioso cioè l'appartenenza a una determinata fede religiosa". Obiettivo del Vaticano fu soprattutto quello di "attirare l'attenzione dell'autorità governativa soprattutto sugli ebrei battezzati e convertiti al cattolicesimo", invece di schierarsi su tutti gli ebrei.

"Appare oggi imbarazzante per lo storico cattolico, soprattutto dopo le aperture del Concilio Vaticano II in tale materia - sottolinea il quindicinale - giustificare con categorie morali o religiose tale impostazione di pensiero e tale modo di procedere. Secondo la mentalità cattolica del tempo, anche se non tutti erano d'accordo con tale principio, sembrava che compito della Chiesa fosse quello di proteggere innanzitutto i propri fedeli, senza però in questo - conclude la rivista - venir meno al senso di giustizia e carità dovuti a tutti gli essere umani".

E proprio nel pieno dello scontro politico su fascismo e antifascismo, fa rumore l'uscita di Civiltà Cattolica. Risposta immediata, seppure indiretta, è stata quella di Benedetto XVI che oggi ha ricevuto in udienza i partecipanti ad un simposio promosso dalla 'Pave the Way Foundation' - un'associazione fondata dall'ebreo americano Gary Krupp e dedicata a promuovere la pace nella tolleranza e comprensione tra le religioni - in occasione del 50° anniversario della morte di Papa Pacelli. "Pio XII non risparmiò sforzi, ovunque fosse possibile, per intervenire direttamente oppure attraverso istruzioni impartite a singoli o ad istituzioni della Chiesa cattolica" in favore degli ebrei.

Il Papa ha così ricordato "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". Una "coraggiosa e paterna dedizione", quella di Pio XII, "riconosciuta ed apprezzata" durante e dopo la Seconda Guerra Mondiale "da comunità e personalità ebraiche che non mancarono di manifestare la loro gratitudine per quanto il Papa aveva fatto per loro", ha proseguito Benedetto XVI, citando l'incontro che Papa 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".

Ratzinger ha inoltre invitato a non scadere in "pregiudizi ideologici". "Quando ci si accosta senza pregiudizi ideologici alla nobile figura di questo Papa - ha detto - 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".

"Mi pare rilevante" il fatto che "un autorevole rivista ponga il problema" della posizione della Santa Sede sulle leggi razziali varate da Mussolini "dal punto di vista critico-storico e non apologetico, quali che siano le conclusioni che trae, perchè bisogna vedere", ha detto da parte sua Riccardo Di Segni, ex rabbino capo della Comunità ebraica di Roma, in merito alla pubblicazione dell'articolo di 'Civiltà Cattolica'. Si tratta di un mea culpa della Chiesa? "Non esagererei - risponde - c'è comunque una volontà di un esame di un contesto problematico".

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Sep

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## Pave the Way Foundation's Address to Pope

September 18, 2008 |

Here is the address Gary Krupp, president of the Pave the Way Foundation, gave today upon meeting Benedict XVI at the apostolic palace of Castel Gandolfo, south of Rome.

The Pope granted an audience to the participants of the congress <u>"Examining the Papacy of Pope Pius XII,"</u> which was organized by the foundation. The three-day symposium ended Wednesday.

\* \* \*

You Holiness, The mission of Pave the Way Foundation is to end the malevolent and the illegal use of religion. We begin this process by establishing credible and trusted relationships through our historic gestures of good will and with the identification and elimination of obstacles between the faiths.

Some examples of our projects are that we worked for over 20 years to help the equipment acquisition of the hospital of St. Padre Pio here in Italy. We worked behind the scenes to remove obstacles and to move the fundamental agreements with the Israeli government and the Holy See. We initiated the Jewish thank you to Pope John Paul II for his efforts to achieve religious reconciliation. We brought the manuscripts of Maimonides for the first time in history from the Vatican Library to the state of Israel, and in 2007, we implemented the gift to your library of the oldest manuscripts of the Gospels of St. John and St. Luke, the Bodmer papyrus.

Your Holiness, for all of these benevolent projects I wish recognize, in your presence, one who has dedicated over 20 years behind the scenes to help us to complete this vital work: Doctor Rolando Clementoni.

In the furtherance of our mission, Pave the Way has identified the papacy of Pope Pius XII as a source of friction and misunderstanding. Accordingly, we have undertaken an independent investigation to identify significant documents and to video record eyewitness testimony. I wish to report to you that results of this investigation are stunning, and directly contradict the negative perception of the Pope's wartime activities.

All of the documented material that we have gathered, including the transcript of our just completed three-day symposium, will be turned over to your pontifical institutions and to the internationally recognized Holocaust centers for further study.

Based on their review of these new materials, and in the interest of maintaining their historical integrity and accuracy, we call upon these institutions to carefully review this new information in order to redefine the current perception on this papacy.

This year, for Catholics, Oct. 9, 2008, will be the commemoration the 50th anniversary of the death of Pope Pius XII, for Jews that date is also significant as it is our holiest Jewish holiday Yom Kippur, our Day of Atonement. May this providential date usher in a new effort to correct the historical record and bring to light the truth of this papacy.

I wish to close with a passage from a book written by Ambassador Pinchas Lapide, a former Israeli consul general in Italy, and a Jewish theologian: "No Pope in history has been thanked more heartily by Jews upon his death in

1958. Several suggested in open letters that a Pope Pius XII forest of 860,000 trees be planted on the hills of Judea in order to fittingly honor the memory of the late Pontiff, because the Catholic Church under the pontificate of Pius XII was instrumental in saving the lives of as many as 860,000 Jews from certain death at Nazi hands."

You Holiness, we humbly ask you to keep the mission of Pave the Way Foundation and its vital work to end the malevolent use of religion in your prayers, and thank you for allowing us this time today.

Courtesy Zenit.org

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### GOOD JESUIT, BAD JESUIT

"IN LIGHT OF IGNATIUS' "TWO STANDARDS" AND "THE MYSTRIES DONE FROM THE GARDEN TO THE HOUSE OF ANNAS", AT ANY MOMENT WE CAN BE JUDAS OR PETER, A CHRISTIAN LIFE CAN BE A FINE LINE."

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FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 2008

#### Jesuit Historian Defends Pope Pius XII

Gary Krupp, who concludes that Pius XII "saved





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more Jews than all the other world leaders and religious leaders combined." Vatican Radio interviews the keeper of the archives of the late Father Robert Graham (1912-97), the Jesuit historian and defender of Pope Pins

In a message to conference participants, Pope Benedict XVI called attention to the "vast quantity of documented material" showing the "organized assistance to the Jewish people" by "this noble Pope."

Source(s): these links will take you to other sites, in a new window.

- True legacy of Pope Pius XII (Vatican Radio)
- Papal message: Understanding the historical truth about Pius XII (VIS)
- Jewish leader says Pope Pius XII has been demonized falsely (Sept. 16 CWN News Brief)

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Eucharistia Miséricordiausa



Benoît XVI: « Pie XII n'épargna aucun effort pour intervenir, en faveur des Juifs »

ACCUEIL

CHRIST MISERICORDIEUX

BENOÎT XVI

**JEAN PAUL II** 

CATECHESES



Cité du Vatican, le 18 septembre 2008 - (E.S.M.) - A 12h30 ce matin, dans la Salle des Suisses du Pal Castel Gandolfo, le Saint Père Benoît XVI a reçu en audience les participants au Symposium promu par Foundation ».

L'EGLISE EST VIVANTE Le pape Benoît XVI et les représentants de la « Pave the Way Foundation ».

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Benoît XVI: « Pie XII n'épargna aucun effort pour intervenir, en faveur des Juifs »

Synthèse du discours du Saint-Père - LA VERITE HISTORIQUE SUR PIE XII

Le 18 septembre 2008 - Eucharistie Sacrement de la Miséricorde - Ce midi, Benoît XVI a reçu le symposium consacré à l'action pastc Pie XII, organisé par la Pave the Way Foundation, que préside M. Gary Krupp. A 50 ans de la mort de son prédécesseur (9 octobr a d'abord rappelé que durant cette longue période on avait beaucoup écrit et débattu sur ce pontificat, "sans toujours prése différents aspects d'une action pastorale très diversifiée". Puis il a souligné la volonté des organisateurs de "combler certaines lac documentée sur les interventions de Pie XII, notamment en faveur des juifs qui étaient alors persécutés en Europe dans le cad destiné à les exterminer totalement"

Benoît XVI a ensuite dit que lorsqu'on aborde Pie XII sans préjugés idéologiques, on saisit la sagesse humaniste de ce Pape, ' pastorale qui guida tout son ministère, et en particulier l'organisation de l'aide au peuple juif". La documentation rassemblée et la crédibles fait que ce symposium "offre à l'opinion publique une occasion de mieux connaître Pie XII et ce qu'il fit en faveur des ju régimes nazi et fasciste". Puis le Pape a souligné combien le symposium avait illustré les "nombreuses interventions con silencieusement car, dans le contexte politique de l'époque, c'était éviter le pire et sauver le plus grand nombre possible de person sollicitude paternelle de Pie XII, a poursuivi le Saint-Père, "ont été reconnus et salués durant et après la guerre par des personnalités juives, reconnaissantes de ce qu'il avait fait en leur faveur".

Le Pape Benoît XVI a lors remercié la Pave the Way Foudation pour sa promotion des rapports amicaux et du dialogue interreliç témoignage de paix, de charité et de réconciliation. J'espère, a-t-il conclu, que la commémoration de ce 50 anniversaire pern d'élargir les travaux consacrés aux multiples aspects de la vie et de l'oeuvre de Pie XII, pour une meilleure connaissance de la vé de tout préjugé subsistant".

Texte original du discours du Saint Père ▶ Anglais

ă Regarder la vidéo en Italien

▶ 50e anniversaire de la mort de Pie XII

► Pie XII et la doctrine catholique

Le site de « Pave the Way Foundation » Anglais



Nouveau: conseils aux personnes qui désirent recevoir les actualités ou consulter le site régulièrement: ICI

Sources : www.vaticar Ce document est destiné à l'information; il ne c Eucharistie sacrement de la miséricorde - (E.S.M. sur Google actualité) -



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e,"liturge", la leçon à Paris et à Lourdes - 16.09.08

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#### La fundación "Pave the Way" busca la verdad sobre Pío XII

Declaraciones a Zenit de su presidente tras el encuentro con el Pap

CASTEL GANDOLFO, jueves, 18 septiembre 2008 (ZENIT.org).- La fundación "Pave the Way" acaba de organizar un simposio en Roma para restablecer la verdad histórica sobre el compromiso de Pío XII a favor de los judíos. Su presidente, judío, Gary Krupp, ha confiado a Zenit sus impresiones después de que Benedicto XVI recibiera a los participantes en el congreso este jueves.

Krupp reconoce que será difícil disipar la "leyenda negra" sobre Pío XII, que han llegado a ser acusado de ser el Papa de Hitler.

"Nuestro simposio era sumamente significativo, dado que la fundación Pave the Way cree que este problema continuará incluso tras la apertura de los Archivos Secretos Vaticanos relativos a los años de la segunda guerra mundial", afirma Krupp, estadounidense, fundador de la "Pave the Way".

Explica que en el congreso se ha descubierto que muchos mensajes e instrucciones que dio Pío XII para salvar a judíos "fueron verbales o en código y los investigadores de archivos parece que creen que aquello que no se escribió no sucedió, y ante la falta de descubrimiento de nuevos documentos surgirán acusaciones de destrucción intencional de documentos".

El Papa Benedicto XVI aclaró este jueves en la audiencia que esta obra del pontífice fue desarrollada "de manera secreta y silenciosa precisamente porque, al tener en cuenta las situaciones concretas de ese complejo momento histórico, sólo así era posible evitar lo peor y salvar al mayor número posible de judíos".

Ante estos prejuicios, la fundación ha recogido los testimonios de judíos que fueron salvados por personas de la Iglesia católica en obediencia a indicaciones de Pío XII.

"Estos testimonios en vídeo y nuestro libro de documentos están abiertos al escrutinio de todo el mundo en nuestra página web www.ptwf.org", explica el fundador.

Por lo que se refiere a la audiencia que Benedicto XVI concedió este jueves a los historiadores y expertos, Krupp confiesa que "ha sido muy gratificante, pues el Papa fue sumamente amable al manifestar su gratitud a la Fundación 'Pave the Way' en nuestros esfuerzos por comenzar a ofrecer pruebas concretas e primera línea".

Por Jesús Colina

Puede verse el vídeo de la audiencia con el Papa en www.h2onews.org

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A un año del Motu Proprio Summorum Pontificum, ¿ya has asistido a alguna misa celebrada en latín según el misal de 1962?

Si, todas las semanas

Sí, algunas veces

Sí, una vez me invitaron a una

No, no he sabido de ningún lugar donde las celebren

No, mi obispo no dio permiso para celebrarlas

No, las iglesias donde las celebran son muy lejanas

No, no me interesa para nada asistir a una

No sabía que estaban permitidas



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Yarra Theological Union Open Day (12 October)
Multifaith Swinburne Club Centenary Celebration

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Pope Benedict XVI's address at Symposium On
Pius X...

Peace Ambassador to Visit Australia (Events: 22, 2...

"Women of Faith as Peacemakers" (24th September)

TV And Radio: ABC Religion and Ethics Newsletter f... Tuesday, 23 September 2008

#### **Interfaith symposium defends Pius XII**

Cathnews Published: September 19, 2008

A Rome interfaith symposium organised by US Catholics and Jews has backed the record of Pope Pius XII with documents showing the World War II pope intervened publicly and privately to save Jews.

<u>European Jewish News</u> reports the symposium, organised by the Pave the Way Foundation to mark the 50th anniversary of the death of Pope Pius XII, brought together Catholics and Jews in his defence.

The foundation claims the late Pope was the victim of a sinister "myth" to the effect that he was insensitive to the fate of Jews terrorised by Germany's Nazi regime and its death camps.

The group collected documentation aiming to prove Pius XII intervened publicly as well as in secret to save Jews and to encourage Catholic institutions to shelter them.

These documents include diplomatic telegrams and testimony of people saved thanks to his intervention, according to the symposium.

The foundation is asking that Yad Vashem, the Holocaust memorial in Jerusalem, withdraw from its permanent exhibition a text that the group considers defamatory towards Pius XII.

In February, the Vatican said it would not block steps under way for the beatification of Pius XII, despite criticism from many historians and numerous Jewish associations about the former pontiffs attitude towards the Holocaust.

Gary Krupp, an American Jew who is president and founder of Pave the Way, told the Pope the group's investigation "directly contradicts the negative perception of the pope's war time activities." Haaretz adds.

In an address to the Pave the Way Foundation, Pope Benedict said that "when one draws close to this noble Pope, free from ideological prejudices", one must recognise the "courageous dedication" of Pope Pacelli to saving as many Jews as possible from the Nazi devastation during the second world war.

Praising the symposium organisers, Pope Benedict noted that in November 1945, some six months after the end of the war, 80 delegates of German concentration camps came to the Vatican to thank Pius.

The symposium's documents included numerous newspaper clippings of Jewish leaders thanking Pius during and after the conflict and former Israeli Prime Minister Golda Meir saying: "When fearful martyrdom came to our people in the decade of Nazi terror, the voice of the Pope was raised for the victims."

"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", the Pope said.

"It is my great hope", he concluded, "that this year, which marks the 50th 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.

During his visit to Paris last week, Pope Benedict also reminded representatives from France's Jewish community that Pius XII had called Nazism a period of "darkness".

The Pope will celebrate a mass on October 5 in the Vatican's Saint Peter's Basilica to mark the anniversary.

See also:

Pope Pius XII tried to save European Jews: Rome symposium (European Jewish Press, 18/9/08)
Pope: Pius XII spared no effort, including secret ones, to save Jews (AsiaNews, 18/9/08)
Pope Benedict: Pius XII 'spared no effort' to help Jews during WWII (Haaretz, 18/9/08)
Understanding the historical truth about Pius XII (VIS, 18/9/08)

And the full text of the Holy Father's speech.

Labels: Conferences, Interfaith, Italy, News September 2008, Pius XII, Pope at Tuesday, September 23, 2008

#### Communio

...bearing with one another in love, making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

## Pope Benedict addresses Pope Pius XII study group

By Paul Zalonskion September 18, 2008 7:16 AM | Permalink | Comments (0)

Pope Benedict met today with the <u>Pave the Way Foundation</u> (PTWF). The PTWF met in Rome this week to hold a symposium to study the papacy of <u>Pope Pius XII</u>. "Pave the Way has identified this period in history as one of the most difficult between Catholics and Jews, and so we have taken on this challenge in the furtherance of our mission" says PTWF President, Gary L. Krupp. "PTWF has launched an independent investigation by video interviewing eye witnesses to events of war years. We have uncovered a great deal of information which is not known by any of the scholarly institutions including the Vatican itself." Krupp believes there is considerable evidence from eye witnesses and other archival materials to help to answer questions of what in fact the Pius XII papacy did during World War II and its importance today.

#### In his audience the Pope said:

The focus of your [Pave the Way Foundation] 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 29th of November 1945 with eighty delegates of German

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About the author

Paul A. Zalonski is from New Haven, CT. After years of study, work and trying to find meaning in life, he still has a sense of humor. Paul is verifying his vocation as a Benedictine monk by living as a postulant (long-term observer) at St. Mary's Abbey, Morristown, NJ. Living the life of a monk with the daily rhythm of prayer, work, study and community life aids the discernment of God's plan. Contact Paul at paulzalonski(at) yahoo.com.

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About this Entry

This page contains a single entry by <u>Paul Zalonski</u> published on *September 18*, 2008 7:16 AM.

Benedictine Abbots to meet in Rome was the previous entry in this blog.

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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.

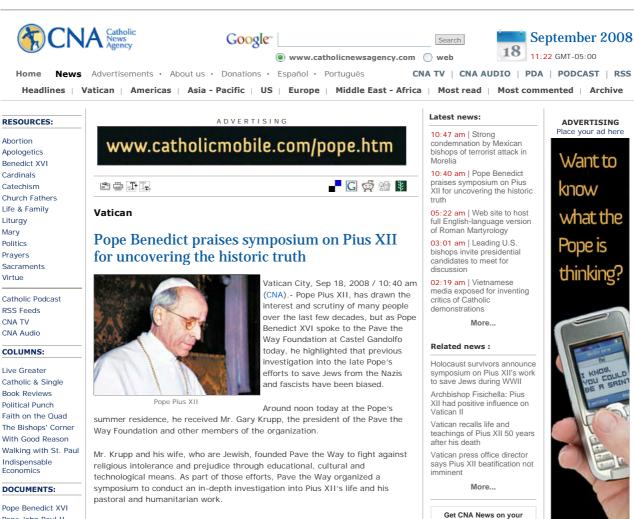
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Noting that 50 years have passed since the October 9, 1958 death of the Servant of God Pius XII, the Holy Father pointed out that although "so much has been written and said of him during these last five decades,  $\dots$  not all of the genuine facets of his diverse pastoral activity have been examined in a just

The symposium aimed to address some of these deficiencies by "conducting a careful and documented examination of many of his interventions, especially those in favor 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," the Pope said.

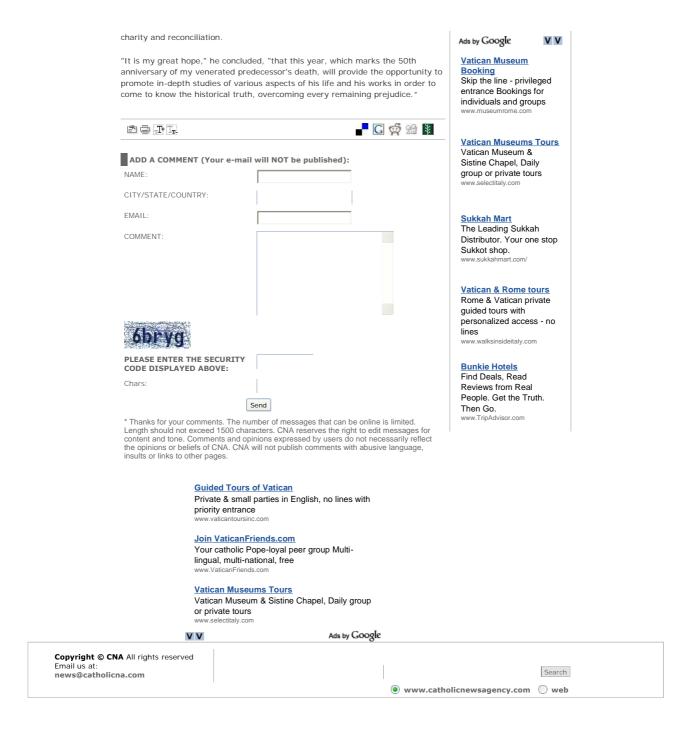
"When one draws close to this noble Pope," observed Benedict XVI, "one can come to appreciate the human wisdom and pastoral intensity which guided him in his long years of ministry, especially in providing organized assistance to the Jewish people.

Pope Benedict then went on to thank the foundation for "the vast quantity of documented material which you have gathered, supported by many authoritative testimonies," because, as he explained "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 of the many aspects of the symposium that Pope Benedict praised was how the foundation's work "had drawn attention to Pope Pius' 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 special event that Benedict XVI recalled. "Pius XII's meeting on the 29th 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

Pope Benedict thanked the Pave the Way Foundation "for its ongoing activity in promoting relationships and dialogue between religions, as witnesses of peace,





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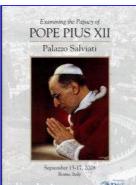
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**FaithWorld** RELIGION, FAITH AND ETHICS

Rome looks at Pius XII papacy as death anniversary

Posted by: Philip Pullella

Tags: FaithWorld, catholic, history, holocaust, jews, nazi, pope pius xii, vatican



On October 9, Pope Benedict will lead the Roman Catholic Church in marking the 50th anniversary of the death of Pope Pius XII. There is a lot of interest in what Benedict will say in his homily about his predecessor, arguably the most controversial pontiff of the 20th century because of what he did or did not do to save Jews during the Holocaust. On October 21, the Vatican will open a photographic exhibition on his papacy and on Nov 6-8, two pontifical universities in Rome, the Lateran and the Gregorian, will jointly sponsor a conference on nis papacy

An indication of what Benedict might say on October 9 can be found in his address on September 18 to the Pave the Way Foundation, a mixed Jewish-Catholic group based in the United States and headed by Gary Krupp, a

The New Hork Times

Jew who is also a Knight Commander of the Pontifical Equestrian Order of St Gregory the Great. Pave the Way held a unique three-day symposium in Rome in the days leading up to their audience with the pope at his summer residence at Castel Gandolfo.

The title of the symposium was "Examining the Papacy of Pope Pius XII". It was attended by, among others, panalists such as Sister Magherita Marchione, an American nun who is feisty despite her 86 years and who has written extensively in defence of Pius, Fr. Peter Gumpel, the Jesuit who is the relator of the cause for Pius' sainthood, Eugene J. Fisher, who was in charge of Catholic-Jewish relations for the U.S. National Conference of Catholic Bishops (NCCB) from 1997 to 2007, and Andrea Tornielli, an Italian journalist who has has written extensively on Pius XII and whose most recent biography on the pontiff was released last year

One interesting aspect of the symposium was the 200-page dossier that it produced. It is a very useful, user-friendly compendium in defence of Pius. While much of the material was already known to scholars, seeing it all between two covers could potentially sway some of Pius's detractors.

The New Hork Times Pope Has Long Talk With Taylor; Move to Aid Jews in France Seer By DANIEL BERGHAM by Inneres of the Rev York Turns interpolation that it or velopments of the Feeting in Frience, Vations repit the Yorky government, which is asses-officesting or "designed to curry a rea in the cross of the horizontal Feeting of the sensent Feety Levels of workers," has size Continued on Page 78

For example, it contains a confidential 1939 State

Department memo from a U.S. diplomat who knew Pius when he was Vatican nuncio in Berlin before the war and before he became pope. He said that, in a meeting with the then Cardinal Eugenio Pacelli, the future pontiff described Hitler as "not only as an untrustworthy scoundrel but as a fundamentally wicked person." The diplomat said Pius had told him he "opposed unalterably every compromise with National Socialism'

The dossier also includes many other entries from individuals and scholars aimed at debunking the concept made popular first in 1963 with the publication of Rolf Hochhuth's play *The Deputy*, which

accused Pius of being an anti-Semite and a Hitler collaborator, and later in 1999 following John Cornwell's highly controversial book calling Pius Hitler's Pope The symposium's dossier also includes copies of of newspaper clippings from The New York Times, Reuters, The Associated Press, Palestine Post (later Jerusalem

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You Witness News Post) and other news organisations in the period before, during and after the war reporting on Pius efforts to help the Jews and his speeches on their behalf. Partner Services CareerBuilder While the dossier, much of which is available on-line, may not convince the most hardened of Pius' detractors, it certainly is a very useful addition to the ongoing Affiliate Network **Professional Products** debate in what may prove to be a pivitol year. Support (Customer Zone) Reuters Media Rome isn't the only place where Financial Products Pius is under review. In Pope Pius Given Credit For Saving Jews' Lives Find a financial adviser Germany, Hubert Wolf, a Catholic priest and church **About Reuters** history professor at Münster University, has just published Papst und Teufel (Pope and Devil), a study of Vatican relations with Germany in the turbulent period from 1917 to 1939. Based on documents PAYE from the Vatican archive, whose files have been opened up until Pius's election as pope in 1939 Wolf recounts the internal Vatican debates on how to deal with the Nazis, whether to put Hitler's Mein Kampf on the Index of Prohibited Books (they didn't) and how to speak out against growing anti-Semitism in Germany (through the 1937 encyclical Mit brennender Sorge). What do you think about Pius? Has he been maligned? Is the tide of opinion turning Post a comment I | Carrie Trackback POST YOUR COMMENT Email (will not be published) (required) Website Anti-spam word: (Required)\* To prove you're a person (not a spam script), type the security word shown in the picture. Click on the picture to hear an audio file of the word. stay

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#### **American Jews Defend Pope Pius XII**

Posted on September 22, 2008 by bfhu



By JOHN L. ALLEN JR. Rome

Defenders of Pius XII, whose alleged silence on the Holocaust is a source of tension between Jews and Catholics, met in Rome this week to project a more positive image of the wartime pope. While that's perhaps not remarkable, the aegis under which they gathered certainly is – a foundation called "Pave the Way," dedicated to interreligious understanding and led by an American Jew.

The organizer of the Sept. 15-17 conference at Rome's Palazzo Salviati, which included a number of Jews in the audience, is New York businessman and philanthropist Gary Krupp. While making his living in the medical supply business, Krupp became a benefactor of a hospital in southern Italy founded by the legendary Capuchin stigmatic Padre Pio, and is today one of just a handful of non-Catholics to belong to the papal Knights of St. Gregory.

Improbably, Krupp, who says he grew up "hating" Pius XII, has emerged as a passionate defender of the pontiff once famously excoriated as "Hitler's Pope."

"It's our obligation to recognize somebody who saved more Jews than all the other world leaders and religious leaders combined," Krupp said in an interview with NCR. "This man should be raised up as righteous among the nations, not demonized."

Krupp referred to the negative portrayal of Pius XII in some Jewish circles — including a critical placard at Yad Vashem, the main Holocaust memorial in Israel — as a *shonda*, the Hebrew word for "shame."

While Krupp represents a distinctly minority view within Judaism, he is not alone. Sir Martin Gilbert, the distinguished Jewish historian in England, has praised Pius XII's efforts to save Jews, and American Rabbi David Dalin has proposed that Yad Vashem recognize Pius as "righteous among the nations." Probably no one, however, has devoted more time and energy –including his own financial resources – to the defense of Pius XII.

Krupp argued it's in the best interests of Judaism and Israel to pursue better relations with the Catholic church.

"Today, we're faced with people such as the president of Iran who want to see us wiped off the map," Krupp said. "Don't you think that 1.2

billion friends might be good to have?"

The lineup at Krupp's symposium featured a "who's who" of leading defenders of Pius XII, including Filippini Sr. Margherita Marchione of Farleigh Dickinson University in New Jersey; Ronald Rychlak, a Catholic law professor at the University of Mississippi; William Doino, author of *The Pius War*; Andrea Tornielli, a prominent Italian journalist; and Fr. Peter Gumpel, relator for the sainthood cause of Pius XII.

NCR e-mail alerts

Ironically, the conference was held in the location where slightly more than 1,000 Roman Jews were brought before their deportation to Nazi concentration camps on Oct. 16, 1943. Several participants argued that the reason just 1,000 of some 6,700 Jews in Rome were rounded up that day was the personal intervention of Pius XII.

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Organizers published a 200-page glossy book offering documentation of Pius' efforts to save Jews, including transcripts of eyewitnesses and previously secret material culled from diplomatic archives in Germany, Italy, the United Kingdom and the United States.

The case for the defense of Pius XII, as presented during the conference, is highly complex, but in essence it pivots on three claims:

- Charges that Pius XII was "silent" are false, because he spoke on numerous occasions in defense of Jews, in ways that were abundantly clear to everyone at the time and for decades afterwards;
- If he did not directly and dramatically condemn Hitler or National Socialism, it was because he had well-founded fears that doing so might unleash greater persecution upon both Catholics and Jews;
- Behind the scenes, he mobilized church resources in multiple ways to save Jews.

To take an example of the kinds of stories told at the conference, Rychlak recalled that the pope's summer residence at Castel Gandolfo was turned into a sanctuary for refugees during the war, including scores of Jews. Pius' own bedroom was converted into a makeshift nursery, and some 40 babies were born there. A June 1944 article in the *Palestine Post* records a group of Jews who had taken shelter in Castel Gandolfo passing on their thanks to the pope.

Gumpel also reported that during his official investigation for Pius' sainthood cause, he discovered that the pope had placed his housekeeper, Sr. Pasqualina Lehnert, in charge of the Vatican storerooms during the war, and personally directed her to drive trucks with food and other supplies out to religious houses around Rome where Jews were being sheltered.

"These are the kinds of things that anti-Semites just don't do," Krupp said.

Eugene Fisher, former expert for the U.S. bishops on Catholic/Jewish relations and another speaker at the Rome conference, said this sort of information has a hard time competing with the critics in the court of public opinion.

"The books attacking Pius get major reviews, but those defending him are ignored," Fisher said. "All people ever hear is the negative side, because it's all that filters through the press."

In his address, Fisher proposed one step he feels the Vatican could take to bolster the pro-Pius argument: Opening its archives from his papacy, at least up to the end of the war and the immediate post-war years.

"The sooner the archives up to 1948 are open, the better," Fisher said. "It would ease an enormous amount of pressure." The fact that the archives have only been selectively released, Fisher said, is a "symbolic issue for the organized Jewish community."

At least some in the audience seemed impressed.

Filed under: Pope

"Prior to coming to this conference, I had heard negative things about Pius XII for 50 years," said Howard Graff, a Jew from Chicago who serves chairman of the Illinois Masonic Charities Fund.

"I'll go home with a more open, balanced view, and I believe that's good," he said.

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(Philadelphia Evening Bulletin) - ...Hitler's Pope has been criticized for its accuracy and dedication to objective history, and Mr. Cornwell admits that since its publication, his views have undergone revision.

"While I believe with many commentators that the pope might have done more to help the plight of the Jews, I now feel, 10 years after the publication of my book, that his scope for action was severely limited and I am prepared to state this," he said....

#### read full story here

THE CATHOLIC KNIGHT: Ten years after the bombshell book, hyper media criticism, and forty years after the communist propaganda first hit the American public, Pope Pius XII has finally been vindicated....

(ANSA) - Vatican City, September 17 - New research clears controversial wartime pope Pius XII from the accusation that he did not do enough to save Jews, Pope Benedict XVI said on Thursday.

It is the first time the pope has come out publicly to defend the record of his WWII predecessor, who is moving towards sainthood despite accusations of keeping silent about the Holocaust....

.... The pope thanked the Pave the Way Foundation, made up of Catholics and Jews, for uncovering the evidence in favour of Pius.

He voiced the hope that further studies can reinforce "the historical truth, overcoming all remaining prejudice". Benedict's statement on the new research - which has not yet been made public - follows last year's assertion by his No.2, Cardinal Tarcisio Bertone, that people

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ignore evidence disproving Pius was indulgent towards Hitler.

Pius was the victim of a "black legend", said Bertone, the Vatican Secretary of State....

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(CWNews.com) - The Vatican has confirmed the existence of a directive from Pope Pius XII, asking Catholic clergy and religious to shelter Jews from the Holocaust.

Cardinal Tarcisio Bertone (bio - news), the Vatican Secretary of State, acknowledged in short April 19 announcement that Pope Pius XII issued instructions for all religious institutions to open their doors to Jewish people. The catacombs of Rome were also made available for shelter....

read full story here

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(CNA).- A former high-ranking officer with the KGB claims that the Kremlin and the Russian intelligence agency in the 1960s were set on executing a smear campaign against the Catholic Church, and the main target was Pope Pius XII.

In a recent issue of the National Review Online, Lt. General Ion Mihai Pacepa, who eventually defected from the former Soviet bloc, recounts how the KGB and the Kremlin designed the deliberate campaign to portray the Pius XII "as a coldhearted Nazi sympathizer."

"In February 1960, Nikita Khrushchev approved a super-secret plan for destroying the Vatican's moral authority in Western Europe," writes Pacepa. "Eugenio Pacelli, by then Pope Pius XII, was selected as the KGB's main target, its incarnation of evil, because he had departed this world in 1958. 'Dead men cannot defend themselves' was the KGB's latest slogan."

The code name for this operation against Pope Pius XII was "Seat-12."

#### read full story here

There was no "Hitler's Pope." The whole thing was a fabrication, a lie, invented by the Soviet KGB, in a plan called "Seat 12," devised for the sole purpose of undermining the moral authority of the Catholic Church over the western world. It was enthusiastically embraced by the enemies of the Catholic Church on both sides of the political spectrum. The Secular Left loved it! The Religious Right used it. (I even had a Jehovah's Witness at my door preach it to me.) Oh how eager so many where to believe the lie! Even

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some Catholics jumped on the bandwagon. The criticism from the Leftwing biased media was unending. We heard it from all the major television and cable networks. After Cornwell's 'Hitler's Pope' was published, literally dozens of knock off books followed. The television preachers, oh how many television preachers, included it in their sermons. Some Evangelical authors included it in their own books on apologetics and eschatology. Millions upon millions of unsuspecting Evangelicals were subjected to this lie, many of whom still believe it, because they trust the television preacher who told them. (I can't even count the number of times I've been confronted about it by misinformed Evangelicals.) It was perhaps one of the greatest lies of our time - the whopper of the century!

We can learn a lot about those who enthusiastically embraced it, who went out of their way to spread it around, and took every opportunity to rub it in the face of any Catholic who would dare defend the Church on anything. Shall we call it "prejudice?" Perhaps "bigotry" might be a better word. So what are we to say of those Catholics who actually embraced it, using it as an excuse to rationalize their opposition to the Church on this issue or that? What shame! What scandal! What embarrassment! Shame on all those who engaged in this nonsense! Dishonor and disrepute upon those who eagerly embraced such a lie, that so seriously defamed the Church, without even questioning it!

So what are we to say of the mainstream news media? Do we see primetime retractions in their news broadcasts? Do we get so much as an inkling of regret for having slandered the Church for so many years? No. Not a peep out of them. How about the Secular Left-wingers out there? Any apologies? None. There is nothing but silence. What about the Religious Right-wingers? I'll give them credit. At least some have apologized. A few (especially those who understand what it's like to be slandered) never believed it to begin with. To them I give thanks.

Don't get me wrong. I'm not holding a grudge here, and I wouldn't advise that any of us do. Rather, I would like to use this whole thing as an object lesson for Catholics, Protestants and non-religious people alike. Prejudice can just as well be defined as eagerly embracing bad news about somebody (or some people) without ever questioning the validity of the news itself, or even the credibility of the source who reported it.

The fabrication of "Hitler's Pope" is the epitome of this. The KGB introduced this lie to the western world in 1963 via a German author and playwright named Rolf Hochhuth. The play, entitled "The Deputy," was introduced as fiction. The pope in the play was never mentioned by name. The incriminating accusations against the pope were made by suggestion

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and insinuation. Hochhuth himself was raised in Nazi Germany and was a member of Hitler's Youth. While that itself is not incriminating, since service was compulsory, his refusal to talk about it, combined with his defense of those who deny the Holocaust, does tarnish his reputation a bit. It is not known if Hochhuth was directly hired by the KGB to write the play, or if the KGB simply used his material as an opportunity. Only two things are known as fact. The first is that the KGB was authorized by the Soviet Kremlin to smear the reputation of Pope Pius XII after his death in a plan named "Seat 12." The second, is that Rolf Hochhuth wrote the play that started the job. Beyond that we can surmise that Soviet involvement helped to promote the ideas of the play throughout Europe and North America, eventually coming to a climax in John Cornwell's 1999 bombshell book "Hitler's Pope." It can be reasonably assumed that Cornwell was simply operating on the momentum of the propaganda itself, and was probably not working for the KGB, since the Soviet Union fell almost a decade earlier. By this time the KGB's lies had taken on a life of their own, that outlived those who originally promoted them. Cornwell might be considered a victim of this by some, but the obvious distortions in the book causes 'The Catholic Knight' to question his culpability. It would seem to me that Cornwell may have been a victim of Soviet propaganda, but it was his own prejudice that caused him to write his book the way he did. Just to cite a small example of this, the cover of the book features a black and white photo that appears to show the image of Pope Pius XII being saluted by a Nazi officer. In fact, the photo is doctored. A comparison of the original photo with the book cover, reveals that the supposed Nazi officer is actually a civilian cab driver. Deception begins even before the book is opened, while the fables and inaccuracies written therein have been exposed and rebuffed by many historians. Cornwell is responsible for his own libel against Pius XII. Thankfully, for his sake, he is finally starting to admit his error.

Soon Pope Pius XII will be canonized as a saint, and when he is, all of this will be drudged up again for a public to see. This time, however, they'll be given the other side of the story, the whole story, and the world will see just how low the enemies of the Church will sink to slander the name of a good man in the hopes of tarnishing the Church's moral authority. A word to the wise for critics of the Catholic Church, especially those in the mainstream media. You've been played! You've been suckered! Nearly half a century ago a lie was concocted by communists on the other side of the world, and you bought it! They used you. You fell for it, and now it's come out that you unwittingly cooperated with communists to spread KGB propaganda. Are you feeling a little sheepish now? You should. If you don't, you should be worried about yourself. So the lesson is this. Next time you hear a supposed "fact" about the history of the Catholic Church, you might want

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to do a little research before you believe it. Maybe you ought to check the sources. Maybe you should allow a little skepticism to enter your mind, the next time somebody tells you a "scandalous" tale about the world's largest Christian organization. It's just a little friendly advice. Take it for what it's worth.

POSTED BY THE CATHOLIC KNIGHT AT 10:00 PM

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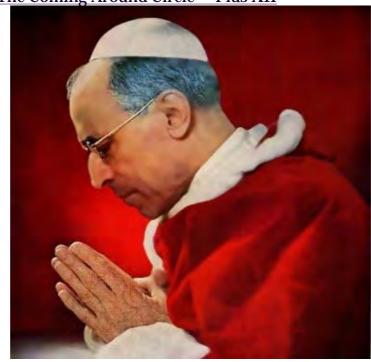
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The Coming Around Circle -- Pius XII



The following article was published in The Catholic Spirit, a newspaper of the Archdiocese of Minneapolis-St. Paul.

Jewish leader says Pope Pius XII has been demonized falsely

By Carol Glatz - Catholic News Service Monday, 15 September 2008

Pope Pius XII has been demonized and his legacy of helping Jews during World War II has been poisoned by inaccurate and incomplete historical accounts, said the Jewish founder and president of Pave the Way Foundation.

Pope Pius XII, who led the Catholic Church from 1939 to 1958, is seen in an undated formal portrait - CNS photo "We have to change history" and tell the world the truth about this wartime pope "who saved so many lives," Gary Krupp, foundation president, told Catholic News Service, He spoke at the start of a Sept. 15-17 symposium that studied the papacy of Pope Pius and unveiled new evidence of the pope's hidden acts and orders aimed at saving Jews from the Nazis. The symposium, sponsored by the U.S.-based foundation, featured Catholic and Jewish speakers and video footage of interviews with people who were saved from the Holocaust through the church's intervention. "The scholars, the

Septermber 8, 2008 **Hearing His Voice:** Sunday, September <u>7, 2008</u> <u>Vatican Discipline:</u> <u>Medjugorje</u> Spiritual Director... Servant and Steward: Friday, September 5, 2008 Fishing: Reflection for <u>September 4, 2008</u> **Gregory the Great:** Reflection for September 2, 20... Religion and Education <u>Labor Day, September</u> 1, 2008

- ► August (16)
- ► July (33)

#### **About Me**



REV. MILTON E. JORDAN

Senior Priest, St. Joseph's On Capitol Hill Parish View my complete profile historians have failed, they've simply failed over the last 45 years" to retrieve and present firsthand accounts from eyewitnesses, Holocaust survivors, diplomats and archival material, Krupp said. Some authors also have based their accounts not on facts, but opinions and "nonsense" which "are poisoning the memory of this man," Krupp said. He told CNS Sept. 15 he grew up hating Pope Pius, thinking the pontiff did nothing to stop the slaughter of 6 million Jews. But years later, he was shocked to discover through his own amateur research that the pope had been far more active in directing a clandestine network of safe houses for people escaping Nazi persecution through the church's religious orders, communities, convents and seminaries in Europe. Krupp said of the 60-70 guests he invited to attend the symposium, all of them had been suspicious of or negative toward Pope Pius' actions during the war. Audience members included rabbis or their representatives from Europe and Israel. He said experience showed that if a European leader was outspoken against Nazi persecution, it did nothing to reverse the injustices. On the contrary, it resulted in accelerated or widened persecution of the Jews and those speaking out on their behalf, he said. Therefore, keeping the pope and the church's good works hidden was crucial, he said. Krupp said the time has come for the world "to forgive Pius XII for not talking the talk but truly commend him for walking the walk."

Posted by Rev. Milton E. Jordan at 9:14 AM

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#### American Jew comes to the defense of Pius XII

Posted on Sep 17, 2008 06:05am CST.

Print Friendly Version

By JOHN L. ALLEN JR.

Rome

Defenders of Pius XII, whose alleged silence on the Holocaust is a source of tension between Jews and Catholics, met in Rome this week to project a more positive image of the wartime pope. While that's perhaps not remarkable, the aegis under which they gathered certainly is – a foundation called "Pave the Way," dedicated to interreligious understanding and led by an American Jew.

The organizer of the Sept. 15-17 conference at Rome's Palazzo Salviati, which included a number of Jews in the audience, is New York businessman and philanthropist Gary Krupp. While making his living in the medical supply business, Krupp became a benefactor of a hospital in southern Italy founded by the legendary Capuchin stigmatic Padre Pio, and is today one of just a handful of non-Catholics to belong to the papal Knights of St. Gregory.

Improbably, Krupp, who says he grew up "hating" Pius XII, has emerged as a passionate defender of the pontiff once famously excoriated as "Hitler's Pope."

"It's our obligation to recognize somebody who saved more Jews than all the other world leaders and religious leaders combined," Krupp said in an interview with *NCR*. "This man should be raised up as righteous among the nations, not demonized."

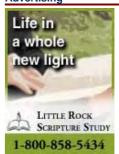
Krupp referred to the negative portrayal of Pius XII in some Jewish circles -- including a critical placard at Yad Vashem, the main Holocaust memorial in Israel -- as a *shonda*, the Hebrew word for "shame."

While Krupp represents a distinctly minority view within Judaism, he is not alone. Sir Martin Gilbert, the distinguished Jewish historian in England, has praised Pius XII's efforts to save Jews, and American Rabbi David Dalin has proposed that Yad Vashem recognize Pius as "righteous among the nations." Probably no one, however, has devoted more time and energy –including his own financial resources – to the defense of Pius XII.

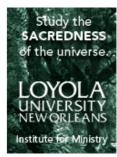
Krupp argued it's in the best interests of Judaism and Israel to pursue better relations with the Catholic church.

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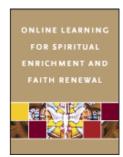
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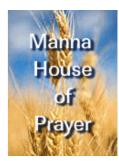
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want to see us wiped off the map," Krupp said. "Don't you think that 1.2 billion friends might be good to have?"

The lineup at Krupp's symposium featured a "who's who" of leading defenders of Pius XII, including Filippini Sr. Margherita Marchione of Farleigh Dickinson University in New Jersey; Ronald Rychlak, a Catholic law professor at the University of Mississippi; William Doino, author of *The Pius War*; Andrea Tornielli, a prominent Italian journalist; and Fr. Peter Gumpel, relator for the sainthood cause of Pius XII.

Ironically, the conference was held in the location where slightly more than 1,000 Roman Jews were brought before their deportation to Nazi concentration camps on Oct. 16, 1943. Several participants argued that the reason just 1,000 of some 6,700 Jews in Rome were rounded up that day was the personal intervention of Pius XII.



Organizers published a 200-page glossy book offering documentation of Pius' efforts to save Jews, including transcripts of eyewitnesses and previously secret material culled from diplomatic archives in Germany, Italy, the United Kingdom and the United States.

The case for the defense of Pius XII, as presented during the conference, is highly complex, but in essence it pivots on three claims:

- Charges that Pius XII was "silent" are false, because he spoke on numerous occasions in defense of Jews, in ways that were abundantly clear to everyone at the time and for decades afterwards;
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- Behind the scenes, he mobilized church resources in multiple ways to save Jews.

To take an example of the kinds of stories told at the conference, Rychlak recalled that the pope's summer residence at Castel Gandolfo was turned into a sanctuary for refugees during the war, including scores of Jews. Pius' own bedroom was converted into a makeshift nursery, and some 40 babies were born there. A June 1944 article in the *Palestine Post* records a group of Jews who had taken shelter in Castel Gandolfo passing on their thanks to the pope.

Gumpel also reported that during his official investigation for Pius' sainthood cause, he discovered that the pope had placed his housekeeper, Sr. Pasqualina Lehnert, in charge of the Vatican storerooms during the war, and personally directed her to drive trucks with food and other supplies out to religious houses around Rome where Jews were being sheltered.

"These are the kinds of things that anti-Semites just don't do," Krupp said.

Eugene Fisher, former expert for the U.S. bishops on Catholic/Jewish relations and another speaker at the Rome conference, said this sort of information has a hard time competing with the critics in the court of public opinion.

"The books attacking Pius get major reviews, but those defending him are ignored," Fisher said. "All people ever hear is the negative side, because it's all that filters through the press."

In his address, Fisher proposed one step he feels the Vatican could take to bolster the pro-Pius argument: Opening its archives from his papacy, at least up to the end of the war and the immediate post-war years.

"The sooner the archives up to 1948 are open, the better," Fisher said. "It would ease an enormous amount of pressure." The fact that the archives have only been selectively released, Fisher said, is a "symbolic issue for the organized Jewish community."

At least some in the audience seemed impressed.

"Prior to coming to this conference, I had heard negative things about Pius XII for 50 years," said Howard Graff, a Jew from Chicago who serves chairman of the Illinois Masonic Charities Fund.

"I'll go home with a more open, balanced view, and I believe that's good," he said.

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David Shariatmadari

## Pope Benedict defends role of wartime pontiff

By Ed West 26 September 2008

Pope Benedict XVI has launched an impassioned defence of his predecessor Pius XII - in a move seen as a signal that the wartime pontiff is to be beatified. At a conference last week Jewish scholars and rabbis from around the world said that the reputation of the wartime pope was much maligned and that he helped to save nearly a million Jewish lives.

Pius XII worked courageously, secretly and silently to save Jews targeted by the Nazis, Pope Benedict said, and their "criminal plan ... to eliminate them from the face of the earth".

"Wherever possible," he said, Pope Pius "spared no effort in intervening in their favour" and in providing organised assistance to the Jews either directly or through Catholic religious institutes.

The Holy Father was speaking at an international symposium to examine the papacy of Pius XII.

The conference was held at Castel Gandolfo, the Pope's residence south of Rome, and was attended by 80 people at the Pope's invitation. The event was organised by the American interfaith group, the Pave the Way Foundation. Among the participants were representatives from the Jewish world including rabbis and scholars from Europe, Israel and North America.

It was the first time a pope has defended Pius XII's wartime record publicly. In May last year members of the Congregation for the Causes of Saints voted unanimously to recommend that Pope Benedict formally declare Pope Pius Venerable, but Benedict XVI put the Cause on hold seven months later. He established a commission to study archive material about Pius's papacy and to examine how his beatification might affect Catholic-Jewish relations

Jesuit Fr Peter Gumpel, a historian and investigating judge of Pius's Cause, was one of the panellists at the September symposium. He said he has "no doubt that sooner or later Pope Benedict is going to sign" the decree recognising Pope Pius as Venerable. He said the "real problem" is the controversy over Jews' perception of Pope Pius.

Addressing the seminar Pope Benedict said that "not all of the genuine facets" of Pope Pius's pontificate have been examined "in just light" in the 50 years since his death in October 1958. Critics say Pius did not speak out against the Nazi genocide of the Jews. But Pope Benedict said many of Pope Pius's efforts to support the Jews were "made secretly and silently" because "in that difficult historical moment, only in this way was it possible to avoid the worst and save the greatest number of Jews".

Gary Krupp, the Jewish founder and president of the Pave the Way Foundation, told the Pope in his speech that "the Catholic Church under the pontificate of Pius XII was instrumental in saving the lives of as many as 860,000 Jews from certain death at Nazi hands".

After the audience Mr Krupp said that Pope Benedict "was very appreciative" of the organisation's extensive research, which had suggested that the popular, negative image of Pius XII "is completely wrong".

He also presented the Pope with nine video testimonies from Holocaust survivors and other eyewitnesses to Vatican humanitarian efforts, and a 200-page book of documentation compiled by the foundation and unveiled at the Rome symposium.

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The organisers had invited several Jewish representatives who believed that Pius had done nothing to save Jews in order to persuade them otherwise. However, while many accepted the invitation, representatives from three major Jewish museums did not attend and even refused the offer of a live video feed.

They had wanted in particular to convince curators of the Yad Vashem Holocaust Memorial that their picture display of Pope Pius was inaccurate. The caption of the pope at the Jerusalem museum states that he did nothing to condemn the Nazis and their mass murder of the Jews.

Pius XII's behaviour during the Nazi era has been the source of controversy ever since the end of the Second World War.

Gerard Noel, author of the recently published biography Hound of Hitler, said: "Pius XII was one of the greatest but most misunderstood of modern popes. It can only be hoped that he will now begin to be seen in an entirely new light. The words about him by Pope Benedict XVI are all the more welcome.

"Pius was neither pro-Nazi nor anti-Semitic. He had, however, a grand design for the Church and the by-product of this design was a series of concordats with various countries, the most important being that with Nazi Germany in 1933. The subsequent disappearance of the Catholic Centre Party paved the way for the victory of Nazism.

"He did everything he could personally for individual Jews he helped then as far as he could, but he was a very timid, cautious man, and he was afraid the Church might split. Still, he was a really great man, a very great pope. He's been very badly treated by history, totally misunderstood."

But John Cornwell, author of Hitler's Pope, the most critical biography of Pius XII, said the reputation was generally well-deserved. He said He added: "No amount of citation of Pacelli's deeds of mercy towards Jews, which are undeniable, or his cautiously restricted denunciations of Hitler, can refute that charge, In the spring of 1933 Pacelli negotiated a treaty with Hitler that ensured withdrawal of Catholics from social and political action in Germany in exchange for various benefits, especially for Catholic education.

"Then, in a move, cited by Professor Owen Chadwick as 'one of the most controversial acts of German history', Mgr Ludwig Kaas, head of the Catholic Centre Party in Germany, persuaded his parliamentary colleagues to vote for Hitler's bid to assume dictatorial powers. The Centre Party vote proved decisive in establishing the Nazi dictatorship. That the party dissolved itself voluntarily rather than compulsorily conveyed an impression of Catholic endorsement of Hitler in the eyes of Germany and the world."

Mr Cornwell added: "On the question of the wartime silence, Pius XII, it appears, did nothing to stop the round-up and transport of Jews from Rome in 1943. But evidence published in the last 10 years indicates that Pius may well have been trapped by circumstances - speaking out may have had worse consequences than doing nothing."

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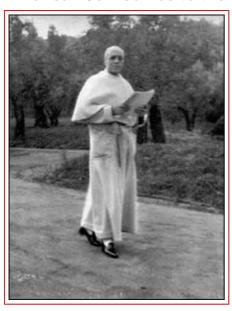
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#### American Jew comes to the defense of Pius XII



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## Pave the Way Foundation's Address to Pope

Working to "End the Malevolent and the Illegal Use of Religion"

CASTEL GANDOLFO, Italy, SEPT. 18, 2008 (Zenit.org).- Here is the address Gary Krupp, president of the Pave the Way Foundation, gave today upon meeting Benedict XVI at the apostolic palace of Castel Gandolfo, south of Rome.

The Pope granted an audience to the participants of the congress "Examining the Papacy of Pope Pius XII," which was organized by the foundation. The three-day symposium ended Wednesday.

\* \* \*

You Holiness, The mission of Pave the Way Foundation is to end the malevolent and the illegal use of religion. We begin this process by establishing credible and trusted relationships through our historic gestures of good will and with the identification and elimination of obstacles between the faiths.

Some examples of our projects are that we worked for over 20 years to help the equipment acquisition of the hospital of St. Padre Pio here in Italy. We worked behind the scenes to remove obstacles and to move the fundamental agreements with the Israeli government and the Holy See. We initiated the Jewish thank you to Pope John Paul II for his efforts to achieve religious reconciliation. We brought the manuscripts of Maimonides for the first time in history from the Vatican Library to the state of Israel, and in 2007, we implemented the gift to your library of the oldest manuscripts of the Gospels of St. John and St. Luke, the Bodmer papyrus.

Your Holiness, for all of these benevolent projects I wish recognize, in your presence, one who has dedicated over 20 years behind the scenes to help us to complete this vital work: Doctor Rolando Clementoni.

In the furtherance of our mission, Pave the Way has identified the papacy of Pope Pius XII as a source of friction and misunderstanding. Accordingly, we have undertaken an independent investigation to identify significant documents and to video record eyewitness testimony. I wish to report to you that results of this investigation are stunning, and directly contradict the negative perception of the Pope's wartime activities.

All of the documented material that we have gathered, including the transcript of our just completed three-day symposium, will be turned over to your pontifical institutions and to the internationally recognized Holocaust centers for further study.

Based on their review of these new materials, and in the interest of maintaining their historical integrity and accuracy, we call upon these institutions to carefully review this new information in order to redefine the current perception on this papacy.

This year, for Catholics, Oct. 9, 2008, will be the commemoration the 50th anniversary of the death of Pope Pius XII, for Jews that date is also significant as it is our holiest Jewish holiday Yom Kippur, our Day of

#### ZENIT

Atonement. May this providential date usher in a new effort to correct the historical record and bring to light the truth of this papacy.

I wish to close with a passage from a book written by Ambassador Pinchas Lapide, a former Israeli consul general in Italy, and a Jewish theologian: "No Pope in history has been thanked more heartily by Jews upon his death in 1958. Several suggested in open letters that a Pope Pius XII forest of 860,000 trees be planted on the hills of Judea in order to fittingly honor the memory of the late Pontiff, because the Catholic Church under the pontificate of Pius XII was instrumental in saving the lives of as many as 860,000 Jews from certain death at Nazi hands."

You Holiness, we humbly ask you to keep the mission of Pave the Way Foundation and its vital work to end the malevolent use of religion in your prayers, and thank you for allowing us this time today.

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experts and challenge them one by one. Ask them the question: "Well, what about this document?" We need to do that next. That needs to happen. We need them to come and go to the Vatican archives.

Someone said at the end of the symposium that debate was hampered because there wasn't a strong enough case made for the prosecution ...

Of course not, but it's not for lack of trying. I can show the receipts and copies of the letters we sent out. I am going to be delivering all of these symposium documents to these people, including all the pontifical institutions.

Will you be naming those scholars who didn't come, to perhaps show that their nonappearance indicates they are unsure of their own positions?

I'd rather not name them, just that we invited them, those principal people who, at least, would be recognized as legitimate historians, but not those who have been discredited and institutions involved.

Because I know that as far as Yad Vashem [Israel's official Holocaust memorial] is concerned — they've told us, and I've had meetings with them — that they desperately want information we can gather. So they are trying to discover the truth, built around accuracy and integrity, and they want this information. Everybody was sort of afraid to get involved. This was the first entrée into this area. And I'm a big guy; I can take it.

At least we're opening the door and paving the way. But certainly I encourage everybody to go to our website (PTWF.org) and look at all the original DVDs and videos that are on that site, most of the important ones. And look at the book of documents. It's free to everybody to see. Let them start learning about this; let the institutions see it.

Would you say this symposium has shown there's nothing to fear from investigating further into this history?

There's nothing to fear. What we've really done is debunked this impression. And I can guarantee that if you also asked the Holocaust museums, "Do you think he was anti-Semitic or a Holocaust collaborator?", they would say No. But the Jewish world does think this, without question; and as far as I'm concerned, it's up to historians now to at least change this part of history.

Let them understand that this man is not who they accuse him of being.

Regarding the controversial Yad Vashem caption, which falsely accuses Plus XII of not intervening to save Jews, how confident are you that it will be removed as a consequence of this symposium?

I think that not only will it be removed, they're going to have to remove it — because they're going to look like fools if they don't. What we've discovered plainly disproves this [the caption's contents].

It's going to have to be removed and rewritten. And I asked them to call Sir Martin Gilbert in London and ask his advice on how to write this properly, because it's clearly written incorrectly historically, and in a practical sense, it clearly doesn't make any sense. So it does need to be adjusted.

It is an interesting coincidence that the 50th anniversary of the death of Pius XII and the Jewish Day of Atonement are taking place the same day this year, Oct. 9. Do you think that is providential?

Absolutely. That's why I did this.

And do you think it will mark a time to draw a line under this controversy?

Yes, and I think we've done that. I certainly think so if we get all the information out to the public. That's a providential day: both the Jewish Day of Atonement and the 50th anniversary of Pius XII's death are happening on the same day. It's a very, very unusual thing.

What are your own personal motivations for this campaign?

I love Israel. I love the Jewish people. I love the Vatican. I love the Catholic Church, the Catholic people, the Protestants, Anglicans. I love Muslims, the Armenians; I love the Greeks. I love all of the Orthodox. I love everybody. And when I see two people whom I love fight, just like a brother and a sister, I have to step in and say, "Wait a minute, let's get this thing settled." And it saddens me very deeply.

Also, it's true that many Jewish people don't know the true sentiment of the Catholic Church, because they go by what they perceive is history. This is incorrect history. So we want to show that we have to come together, all the good people of all faiths — which is the essence of Pave the Way — to stop the illegal use of religion by private agendas, of making wars on one another and using the tools in God's name. This has to stop.



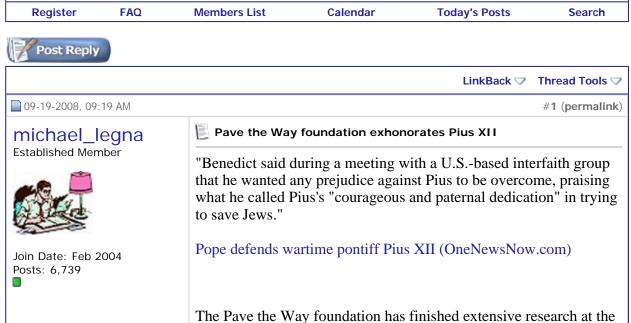
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The Pave the Way foundation has finished extensive research at the behest of the holocaust memorial in Jerusalem into the actual actions of the Pope during World War II.

"In furtherance of the mission of PTWF, we are attempting to remove obstacles between the religions. Mindful of this, we have initiated the independent investigation of the Papacy of Pope Pius XII. This time in history has been a source of friction between the Jews and Catholics. Yad Vashem, the holocaust memorial in Jerusalem, has asked us to provide them with all of the information possible so that they can further carry out their mission of reporting this dark time in history with absolute accuracy as it has always been their policy."

#### Pave the Way Foundation

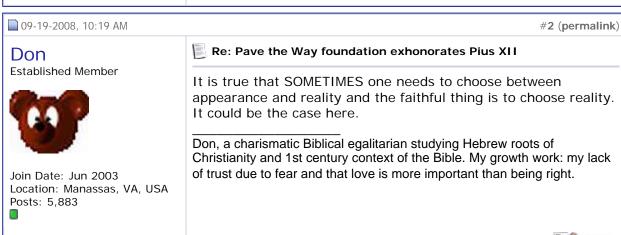
They developed a 200 page document from news clippings of the times and interviews of the people affected and notable historians which can be downloaded from their site for free in PDF format. (warning it is over 80 Mb in size)

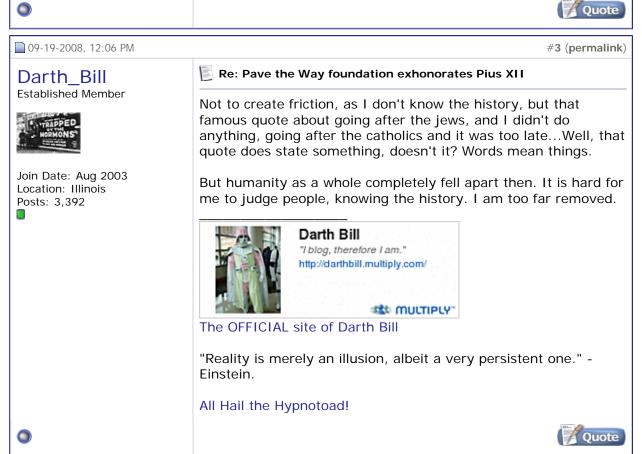
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2Co 3:6-8 6 Who also hath made us able ministers of the new testament; not of the letter, but of the spirit: for the letter killeth, but the spirit giveth life. 7 But if the ministration of death, written and engraven in stones, was glorious, ... 8 How shall not the ministration of the spirit be rather glorious?











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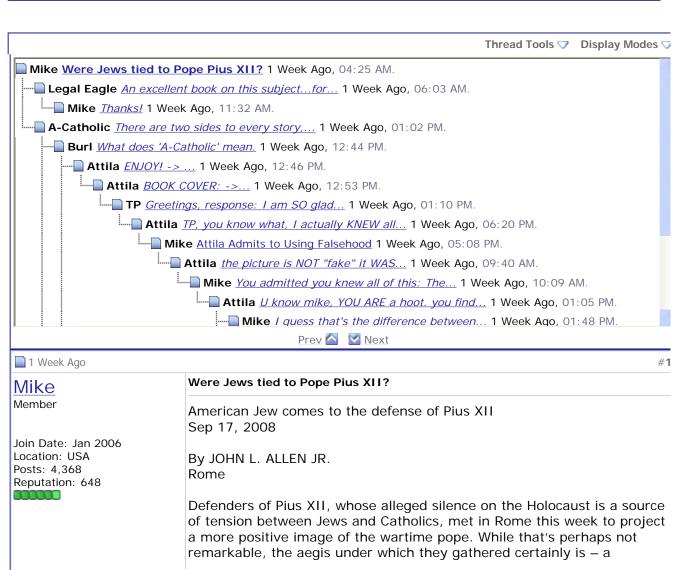
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foundation called "Pave the Way," dedicated to interreligious understanding and led by an American Jew.

The organizer of the Sept. 15-17 conference at Rome's Palazzo Salviati, which included a number of Jews in the audience, is New York businessman and philanthropist Gary Krupp. While making his living as a medical developer, Krupp became a benefactor of a hospital in southern Italy founded by the legendary Capuchin stigmatic Padre Pio, and is today one of just a handful of non-Catholics to belong to the papal Knights of St. Gregory.

Improbably, Krupp, who says he grew up "hating" Pius XII, has emerged as a passionate defender of the pontiff once famously excoriated as "Hitler's Pope."

"It's our obligation to recognize somebody who saved more Jews than all the other world leaders and religious leaders combined," Krupp said in an interview with NCR. "This man should be raised up as righteous among the nations, not demonized."

Krupp referred to the negative portrayal of Pius XII in some Jewish circles -- including a critical placard at Yad Vashem, the main Holocaust memorial in Israel -- as a shonda, the Hebrew word for "shame."

While Krupp represents a distinctly minority view within Judaism, he is not alone. Sir Martin Gilbert, the distinguished Jewish historian in England, has praised Pius XII's efforts to save Jews, and American Rabbi David Dalin has proposed that Yad Vashem recognize Pius as "righteous among the nations." Probably no one, however, has devoted more time and energy –including his own financial resources – to the defense of Pius XII.

The lineup at Krupp's symposium featured a "who's who" of leading defenders of Pius XII, including Filippini Sr. Margherita Marchione of Farleigh Dickinson University in New Jersey; Ronald Rychlak, a Catholic law professor at the University of Mississippi; William Doino, author of The Pius War; Andrea Tornielli, a prominent Italian journalist; and Fr. Peter Gumpel, relator for the sainthood cause of Pius XII.

Ironically, the conference was held in the location where slightly more than 1,000 Roman Jews were brought before their deportation to Nazi concentration camps on Oct. 16, 1943. Several participants argued that the reason just 1,000 of some 6,700 Jews in Rome were rounded up that day was the personal intervention of Pius XII.

Organizers published a 200-page glossy book offering documentation of Pius' efforts to save Jews, including transcripts of eyewitnesses and previously secret material culled from diplomatic archives in Germany, Italy, the United Kingdom and the United States.

The case for the defense of Pius XII, as presented during the conference, is highly complex, but in essence it pivots on three claims:

• Charges that Pius XII was "silent" are false, because he spoke on numerous occasions in defense of Jews, in ways that were abundantly clear to everyone at the time and for decades afterwards;

- If he did not directly and dramatically condemn Hitler or National Socialism, it was because he had well-founded fears that doing so might unleash greater persecution upon both Catholics and Jews;
- Behind the scenes, he mobilized church resources in multiple ways to save Jews.

To take an example of the kinds of stories told at the conference, Rychlak recalled that the pope's summer residence at Castel Gandolfo was turned into a sanctuary for refugees during the war, including scores of Jews. Pius' own bedroom was converted into a makeshift nursery, and some 40 babies were born there. A June 1944 article in the Palestine Post records a group of Jews who had taken shelter in Castel Gandolfo passing on their thanks to the pope.

Gumpel also reported that during his official investigation for Pius' sainthood cause, he discovered that the pope had placed his housekeeper, Sr. Pasqualina Lehnert, in charge of the Vatican storerooms during the war, and personally directed her to drive trucks with food and other supplies out to religious houses around Rome where Jews were being sheltered.

"These are the kinds of things that anti-Semites just don't do," Krupp said.

Eugene Fisher, former expert for the U.S. bishops on Catholic/Jewish relations and another speaker at the Rome conference, said this sort of information has a hard time competing with the critics in the court of public opinion.

"The books attacking Pius get major reviews, but those defending him are ignored," Fisher said. "All people ever hear is the negative side, because it's all that filters through the press."

In his address, Fisher proposed one step he feels the Vatican could take to bolster the pro-Pius argument: Opening its archives from his papacy, at least up to the end of the war and the immediate post-war years.

"The sooner the archives up to 1948 are open, the better," Fisher said. "It would ease an enormous amount of pressure." The fact that the archives have only been selectively released, Fisher said, is a "symbolic issue for the organized Jewish community."

At least some in the audience seemed impressed.

"Prior to coming to this conference, I had heard negative things about Pius XII for 50 years," said Howard Graff, a Jew from Chicago who serves chairman of the Illinois Masonic Charities Fund.

"I'll go home with a more open, balanced view, and I believe that's good," he said.

"I want to be Bob Dylan;

Mr. Jones wishes he was someone just a little more funky."



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# SUMMORUM PONTIFICUM JOHANNESBURG

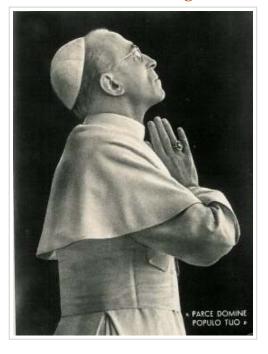
CATHOLIC ORTHODOXY IN SOUTH AFRICA FOUNDER AND EDITOR CALVIN JAMES MONTGOMERY B.A (WITS)

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 2008

## Benedict XVI on Pius XII, the Pastor Angelicus

Article Courtesy of "Rorate Caeli"

"Pope Benedict XVI received today representatives of the "Pave the Way Foundation", an interreligious organization which has recently held a symposium on the papacy of Pius XII, of most glorious memory. These are Pope Benedict's words:





THE ETERNAL MASS



MY LORD AND MY GOD

THIS BLOG IS DEDICATED TO OUR LADY , QUEEN CONCIEVED WITHOUT ORIGINAL SIN, PATRONESS OF JOHANNESBURG

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



**ORA PRO NOBIS** 

OUR LADY OF JOHANNESBURG, PRAY FOR US

" Neither men nor peoples have yet seen the dawning of full, genuine and lasting peace. If we are happily to attain it, we must all be instant in prayer to the Blessed Virgin Mary, that she who brought forth the Prince of Peace, will be our advocate and protectress in promoting a covenant of friendhip among men"

POPE PIUS XII,

Encyclical Letter,

" Fulgens Corona"

SACRED HEART OF JESUS



I trust in thee!

OUR LADY OF PERPETUAL

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 29th 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.

Benedict XVI

Meeting with the participants of the "Pave the Way Foundation" symposium

September 18, 2008

POSTED BY ORTHODOX AT 6:31 AM

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VATICAN CITY (CNS) -- Pope Pius XII worked courageously, secretly and silently to help save Jews targeted by the Nazis' "criminal plan ... to eliminate them from the face of the earth," said Pope Benedict XVI.

"Wherever possible, (Pope Pius) spared no effort in intervening in their favor" and providing organized assistance to the Jews either directly or through others, including Catholic religious institutes, Pope Benedict told participants in an international symposium dedicated to examining the papacy of Pope Pius.

The pope held a Sept. 18 private audience at his summer residence south of Rome with some 80 attendees of the Sept. 15-17 symposium organized by the U.S.-based Pave the Way Foundation. Participants included members of the foundation and representatives of the Jewish community, including rabbis and scholars from around the world. The Vatican published a text of the remarks.

Thanking the foundation for its efforts in seeking the truth, Pope Benedict said that "not all of the genuine facets" of Pope Pius' pontificate have been examined "in just light" in the 50 years since his death.

Critics have said they believe Pope Pius did not speak out clearly enough in defense of the Jews during World War II or was indifferent toward the victims of Nazism.

Pope Benedict said many of Pope Pius' efforts to support the Jews were "made secretly and silently" because "in that difficult historical moment, only in this way was it possible to avoid the worst and save the greatest number of Jews."

Gary Krupp, Jewish founder and president of the Pave the Way Foundation, told the pope in his speech that "the Catholic Church under the pontificate of Pius XII was instrumental in saving the lives of as many as 860,000 Jews from certain death at Nazi hands."

Krupp told Catholic News Service after the audience that Pope Benedict "was very appreciative" of the organization's extensive research, which had revealed clearly that the current negative perception of Pope Pius "is completely wrong."

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Copyright (c) 2007 Catholic News Service/U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops. He presented the pope with nine video testimonies of Holocaust survivors and other eyewitnesses to Vatican humanitarian efforts, as well as the 200-page book of documentation compiled by the foundation and unveiled at the Rome symposium.

Dozens of Jewish representatives who believed Pope Pius had done nothing to help the Jews during the Holocaust had been invited to the symposium.

Many accepted the invitation, but some publicly critical of Pope Pius and representatives from three major Jewish museums did not attend even though the foundation had offered to pay for a live video feed if they were unable to travel to Rome.

Symposium organizers wanted to convince curators of the Yad Vashem Holocaust Memorial in Jerusalem that a picture display of Pope Pius at the memorial is historically inaccurate and should be changed. The captions accompanying the pope's picture state he did nothing to condemn the Nazis and their slaughter of the Jews.

David Nekrutman, executive director of the Israeli-based Center for Jewish-Christian Understanding and Cooperation, told CNS the exhibit at Yad Vashem should be taken down "until it's done correctly."

The display makes the pope look like he was a Nazi collaborator "and that image affected me when I went to Yad Vashem in 1993; I automatically wrote off the Catholic Church from that image."

He said he came to the symposium not knowing much about Pope Pius "but whatever I knew it was definitely bad."

"The conference did enlighten me, that he did help, but what I am now trying to discover is to what extent," said Nekrutman. Perhaps people "place too much importance on the pope's position, figuring that if he had done something it would have saved who knows how many lives, I don't know. It's a learning process," he added.

George Blumenthal, an American Jewish philanthropist and entrepreneur, told CNS the documents and testimonies unveiled at the symposium "will be the beginning of revolutionary knowledge" about the late pope.

Perhaps, he said, it will take decades of bombarding people with the truth "like water wears away a rock one drip at a time" to erode the ignorance of the war years and prejudice surrounding Pope Pius.

Though members of the Congregation for Saints' Causes voted unanimously in May 2007 to recommend Pope Benedict formally declare Pope Pius venerable, Pope Benedict put the cause on hold seven months later. Pope Benedict established a commission to study new archival material about his predecessor's papacy and to examine how his possible beatification would impact Catholic-Jewish and Vatican-Israeli relations.

Jesuit Father Peter Gumpel, a historian and investigating judge for Pope Pius' sainthood cause, was one of the panelists at the September symposium.

He told CNS Sept. 17 he has "no doubt that sooner or later (Pope Benedict) is going to sign" the decree recognizing Pope Pius as venerable.

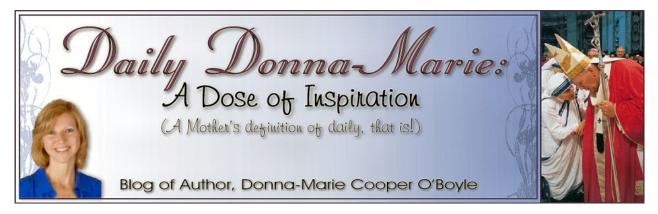
He said the "real problem" is the controversy over the Jews' perception of Pope Pius. The Vatican does not want to jettison decades of building up its friendly relationship with the Jews, he said.

**END** 

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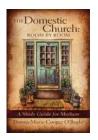
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FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 2008

#### Pope Benedict, Pope Pius XII, the Nazis, and the Jews



Vatican City, Sep 18, 2008 / 10:40 am (CNA).-Pope Pius XII, has drawn the interest and scrutiny of many people over the last few decades, but as Pope Benedict XVI spoke to the Pave the Way Foundation at Castel Gandolfo today, he highlighted that previous investigation into the

late Pope's efforts to save Jews from the Nazis and fascists have been biased.

Around noon today at the Pope's summer residence, he received Mr. Gary Krupp, the president of the Pave the Way Foundation and other members of the organization.

Mr. Krupp and his wife, who are Jewish, founded Pave the Way to fight against religious intolerance and prejudice through educational, cultural and technological means. As part of those efforts, Pave the Way organized a symposium to conduct an in-depth investigation into Pius XII's life and his pastoral and humanitarian work.

Noting that 50 years have passed since the October 9, 1958 death of the Servant of God Pius XII, the Holy Father pointed out that although "so much has been written and said of him during these last five decades, ... not all of the genuine facets of his diverse pastoral activity have been examined in a just light."

The symposium aimed to address some of these deficiencies by "conducting a careful and documented examination of many of his interventions, especially those in favor 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," the Pope said.

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# **SUNLIT UPLANDS**

FAITH, FREEDOM, DEFENSE OF THE WEST, RENEWAL OF THE

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 2008

# Conference Details Efforts by Pope Pius XII to Rescue Jews

One wonders if, in the whole history of the Church, there has been a Pope as unfairly maligned as Pope Pius XII. The heroic efforts of Pius XII to save Jews from the holocaust were praised by Golda Meir, Albert Einstein and the government of Israel, and yet the man who did more "than all the other world leaders and religious leaders combined" continues to be slandered. But "truth is the daughter of time" and the story is finally being told.

Photo By Marie Freeman Blue Ridge Blog

"OUR CONSTITUTION WAS MADE ONLY FOR A MORAL AND RELIGIOUS PEOPLE. IT IS WHOLLY INADEQUATE TO THE **GOVERNMENT OF ANY** OTHER."

-- JOHN ADAMS

From Catholic World News



**BLOG ARCHIVE** 

**2008** (430)

## Jewish conference organizer: Pius 'saved more Jews than all the other world leaders and religious leaders combined'

As a 3-day conference on Pope Pius XII and the Holocaust concludes in Rome, John Allen speaks with organizer Gary Krupp, who concludes that Pius XII "saved more Jews than all the other world leaders and religious leaders combined." Vatican Radio interviews the keeper of the archives of the late Father Robert Graham (1912-97), the Jesuit historian and defender of Pope Pius.

In a message to conference participants, Pope Benedict XVI called attention to the "vast quantity of documented material" showing the "organized assistance to the Jewish people" by "this noble Pope."

Source(s): these links will take you to other sites, in a new window.

- John Allen: American Jew comes to the defense of Pius XII. (National Catholic Reporter)
- True legacy of Pope Pius XII (Vatican Radio)
- Papal message: Understanding the historical truth about Pius XII (VIS)
- Jewish leader says Pope Pius XII has been demonized falsely (Sept. 16 CWN News Brief)

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# DOMINUS JESUS CHRISTUS (PHILIPPIANS 2:11)

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 2008

## Pope Pius XII

Papal Address on Pius XII Symposium



"Not All the Genuine Facets Have Been Examined In a Just Light"

CASTEL GANDOLFO, Italy, SEPT. 18, 2008 - Here is the text of Benedict XVI's address today to Gary Krupp, the president of the Pave the Way Foundation, which organized a symposium on the papacy of Pope Pius XII.

The symposium was held Monday through Wednesday.

\* \* \*

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



BLOG ARCHIVE

#### **2008** (72)

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Pope Pius XII

Saul Alinsky and Clinton-Obama

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On Voting for Pro-Abortion
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America's most public pregnancy

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History of Church Teaching on Abortion

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Foundation to Promote
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► August (3)

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

- **▶** July (9)
- ► June (13)
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ABOUT ME

**FATHERTYLER** 

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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 29th 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.

\_\_\_\_\_\_

Pave the Way Foundation's Address to Pope Working to "End the Malevolent and the Illegal Use of Religion"

CASTEL GANDOLFO, Italy, SEPT. 18, 2008 (Zenit.org).- Here is the address Gary Krupp, president of the Pave the Way Foundation, gave today upon meeting Benedict XVI at the apostolic palace of Castel Gandolfo, south of Rome.



The Pope granted an audience to the participants of the congress "Examining the Papacy of Pope Pius XII," which was organized by the foundation. The three-day symposium ended Wednesday.

\* \* :

You Holiness, The mission of Pave the Way Foundation is to end the malevolent and the illegal use of religion. We begin this process by establishing credible and trusted relationships through our historic gestures of good will and with the identification and elimination of obstacles between the faiths.

Some examples of our projects are that we worked for over 20 years to help the equipment acquisition of the hospital of St. Padre Pio here in Italy. We worked behind the scenes to remove obstacles and to move the fundamental agreements with the Israeli government and the Holy See. We initiated the Jewish thank you to Pope John Paul II for his efforts to achieve religious reconciliation. We brought the manuscripts of Maimonides for the first time in history from the Vatican Library to the state of Israel, and in 2007, we implemented the gift to your library of the oldest manuscripts of the Gospels of St. John and St. Luke, the Bodmer papyrus.

Your Holiness, for all of these benevolent projects I wish recognize, in your presence, one who has dedicated over 20 years behind the scenes to help us to complete this vital work: Doctor Rolando Clementoni.

In the furtherance of our mission, Pave the Way has identified the papacy of Pope Pius XII as a source of friction and misunderstanding. Accordingly, we have undertaken an independent investigation to identify significant documents and to video record eyewitness testimony. I wish to report to you that results of this investigation are stunning, and directly contradict the negative perception of the Pope's wartime activities.

All of the documented material that we have gathered, including the transcript of our just completed three-day symposium, will be turned over to your pontifical institutions and to the internationally recognized Holocaust centers for further study.

Based on their review of these new materials, and in the interest of maintaining their historical integrity and accuracy, we call upon these institutions to carefully review this new information in order to redefine the current perception on this papacy.

This year, for Catholics, Oct. 9, 2008, will be the commemoration the 50th anniversary of the death of Pope Pius XII, for Jews that date is also significant as it is our holiest Jewish holiday Yom Kippur, our Day of Atonement. May this providential date usher in a new effort to correct the historical record and bring to light the truth of this papacy.

I wish to close with a passage from a book written by Ambassador Pinchas Lapide, a former Israeli consul general in Italy, and a Jewish theologian: "No Pope in history has been thanked more heartily by Jews upon his death in 1958. Several suggested in open letters that a Pope Pius XII forest of 860,000 trees be planted on the hills of Judea in order to fittingly honor the memory of the late Pontiff, because the Catholic Church under the pontificate of Pius XII was instrumental in saving the lives of as many as 860,000 Jews from certain death at Nazi hands."

You Holiness, we humbly ask you to keep the mission of Pave the Way Foundation and its vital work to end the malevolent use of religion in your prayers, and thank you for allowing us this time today.

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POSTED BY FATHERTYLER AT 2:51 AM

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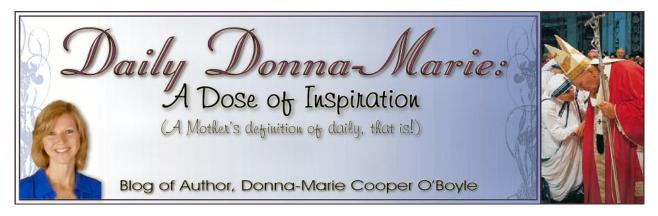
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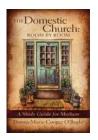
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FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 2008

#### Pope Benedict, Pope Pius XII, the Nazis, and the Jews



Vatican City, Sep 18, 2008 / 10:40 am (CNA).-Pope Pius XII, has drawn the interest and scrutiny of many people over the last few decades, but as Pope Benedict XVI spoke to the Pave the Way Foundation at Castel Gandolfo today, he highlighted that previous investigation into the

late Pope's efforts to save Jews from the Nazis and fascists have been biased.

Around noon today at the Pope's summer residence, he received Mr. Gary Krupp, the president of the Pave the Way Foundation and other members of the organization.

Mr. Krupp and his wife, who are Jewish, founded Pave the Way to fight against religious intolerance and prejudice through educational, cultural and technological means. As part of those efforts, Pave the Way organized a symposium to conduct an in-depth investigation into Pius XII's life and his pastoral and humanitarian work.

Noting that 50 years have passed since the October 9, 1958 death of the Servant of God Pius XII, the Holy Father pointed out that although "so much has been written and said of him during these last five decades, ... not all of the genuine facets of his diverse pastoral activity have been examined in a just light."

The symposium aimed to address some of these deficiencies by "conducting a careful and documented examination of many of his interventions, especially those in favor 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," the Pope said.



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You might want to check out my new blog, Moments of Inspiration with Your Favorite Saints.

May God bless your day as we journey together to light the

"When one draws close to this noble Pope," observed Benedict XVI, "one can 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."

Pope Benedict then went on to thank the foundation for "the vast quantity of documented material which you have gathered, supported by many authoritative testimonies," because, as he explained "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 of the many aspects of the symposium that Pope Benedict praised was how the... (Continued here)

POSTED BY DONNA-MARIE COOPER O'BOYLE AT 7:04 AM LABELS: DONNA-MARIE COOPER O'BOYLE, EMBRACING MOTHERHOOD, JEWS, MOMENTS OF INSPIRATION FROM YOUR FAVORITE SAINTS, NAZIS, POPE BENEDICT XVI, POPE PIUS XII

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Sep

18

# Pave the Way Foundation's Address to Pope

September 18, 2008 |

Here is the address Gary Krupp, president of the Pave the Way Foundation, gave today upon meeting Benedict XVI at the apostolic palace of Castel Gandolfo, south of Rome.

The Pope granted an audience to the participants of the congress <u>"Examining the Papacy of Pope Pius XII,"</u> which was organized by the foundation. The three-day symposium ended Wednesday.

\* \* \*

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You Holiness, we humbly ask you to keep the mission of Pave the Way Foundation and its vital work to end the malevolent use of religion in your prayers, and thank you for allowing us this time today.

Courtesy Zenit.org

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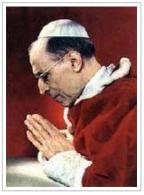
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## Saints for All Times

Saints of Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow

#### THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 2008

#### Symposium Finds "Stunning" Facts About Pius XII



Benedict XVI says he hopes the 50th anniversary of the death of Pope Pius XII this year will offer an occasion to get to the historical truth about him, overcoming prejudices that hide the facts.

The German Pontiff said this today when he spoke to an interreligious foundation that organized a symposium this week to study the life of Pius XII (1876-1958).

The Pope's address to the Pave the Way Foundation and its president, Gary Krupp, thanked the group for aiming to analyze "without bias the events of history and [concern] yourselves only with seeking the truth."

"So much has been written and said of [Pius XII] 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 Holy Father noted. "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 favor 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.

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D Sept 18, 2008 at 12:23 PM





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## Thursday September 18, 2008

# Pope says Pius XII "spared no effort" to help Jews

# By Philip Pullella

VATICAN CITY (Reuters) - Pope Benedict on Thursday forcefully defended his wartime predecessor Pius XII against accusations he did not do enough to help the Jews, saying Pius "spared no effort" on their behalf during World War II.

The pope spoke to members of the U.S.-based Pave the Way Foundation, a mixed Jewish-Catholic group which held a symposium in Rome on the papacy of Pius, who reigned from 1939 to 1958.

The symposium prepared a 200-page compilation of documents, diplomatic cables and newspaper clippings from the period -- some of them previously unpublished -- showing Pius did much to help Jews during the war and was thanked by Jewish leaders.

"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," Benedict said.

"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." Repodiet told the group

institutions of the Catholic Church," Benedict told the group at his summer residence south of Rome.



Pope Benedict XVI waves as he leads his general audience in Paul VI Hall at the Vatican September 17, 2008. Pope Benedict on Thursday forcefully defended his wartime predecessor Pius XII against accusations he did not do enough to help the Jews, saying Pius "spared no effort" on their behalf during World War II. (REUTERS/Max Rossi)

Some Jews have maintained that Pius did not do enough to save Jews while the Vatican and those Jews who support him say he worked behind the scenes to help because more direct intervention would have worsened the situation.

But Benedict praised the symposium for drawing 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".

Gary Krupp, an American Jew who is president and founder of Pave the Way, told the pope the group's investigation "directly contradicts the negative perception of the pope's war time activities".

#### CAMP SURVIORS THANKED POPE

The pope noted that in November, 1945, some six months after the end of the war, 80 delegates of German concentration camps came to the Vatican to thank Pius.

The symposium's documents included numerous newspaper clippings of Jewish leaders thanking Pius during and after the conflict and former Israeli Prime Minister Golda Meir saying: "When fearful martyrdom came to our people in the decade of Nazi terror, the voice of the pope was raised for the victims".

The issue of Pius' papacy is one of the most difficult in Catholic-Jewish relations and the pope said that nearly five decades after his death "not all of the genuine facets of his diverse pastoral activity have been examined in a just light".

The Vatican will on Oct. 9 mark the 50th anniversary of Pius' death with a conference and photo exhibition.

Historians have been calling on the Vatican to open up all its archives on the period.

The Vatican says while some of the archives of the period are still closed for organisational reasons, most of the significant documentation regarding Pius is already open to scholars.

Last year, the Vatican's saint-making department voted in favour of a decree recognising Pius's "heroic virtues," a major hurdle in a long process toward possible sainthood that began in 1967. But Pope Benedict has so far not approved the decree.

Some Jewish groups have said the Vatican should freeze the beatification process but others say it is an internal Church matter.

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"In recent times, even in materialist North America, the growth of the Church was magnificent with the liturgy being kept in Latin. The attempts of the Protestants have failed, and Protestantism uses the vernacular. We ask again: Why the change, especially since changes in this matter involve many difficulties and great dangers? All of us here at the Council can recall the fundamental changes in the meaning of words in common use. Thus it follows that if the Sacred Liturgy were in the vernacular, the immutability of doctrine would be endangered.

The introduction of the vernacular should be separated from the action of the Mass. The Mass must remain as it is. Grave changes in the liturgy introduce grave changes in dogmata."

-James Cardinal McIntyre

☐ Sept 18, 2008 at 01:00 PM



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#### Pope defends WWII pontiff's role

Pope Benedict XVI has defended the actions of predecessor Pius XII during World War II, saying the pontiff spared no effort to try to save Jews.

Pius XII has long been accused by Jewish groups and scholars of turning a blind eye to the fate of the Jews.



and paternal dedication

Pope Benedict said that Pius had intervened directly and indirectly but often had to be "secret and silent" given the circumstances.

Pope Benedict said he wanted prejudice against Pius to be overcome.

Analysts say this was one of the strongest Vatican defences yet of Pius's role.

#### Beatification

Pope Benedict was speaking at a meeting with the US-based interfaith group, the Pave the Way Foundation, at his summer residence in Castel Gandolfo.

He said Pius showed "courageous and paternal dedication" in trying to save Jews.

Pope Benedict said: "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.

Pope Benedict said the interventions were "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".

Pius was the pontiff from 1939 to 1958 and the Vatican has begun his beatification process.

Many Jewish groups criticised him for not speaking out against the Nazis, who killed six million Jews.

Material at the Yad Vashem, the Holocaust memorial in Jerusalem, talks of Pius's "neutral" position.



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Escrito por Ecclesia Digital
jueves, 18 de septiembre de 2008

CIUDAD DEL VATICANO, 18 SEP 2008 .-El Papa recibió este mediodía en Castelgandolfo a los participantes en un simposio sobre la figura y la acción pastoral y humanitaria de Pío XII, promovido por la "Pave the Way Foundation", cuyo presidente es Gary Krupp.

Tras recordar que ha transcurrido medio siglo de la muerte del Siervo de Dios Pío XII (9 octubre 1958), el Santo Padre afirmó que "se han escrito y se han dicho muchas cosas sobre él en estos cinco decenios, pero no siempre se han enfocado correctamente los diferentes aspectos de su multiforme acción pastoral".

"El objetivo de vuestro simposio ha sido precisamente colmar algunas de estas lagunas mediante un análisis documentado sobre muchas de sus intervenciones, sobre todo aquellas a favor de los judíos, que en aquellos años eran perseguidos en toda Europa de acuerdo con el plan criminal de los que querían eliminarlos de la faz de la tierra".

Benedicto XVI subrayó que "cuando se estudia sin prejuicios ideológicos la noble figura de este Papa (...) se aprecia la sabiduría humana y la intensidad pastoral que lo guiaron en su largo ministerio, y de modo particular en la organización de las ayudas al pueblo judío".

Gracias a la documentación recogida y a los "testimonios acreditados", el simposio, continuó, "ofrece a la opinión pública la posibilidad de conocer mejor lo que Pío XII realizó a favor de los judíos perseguidos por los regímenes nazi y fascista".

El Papa puso de relieve que en los trabajos del simposio habían destacado "las numerosas intervenciones realizadas secreta y silenciosamente, precisamente porque dadas las situaciones concretas de aquel difícil momento histórico, solo de esa manera era posible evitar lo peor y salvar al mayor número posible de judíos". La "valiente y paterna dedicación" del pontífice "fue reconocida y apreciada durante y después de la terrible guerra mundial por comunidades y personalidades judías, que manifestaron su gratitud por lo que había hecho por ellos".

El Santo Padre dio las gracias a la "Pave the Way Foundation" por "la constante acción en promover las relaciones y el diálogo entre las religiones, de modo que ofrezcan un testimonio de paz, de caridad y de reconciliación".

"Espero que este año en que se conmemora el 50 aniversario de la muerte de Pío XII -concluyó- ofrezca la oportunidad de promover estudios más profundos sobre varios aspectos de su persona y de su actividad, para

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#### PAVE THE WAY FOUNDATION'S ADDRESS TO POPE Working to "End the Malevolent and the Illegal Use of Religion"

Permalink: http://www.zenit.org/article-23649?l=english

CASTEL GANDOLFO, Italy, SEPT. 18, 2008 (Zenit.org).- Here is the address Gary Krupp,

president of the Pave the Way Foundation, gave today upon meeting Benedict XVI at the apostolic palace of Castel Gandolfo, south of Rome.

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All of the documented material that we have gathered, including the transcript of our just completed three-day symposium, will be turned over to your pontifical institutions and to the internationally recognized Holocaust centers for further study.

Based on their review of these new materials, and in the interest of maintaining their historical integrity and accuracy, we call upon these institutions to carefully review this new information in order to redefine the current perception on this papacy.

This year, for Catholics, Oct. 9, 2008, will be the commemoration the 50th anniversary of the death of Pope Pius XII, for Jews that date is also significant as it is our holiest Jewish holiday Yom Kippur, our Day of Atonement. May this providential date usher in a new effort to correct the historical record and bring to light the truth of this papacy.

I wish to close with a passage from a book written by Ambassador Pinchas Lapide, a former Israeli consul general in Italy, and a Jewish theologian: "No Pope in history has been thanked more heartily by Jews upon his death in 1958. Several suggested in open letters that a Pope Pius XII forest of 860,000 trees be planted on the hills of Judea in order to fittingly honor the memory of the late Pontiff, because the Catholic Church under the pontificate of Pius XII was instrumental in saving the lives of as many as 860,000 Jews from certain death at Nazi hands."

You Holiness, we humbly ask you to keep the mission of Pave the Way Foundation and its vital work to end the malevolent use of religion in your prayers, and thank you for allowing us this

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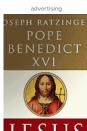
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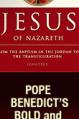
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# Pope defends wartime pontiff Pius XII By ALESSANDRA RIZZO – Sep 18, 2008

VATICAN CITY (AP) — Pope Benedict XVI said Thursday that his predecessor Pius XII spared no effort to save Jews from the Nazis, one of the strongest Vatican defenses of a pontiff accused of silence during the Holocaust.

Benedict said during a meeting with a U.S.-based interfaith group that he wanted any prejudice against Pius to be overcome, praising what he called Pius's "courageous and paternal dedication" in trying to save Jews.

"Wherever possible he spared no effort in intervening in their favor either directly or through instructions given to other individuals or to institutions of the Catholic Church," Benedict said.

Pius XII reigned from 1939 to 1958 and was a Vatican diplomat in Germany, and its secretary of state before that. Some historians say that he did not do everything in his power to prevent Jews from being deported to concentration camps. His supporters say he made every effort to help Jews and other victims through quiet diplomacy.

Benedict said that Pius' many interventions were "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."

The Vatican has rejected the accusations against Pius, and has started the process for his beatification. But the process has gone on for some years and there's been no indication that it is moving forward.

Benedict said the interfaith Pave the Way Foundation had gathered material that showed the extent of Pius' efforts. The group, based in New York, is active in improving Catholic-Jewish relations and organized a symposium in Rome on Pius.

"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 pope said during the meeting with members of the group in Castel Gandolfo, the papal summer

"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," Benedict said.

The German-born Benedict, a member of the Hitler Youth when he was a seminarian, has made a point of reaching out to Jews, following in the footsteps of his predecessor, John Paul II. He has publicly condemned the Nazi regime and mentioned the Holocaust on several occasions. During a trip to Poland in 2006, he prayed at the Auschwitz concentration camp.

This year is the 50th anniversary of Pius' death, and Benedict said he hoped that commemorations would provide the opportunity for further study "in order to come to know the historical truth, overcoming every remaining prejudice."



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#### CONFERENCE DETAILS EFFORTS BY POPE PIUS XII TO RESCUE JEWS

**SEPTEMBER 18, 2008** 

Jewish conference organizer: Pius 'saved more Jews than all the other world leaders and religious leaders combined'

As a 3-day conference on Pope Pius XII and the Holocaust concludes in Rome, John Allen speaks with organizer Gary Krupp, who concludes that Pius XII "saved more Jews than all the other world leaders and religious leaders combined." Vatican Radio interviews the keeper of the archives of the late Father Robert Graham (1912–97), the Jesuit historian and defender of Pope Pius.

In a message to conference participants, Pope Benedict XVI called attention to the "vast quantity of documented material" showing the "organized assistance to the Jewish people" by "this noble Pope."

Source(s): these links will take you to other sites, in a new window.

- John Allen: American Jew comes to the defense of Pius XII (National Catholic Reporter)
- True legacy of Pope Pius XII (Vatican Radio)
- Papal message: Understanding the historical truth about Pius XII (VIS)
- Jewish leader says Pope Pius XII has been demonized falsely (Sept. 16 CWN News Brief)



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#### Vatican

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# Pope Benedict praises symposium on Pius XII for uncovering the historic truth



Vatican City, Sep 18, 2008 / 10:40 am (CNA).- Pope Pius XII, has drawn the interest and scrutiny of many people over the last few decades, but as Pope Benedict XVI spoke to the Pave the Way Foundation at Castel Gandolfo today, he highlighted that previous investigation into the late Pope's efforts to save Jews from the Nazis and fascists have been biased.

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Around noon today at the Pope's

summer residence, he received Mr. Gary Krupp, the president of the Pave the Way Foundation and other members of the organization.

Mr. Krupp and his wife, who are Jewish, founded Pave the Way to fight against religious intolerance and prejudice through educational, cultural and technological means. As part of those efforts, Pave the Way organized a symposium to conduct an in-depth investigation into Pius XII's life and his pastoral and humanitarian work.

Noting that 50 years have passed since the October 9, 1958 death of the Servant of God Pius XII, the Holy Father pointed out that although "so much has been written and said of him during these last five decades, ... not all of the genuine facets of his diverse pastoral activity have been examined in a just light."

The symposium aimed to address some of these deficiencies by "conducting a careful and documented examination of many of his interventions, especially those in favor 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," the Pope said.

"When one draws close to this noble Pope," observed Benedict XVI, "one can 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."

Pope Benedict then went on to thank the foundation for "the vast quantity of documented material which you have gathered, supported by many authoritative testimonies," because, as he explained "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 of the many aspects of the symposium that Pope Benedict praised was how the foundation's work "had drawn attention to Pope Pius' 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."

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One special event that Benedict XVI recalled, "Pius XII's meeting on the 29th 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." Pope Benedict thanked 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," he concluded, "that this year, which marks the 50th 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." 🖹 🖨 🕂 🗽 - G 🧐 🔐 🛭 Subscriber comments: Published by: Peter UK 21/09/2008 03:29 AM EST The late Pope John Paul II declared Pius XII Venerable in the year 2000, this was not even reported in the Catholic media. Why this conspiracy of silence over one of the greatest ever popes? ☑ Rate this comment: Excellent Published by: Barbara Idaho USA 18/09/2008 12:02 PM EST It is good to know more information about Pope Pius XII is coming to light. His courage in facing down the Nazis needs to be known. The way he saved so many needs to be understood ☑ Rate this comment: Excellent rate ADD A COMMENT (Your e-mail will NOT be published): CITY/STATE/COUNTRY: EMAIL: COMMENT: PLEASE ENTER THE SECURITY CODE DISPLAYED ABOVE: Chars:

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# Understanding the historical truth about Pius XII

September 18, 2008

Vatican City, September 18, 2008 (<u>MetroCatholic</u>) - Today the Pope met participants in a symposium on the life and the pastoral and humanitarian work of Pope Pius XII. The symposium was promoted by the Pave the Way Foundation, the president of which is Gary Krupp.

Recalling that 50 years have passed since the death, on 9 October 1958, of Servant of God Pius XII, the Holy Father pointed out that although "so much has been written and said of him during these last five decades, ... not all of the genuine facets of his diverse pastoral activity have been examined in a just light".

"The aim of your symposium", he continued, "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, ... one can come to appreciate the human wisdom and pastoral intensity which guided him in his long years of ministry, especially in providing organised 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", said the Holy Father.

He then pointed out how the work of the symposium had drawn attention to Pope Pius' "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 recognised 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".

Pope Benedict thanked 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", he concluded, "that this year, which marks the 50th 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".

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Thursday September 18, 2008

# Pope says Pius XII "spared no effort" to help Jews

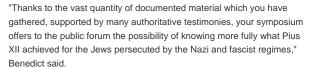
By Philip Pullella

VATICAN CITY (Reuters) - Pope Benedict on Thursday forcefully defended his wartime predecessor Pius XII against accusations he did not do enough to help the Jews, saying Pius "spared no effort" on their behalf during World War II.

The pope spoke to members of the U.S.-based Pave the Way Foundation, a mixed Jewish-Catholic group which held a symposium in Rome on the papacy of Pius, who reigned from 1939 to

The symposium prepared a 200-page compilation of documents, diplomatic cables and newspaper clippings from the period -- some of them previously unpublished -- showing Pius did do en much to help Jews during the war and was thanked by Jewish leaders.

Pope Benedict XVI waves as he leads his general audience in Paul VI Hall at the Vatican September 17, 2008. Pope Benedict on Thursday forcefully defended his wartime predecessor Pius XII against accusations he did not against accusations he did not do enough to help the Jews, saying Pius "spared no effort" on their behalf during World War II. (REUTERS/Max Rossi)



"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," Benedict told the group at his summer residence south of Rome.

Some Jews have maintained that Pius did not do enough to save Jews while the Vatican and those Jews who support him say he worked behind the scenes to help because more direct intervention would have

But Benedict praised the symposium for drawing 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".

Gary Krupp, an American Jew who is president and founder of Pave the Way, told the pope the group's investigation "directly contradicts the negative perception of the pope's war time activities".

#### CAMP SURVIORS THANKED POPE

The pope noted that in November, 1945, some six months after the end of the war, 80 delegates of German concentration camps came to the Vatican to thank Pius.

The symposium's documents included numerous newspaper clippings of Jewish leaders thanking Pius during and after the conflict and former



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Israeli Prime Minister Golda Meir saying: "When fearful martyrdom came to our people in the decade of Nazi terror, the voice of the pope was raised for the victims".

The issue of Pius' papacy is one of the most difficult in Catholic-Jewish relations and the pope said that nearly five decades after his death "not all of the genuine facets of his diverse pastoral activity have been examined in a just light".

The Vatican will on Oct. 9 mark the 50th anniversary of Pius' death with a conference and photo exhibition.

Historians have been calling on the Vatican to open up all its archives on the period.

The Vatican says while some of the archives of the period are still closed for organisational reasons, most of the significant documentation regarding Pius is already open to scholars.

Last year, the Vatican's saint-making department voted in favour of a decree recognising Pius's "heroic virtues," a major hurdle in a long process toward possible sainthood that began in 1967. But Pope Benedict has so far not approved the decree.

Some Jewish groups have said the Vatican should freeze the beatification process but others say it is an internal Church matter.

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**VATICAN** 

Pope: Pius XII spared no effort, including secret ones, to save Jews Receiving the Pave the Way Foundation, Benedict XVI affirms that "when one draws close to this noble Pope, free from ideological prejudices", one must recognize the "courageous dedication" of Pope Pacelli to saving as many Jews as possible from the Nazi devastation during the second world war.



Castel Gandolfo (AsiaNews) - When one approaches the figure of Pius XII "free from ideological prejudices", one must recognize his "courageous and paternal dedication" to saving, wherever possible, the greatest possible number of Jews, which included working "secretly and silently". A congress organized by the Pave the Way Foundation 50 years after the death of Pope Pacelli gave Benedict XVI the opportunity to recall

the "historical truth" about Pius XII's efforts to save Jews, which were recognized after the war by many Jewish figures, including 80 delegates of concentration camp survivors.

"So much has been written and said" about Pius XII, the pope noted, over the past five decades, "and not all of the genuine facets of his

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diverse pastoral activity have been examined in a just light". "When one draws close to this noble Pope, free from ideological prejudices", he continued, "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", Benedict XVI told those present, "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 29th of November 1945 with eighty delegates of German concentration camps who during a special Audience granted to them at the Vatican, wished South Asia to thank him personally for his generosity to them during the terrible

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by Bernardo Cervellera



It is shameful that India's Christians, an

important element for the country's social and economic development, are being massacred whilst the world's governments and humanitarian associations remain silent in what is another example of "Christianophobia." Italian bishops call on the faithful to take part tomorrow in a day of prayer and fasting in remembrance of the Blessed Teresa of Kolkata.

SAUDI ARABIA -**ISLAM** 

Islam and Saudi Arabia, champions of dialogue? by Samir Khalil Samir



The Saudi king takes more steps to show

openness towards Christians, Jews and other religions. The most urgent reason is to rectify Islam's violent image but also stems from a new attitude towards inter-faith dialogue towards the People of the Book (Jews, Muslims and Christians), but also atheists. Hindus and Buddhists.



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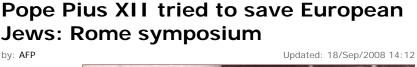
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ROME (AFP)---Pope Pius XII, who the Catholic Church may beatify, tried to save European Jews from Nazi extermination during World War II, according to a conference on the pontiff in Rome that concluded Wednesday.

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The symposium, organised by a US-based group on inter-religious dialogue called the Pave the Way Foundation, brought together Catholics and Jews to defend Pius XII.

The foundation claims the former leader of the Roman Catholic

the victim of a sinister "myth" to the effect that he was insensitive to the fate of Jews terrorised by Germany's Nazi regime and its death camps.

The group collected documentation aiming to prove Pius XII intervened publicly as well as in secret to save Jews and to encourage Catholic institutions to shelter them.

These documents include diplomatic telegrams and testimony of people saved thanks to his intervention, according to the symposium.

Pius XII served as pope from 1939-1958 and his role during the war is viewed as controversial. Many historians accuse him of staying silent and doing little to intervene Nazis killed some six million Jews in Europe.

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The foundation is asking that Yad Vashem, the Holocaust memorial in



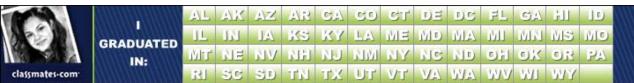
Jerusalem, withdraw from its permanent exhibition a text that the group considers defamatory towards Pius XII.

The symposium was held on the 50th anniversary of the death of Pius XII. The current pope, Benedict XVI, will celebrate a mass on October 5 in the Vatican's Saint Peter's Basilica to mark the event.

During his visit to Paris last week, Pope Benedict XVI reminded representatives from France's Jewish community that Pius XII had called Nazism a period of "darkness".

In February, the Vatican said it would not block steps under way for the beatification of Pius XII, despite criticism from many historians and numerous Jewish associations about the former pontiff's attitude towards the Holocaust and the killing of six million Jews during World War II.





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#### Pope Benedict praises 'truths' on Pius XII's World War II role

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papal summer residence situated south of Rome.

"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," Benedict said.

Italian-born Pius XII, who reigned from 1939 until his death in 1958, has been accused by some of showing indifference to the Nazi massacre of the Jews and of failing to speak out against Hitler.

But the Vatican and other supporters say he strove to save those persecuted by the Nazis, including opening the doors of monastries, convents and other Church premises to shelter Jews Benedict is expected to preside over a Mass commemorating the 50th anniversary of Pius' death on

Benedict's immediate predecessor John Paul II, stirred controversy during his pontificate, by approving

moves for Pius XII's beatification - the first step towards sainthood.

Vatican officials earlier this year reported no progress in the process since Since May 2007 when the Roman Catholic Church's saint- making department voted in favour of a decree recognizing Pius's "heroic virtues.

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Castel Gandolfo, Italy - Pope Benedict XVI on Thursday thanked the organizers of a symposium examining role played during World War II by Pius XII - a pope criticized by some for his stance towards the Nazi-led persecution of Jews. Benedict, referring to Pius as "this noble Pope" said the symposium's work had helped appreciate that pontiff's "human wisdom and pastoral intensity... especially in providing organized assistance to the Jewish people," Benedict said.

The pontiff was addressing participants of the symposium, organized by the Pave the Way Foundation, a US-based group including Jews and Catholics that promotes improved relations between followers of different religions.

Benedict met them at Castel Gandolfo the

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#### **Pope Pius**

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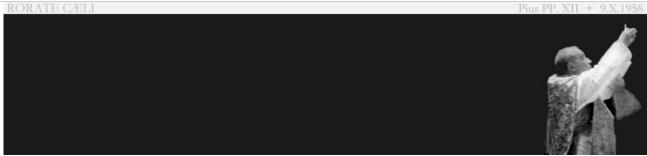
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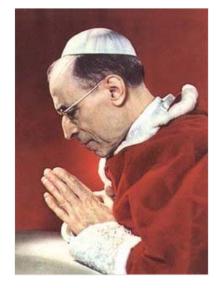
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#### THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 2008

#### Benedict XVI on Pius XII, the Pastor Angelicus



Pope Benedict XVI received today representatives of the "Pave the Way Foundation", an interreligious organization which has recently held a symposium on the papacy of Pius XII, of most glorious memory. These are Pope Benedict's words:

#### 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

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- Father Zuhlsdorf
- Flos Carmeli
- Giovanni da Rho
- The Gregorian Mass
- The Gregorian Rite
- Hallowed Ground

RORATE CÆLI Page 2 of 6

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

- Indolent Server
- The Inn
- Inquisitor
- The Inspired Traditionalist
- Ite ad Thomam
- The Lion & the Cardinal
- Mater de Mercede
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RORATE CÆLI Page 3 of 6

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 29th 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.

Benedict XVI

Meeting with the participants of the "Pave the Way Foundation" symposium

September 18, 2008

posted by New Catholic at 11:05 AM

#### 12 COMMENTS:

Antonio said...

This is really significant.

I think we are very close to the official proclamation of Pius XII as "Venerable".

18 September, 2008 14:26

Anonymous said...

Absolutly magnificent words. The Holy Father seized upon this historical moment to defend his predecesor. I am very impressed!

18 September, 2008 14:37

ALL TIMES GMT









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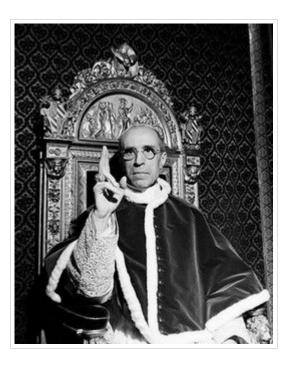
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## WHISPERS IN THE LOGGIA

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 2008

#### B16 on P12: He Wuz Robbed

In his first direct comments on his wartime predecessor's "black legend," as the 50th anniversary of Pius XII's death approaches the Pope included the following earlier today in his greeting to the New York-based Pave the Way Foundation, a Jewish-led group which sponsored a Rome seminar on Papa Pacelli this week:



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

ABOUT ME



**ROCCO PALMO** PHILADELPHIA, PA, VATICAN

Rocco Palmo writes from America for *The* 

Tablet, the international Catholic weekly published in London. He also authors "Almost Holy," a fortnightly column for Busted Halo, an online magazine on spirituality and culture run by the Paulist Fathers. Palmo's appeared as a commentator on things Catholic in *The New York* Times, Associated Press, The San Francisco Chronicle, BBC, National Public Radio, The Washington Post and Religion News Service, among other print and broadcast outlets. A Philadelphia native, Rocco Palmo attended the University of Pennsylvania, from which he earned the Bachelor of Arts in Political Science.

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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.

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A major Vatican conference on Pius' 19-year pontificate and its lasting impact will be held in November.

-30-

POSTED BY ROCCO PALMO AT 08:28



48 Days
Saving St Mary's
Head Trid on Mass Hysteria:
Enough!
"This Guy Did Something Saintly"



Quote of the Day

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#### Communio

...bearing with one another in love, making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

## Pope Benedict addresses Pope Pius XII study

By Paul Zalonskion September 18, 2008 7:16 AM | Permalink | Comments (0)

Pope Benedict met today with the Pave the Way Foundation (PTWF). The PTWF met in Rome this week to hold a symposium to study the papacy of Pope Pius XII. "Pave the Way has identified this period in history as one of the most difficult between Catholics and Jews, and so we have taken on this challenge in the furtherance of our mission" says PTWF President, Gary L. Krupp. "PTWF has launched an independent investigation by video interviewing eye witnesses to events of war years. We have uncovered a great deal of information which is not known by any of the scholarly institutions including the Vatican itself." Krupp believes there is considerable evidence from eye witnesses and other archival materials to help to answer questions of what in fact the Pius XII papacy did during World War II and its importance today.

In his audience the Pope said:

The focus of your [Pave the Way Foundation] study has been the person and the tireless pastoral and humanitarian work of Pius XII, Pastor Angelicus. Fifty

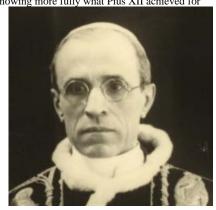
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About the author

Paul A. Zalonski is from New Haven, CT. After years of study, work and trying to find meaning in life, he still has a sense of humor. Paul is discerning God's plan. Contact Paul at paulzalonski(at) vahoo.com.

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About this Entry

This page contains a single entry by <u>Paul Zalonski</u> published on *September 18*, . 2008 7:16 AM.

Benedictine Abbots to meet in Rome was the previous entry in this blog.

2008 Elections: What we hold most dear is the next entry in this blog.

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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 29th 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.



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Registered: July 23, 2008

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http://www.ptwf.org/

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Pave the Way Foundation Announces Symposium to help to work to resolve Pius XII Controversy

(New York) June 18, 2008- Pave the Way Foundation (PTWF), a USbased non-sectarian organization tasked with removing obstacles between the world's religions announces that on June 18th PTWF will bring a group of Jewish survivors of the holocaust to meet with Pope Benedict XVI. The group wishes to personally thank the Pontiff for the intervention of the Roman Catholic Church in saving their lives in Italy during WWII. PTWF also announces that they are planning a special symposium to study the papacy of Pope Pius XII to be held in Rome September 2008. We hope to establish an open line of communication with historians from the Vatican and the Holocaust memorials worldwide", said Gary Krupp President of PTWF.

In a fictitious play from 1963 entitled "The Deputy" ("The Vicar" in the UK) Pope Pius XII was portrayed as a Nazi collaborator and anti-Semitic. From this point forward, there was a marked change in the public perception of Eugenio Pacelli (Pius XII) internationally. Until now there has been no venue wherein the known facts of his papacy can be examined and broadly disseminated to the general public. Dozens of books have been written on both sides of this issue with no conclusions beyond, we must wait for the Vatican Archives to open. A PTWF interview with the prefect of the Vatican archives revealed that the only reason these records are not open is simply because the cataloging of over 30 million documents of this time period is not yet completed. There is however considerable evidence from eye witnesses and other archives to help to answer questions of this papacy today.

"Pave the Way has identified this period in history as one of the most difficult between Catholics and Jews, and so we have taken on this challenge in the furtherance of our mission" says PTWF President, Gary L. Krupp. "PTWF has launched an independent investigation by video interviewing eye witnesses to events of war years. We have uncovered a great deal of information which is not known by any of the scholarly institutions including the Vatican itself."

PTWF will be delivering copies of all of the video testimony and documents to The Holocaust Martyrs' and Heroes' Remembrance Authority Yad Vashem in Jerusalem, United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington DC and the Museum of Jewish Heritage in New York for further study. In past discussions, Yad Vashem has stated that in the interest of absolute historical accuracy they welcome any information about this period so that they can accurately represent events of one of the darkest periods in history. Some of the revealing video testimony is available for viewing on the <a href="http://www.ptwf.org">http://www.ptwf.org</a> website.

About Pave the Way Foundation

Pave the Way Foundation is dedicated to bridging the gap 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. More

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Home / World News / Jewish leader says Pope Pius XII has been demonized falsely

## Jewish leader says Pope Pius XII has been demonized falsely

Published: 2008-09-15

ROME (CNS) -- Pope Pius XII has been demonized and his legacy of helping Jews during World War II has been poisoned by inaccurate and incomplete historical accounts, said the Jewish founder and president of Pave the Way Foundation. "We have to change history" and tell the world the truth about this wartime pope "who saved so many lives," Gary Krupp, foundation president, told Catholic News Service. He spoke at the start of a Sept. 15-17 symposium that studied the papacy of Pope Pius and unveiled new evidence of the pope's hidden acts and orders aimed at saving Jews from the Nazis. The symposium, sponsored by the U.S.-based foundation, featured Catholic and Jewish speakers and video footage of interviews with people who were saved from the Holocaust through the church's intervention. Krupp said scholars and historians "have failed, they've simply failed" over the last 45 years to retrieve and present firsthand accounts from eyewitnesses, Holocaust survivors, diplomats and archival material.

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Catholics worldwide reach out to Haiti following devastating storms

Jewish leader says Pope Pius XII has been demonized falsely

Church groups condemn series of bomb blasts in New Delhi

Bidding farewell, pope says France is ready for return to God

At Paris Mass, pope urges Catholics to reject idols of money, power

Pope celebrates Mass, tells Lourdes pilgrims Mary leads to Christ

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#### Special Symposium Opens on Pope Pius XII

(15 Sept 08 - RV) A special symposium to study the papacy of Pope Pius 12<sup>th</sup> opened today in Rome.

It's being organised by Pave the Way Foundation which is dedicated to achieving peace by bridging the gap in tolerance and understanding between religions.

The aim of the symposium is to dispel misconceptions regarding the Pope who steered the Church through World War 2.

Jesuit Fr. Peter Gumpel is the relator of the cause for the Beatification of Pius

He spoke about attitudes today to Pius 12th, particularly within the Jewish community...

#### 

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17/09/2008 18.28.29 True Legacy of Pope Pius XII

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11/09/2008 18.38.44

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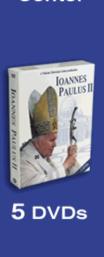
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Pope Benedict XVI Receives Bishops of **Paraguay** 

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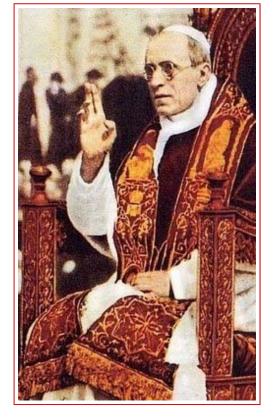
#### TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 2008

#### Rome symposium to study Pius' legacy

A symposium in Rome will reveal new information about the controversial wartime Pope Pius XII.

Pave the Way, a U.S.-based, nonsectarian organization that promotes interreligious dialogue, is sponsoring the three-day symposium that begins Monday to study the papacy of Pope Pius XII.

Earlier this year, Pave the Way announced it was investigating Pius' papacy by interviewing eyewitnesses and gathering publicly



available documentation and newspaper accounts.

The organization said it had uncovered information that contradicted criticism that Pius turned a blind eye to the Holocaust.

"We have discovered many personal intercessions of Pope Pius XII which directly contradict the impression that he remained silent and did nothing to save Jewish lives," said Pave the Way President Gary Krupp.

Krupp has close ties with the Vatican. In January 2007, he became the first Jewish man to be knighted by two popes when he was promoted to the highest Pontifical Order of St. Gregory the Great. He received a

#### SOTTO VOCE



Irish RC Priest...Giving The Uncomfortable Truth And News From The Inside...

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previous papal knighthood in 2000.

A spokesman for Pave the Way said the meeting is expected to "present new documentation that has never been revealed before" regarding Pius XII.

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Sotto Voce

(Source: JTA)

POSTED BY SOTTO VOCE AT 9/16/2008 12:16:00 AM

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Published: 09/15/2008

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A spokesman for Pave the Way said the meeting is expected to "present new documentation that has never been revealed before" regarding Pius XII.

#### More Breaking News from JTA

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  Jerusalem, and compensate Palestinians for settlement
  blocs in a peace deal, Ehud Olmert said.
- Austria's far-right parties won almost a third of the vote in parliamentary elections, and could be included in a new goverment coalition.
- Young Jews are being encouraged to travel to Florida to lobby their grandparents on behalf of Barack Obama.
- The wife of Iraqi President Jalal Talabani visited The Simon Wiesenthal Center in Los Angeles.
- The dispute surrounding Rabbi Nahman's gravesite in Uman has been settled.

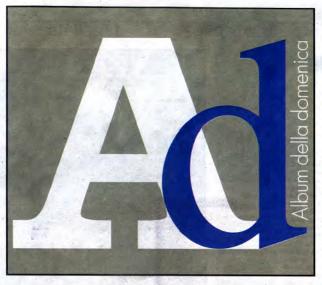




#### LA POESIA

Nedda Falzolgher sulle ali della lirica

### IL RACCONTO La riunione misteriosa



#### LO SPILLO

#### «A cosa serve la cultura?» A non fare domande sceme

a l'egemonia culturale della sinistra non era una malattia in via di remissione? Ad essa dobbiamo quella stupenda morale che ha inventato la domanda: «Noi li abbiamo promossi tutti, un 18 non si nega a nessuno, perché sono rimasti così ignoranti?». Questione notevole: poteva dar luogo a un esame di coscienza, a percorsi alternativi, a un progresso. Tuttavia la casa editrice il Saggiatore ha posto a 14 intellettuali 14 - Furio Colombo, Giulio Giorello, Robert Fisk, Carlos Fuentes e via di sinistra, giusto per evitare sorprese - un'altra domanda molto più chic: «A cosa serve la cultura?». Troverete chic: «A cosa serve la cultura?». Troverete l'indispensabile risposta nell'omonimo libro.

Gary L. Krupp:

«Per noi ha fatto

più lui di tutti

i politici della sua epoca messi insieme»

zista mette nero su bianco

to vigorosamente per l'arre-sto degli ebrei, chiedendo l'interruzione» della deporta-

Zione.

Krupp contesta l'immagine del «Papa del silenzio»,
impaurito di fronte a Hiller
perché ossessionato dal comunismo o perché intenzionato a salvare soltanto i cattolici «Il Pana, pricorda, feco.

lici. «Il Papa - ricorda - fece tutto dietro le quinte, in silen-zio. Non solo perché sapeva che era l'unico modo per otte-nere risultati, non solo per-

nere risultati, non solo per-ché sapeva che Hitler aveva dato ordine di rapirlo, ma an-che perché aveva avuto la prova che i proclami e gli ap-pelli non servivano a nulla. Anzi, potevano essere contro-producenti come nol caso

Anzi, potevano essere contro-producenti, come nel caso della dichiarazione dei vesco-vi olandesi che nel luglio 1942 avevano protestato con-tro la deportazione degli ebrei, ottenendo non che que-sta si fermasse, ma che conti-nuasse in modo ancora più duro, con la cattura anche



## Ora sono gli ebrei a salvare Pio XII

ANDREA TORNIELLI

ono cresciuto pessando che Pio XII fosse stato un collaboratore dei nazisti, un Papa antisemita. Sono rimasto scioccato nell'apprendere, dai documenti e dalla viva voce dei sopravvissuti, che la realtà è completamente e radicalmente diversa...». Gary L. Krupp è un ebreo americano, presidente di «Pave the Way», una fondazione indipendente che lavora per eli-Way», una fondazione indi-pendente che lavora per eli-minare l'uso distorto della re-ligione per fini privati e si adopera per identificare gli ostacoli al dialogo tra le reli-gioni. «Uno dei temi più con-troversi e spinosi, nel rappor-to tra chrei e cattolici, è pro-prio la figura di Papa Pacelli: per questo - racconta Krupp al Giornale - abbiamo finan-ziato un progetto raccoglien-do documenti e filmando il ziato un progetto raccognen-do documenti e filmando il racconto dalla viva voce dei protagonisti ancora in vita». «Pave the Way» ha orga-nizzato a Roma, da domani a

mercoledi, un importante convegno dedicato a Pio XII e alla grande opera di salvataggio dei perseguitati che la Chiesa cattolica su suo impulso mise in atto negli anni del furore nazista. Vi partecipano molti studiosi movementi. no molti studiosi provenienti lagli Stati Uniti ed è la prima volta, negli ultimi decenni, che un'organizzazione ebrai-ca fa sentire. con così tanta forza la propria voce in con-trotendenza rispetto alla

«leggenda nera» sul «Papa di Hiller». «Pave the Way», nel corso del convegno romano - che precede altri appuntamenti dedicati alla figura di Pio XII voluti dalla Santa Sede in oc-casione del cinquantesimo della morte e che si conclude-rà con un'uldiarsa corsora della morte e che si conclude-rà con un'udienza concessa da Benedetto XVI agli orga-nizzatori - presenterà un vo-lume di documenti che da so-li bastano a sfatare quelle che sono considerate certezze acquisite sul «Papa dei si-lenzi». Eccone qualche esem-pio. Si è sempre presentato il concordato tra la Germania governata da Hitler e la Santa Sede come un'alleanza tra Vaticano e nazisti, dimenti-cando che i concordati erano e sono trattati difensivi e che e sono trattati difensivi e che avvengono tra Stati. «Si di-mentica pure - osserva Krupp - che nell'agosto 1933, vale a dire un mese pri-ma che il concordato tra Vati-cano e Germania fosse ratifi-cato, la stessa Germania e gli ebrei di Palestina siglarono l'accordo di Hauvare, che fu l'accordo di Haavara, che fu appoggiato e sostenuto dal Congresso mondiale ebraico

Da domani a Roma un convegno sul ruolo svolto da Papa Pacelli nella difesa dall'Olocausto di migliaia di vite. A organizzarlo sono gli stessi figli di David

del 1935». Oggi il concordato tra lo Stato tedesco e la Santa Se-de, siglato nel 1933, è ricordato al museo dello Yad Vashem con una foto e una didascalia che lo presenta co-me un patto scellerato, la pro-va della collusione tra il Vaticano (anche se allora il Papa

non era Pacelli, ma il suo pre-decessore Pio XI) e i nazisti. Se così fosse, bisognerebbe concludere che un patto altrettanto scellerato venne concluso prima tra gli ebrei sionisti e il governo del can-celliere Adolf Hitler. In realtà l'accordo di Haavara era stato siglato per favorire l'emi-

grazione degli ebrei tedeschi in Palestina, così come il con-cordato fu siglato per cerca-re (invano) di difendere la libertà della Chiesa in Germa-

nia. «È assolutamente da smentire - continua Krupp - qualsi-asi contiguità di Pio XII con il nazismo. Abbiamo messo in-

LE VIGNETTE NAZISTE CONTRO DI LUI





#### LE CELEBRAZIONI

#### Beatificazione sempre più vicina

Sono tante le iniziative previste nelle prossime settima-ne per il 50° anniversario della morte di Pio XII. Oltre al conve-gno di Pave the Wayv che si svoige a Roma, a palazzo Salviati in piazza della Rovere, da domani s mercoledi, un appuntamento im portante sarà la messache Papa Benedetto XVI celebrerà in Sar Pietro la mattina del 9 ottobre, il giorno della morte di Papa Pacel II. Si attende ancora la promulgazione del decreto sulle virtù eroi-che di Pio XII, tappa conclusiva del processo di beatificazione, ed è possibile che entro la fine del l'anno qualcosa si muova anche in questo senso, dopo l'attento vaglio da parte della Segreteria di Stato di tutta la documentazione storica presente negli archivi. In novembre sono previsti altri due appuntamenti: una mostra, orga-nizzata dal Portificio comitato di Scienze storiche, dedicata alla fi-gura di Papa Pacelli, con docu-menti inediti e oggetti appartenuti al Pontefice, che sarà allestita nel Braccio di Carlo Magno. E un convegno dedicato al ricco magi-stero di Pio XII, il Papa più citato stero di Pio XII, il Papa pui citadi dal Concilio Vaticaro II, organizza-to dalla Pontificia università Late-ranerse. Continuano infine ad ar-rivare adesioni da tutto il mondo al comitato Papa Pacelli (www. comitato papapacelli.org), na-to per favorire una migliore con-senza della figira del Pontefice scenza della figura del Pontefice che regnò negli anni drammatici della Seconda guerra mondiale e nel periodo della ricostruzione.

duro, con la cattura anche degli ebrei che si erano con-vertiti al cattolicesimo». Quello di «Pave the Way» è Quello di «Pave the Way» è dunque un contributo importante, che mostra come all'interno del mondo ebraico non vi sia solo la voce di chi ha fatto di Pio XII il capro espiatorio della Shoah. Un contributo a una discussione più serena, della quale si sente il bisogno anche in campo cattolico, dove molti specialisti continuano a bollare come «apologetico» qualsiasi tentativo di aprire un dibattito serio su Papa Pacelli e sul suo ruolo, ignorando vecchi e nuovi documenti che smentiscomo la leggenda nera. tiscono la leggenda nera. Una leggenda creatasi già prima della rappresentazio-ne del dramma di Rolf Ho-chhuth *Il Vicario* (1963), alimentata dai servizi segreti

mentata dai servizi segreti dei Paesi dell'Est. «Come ebreo - ribadisce Gary I. Krupp - posso dire che nell'opera concreta di salvataggio degli ebrei perse-guitati, Pio XII fece concretata-mente molto più di tutti i lea-der politici e religiosi del suo tempo messi insieme. Dob-biamo riconoscerlo, perché se è vero che chi salva una vita salva il mondo intero. a vita salva il mondo intero, a Papa Pacelli, che di vite ne ha salvate tante aprendo le porte dei conventi romani, va attribuito il titolo di Giusto

sieme 44 citazioni di discor-si, lettere e documenti dai quali emerge in tutta chiarez-za e pubblicamente quale fos-se il suo pensiero, come a esempio la lettera spedita dall'allora cardinale Segretatali aliora cardinale segreta-rio di Stato Pacelli al cardina-le tedesco Joseph Schulte, nella quale egli definiva i na-zisti "falsi profeti con l'orgo-glio di Lucifero"».

Per quanto riguarda l'ope-ra di salvataggio degli ebrei perseguitati durante la guer-ra, «Pave the Way» ha mes-so insieme un dossier che testimonia, spiega Krupp, «co-me Pio XII-sia stato l'uomo che ha salvato più ebrei nella storia». Dal diario di Adolf Eistoria». Dat diario di Adolf Es-chmann, recentemente pub-blicato, si apprende a esem-pio che il progetto iniziale di deportare ottomila ebrei ita-liani nei campi di sterminio fu interrotto dopo il primo di rinteri di arcia pal chetta di giorno di razzia nel ghetto di Roma e lo stesso gerarca na-

# L'OSSERVATORE R

GIORNALE QUOTIDIANO



POLITICO RELIG

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Non praevalebunt

Anno CXLVIII n. 219 (44-959)

Città del Vaticano

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 trivito di Benedetto XVI nei corso dell'udienza di giovedi 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, 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 be-half. 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 accom-panying 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 debilitat-ing 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 examina-tion of many of his interventions, especially those in favour of the Jews who in those years were being targeted all over Europe, in accor-dance with the criminal plan of 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

Thanks to the vast quantity of documented material which you have gathered, supported by many authoritative testimonies, your sym-posium offers to the public forum the possibility of knowing more ful-ly 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 29th of November 1945 with 80 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 venerated Predecessor's my 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.

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 uma-na, non è solo parte della trasmissione delle tradizioni religiose, ma nutre anche la più ampia cultura, motivando gli uomini e le donne di buona volon-tà a rafforzare i legami di solidarietà e a dimostrare come una società unita possa in realtà sorgere da una plurali-tà di popoli». Lo ha sottolineato il Papa nel discorso rivolto a Jasna Krivošić-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.



PAGINA 2

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 promosso 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.