



# Internet and Print Media Coverage

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# Jewish Knight of St. Gregory Encourages Cooperation

By Pete Sheehan

**Rockville Centre** — When Gary and Meredith Krupp of Long Beach visited the Cenacle or “Upper Room,” the traditional site of the Last Supper in Jerusalem, they were disheartened by what they saw.

“There it was, one of the most important sites for Christianity, sitting there. It’s where Jesus first broke the matzo that Christians remember at each Mass.

“The building wasn’t well maintained.

It had Muslim writing on the stained-glass windows,” Mr. Krupp, who is Jewish, commented.

The building, under Muslim control for centuries, came under the jurisdiction of the State of Israel when it was founded in 1948.

So over the past year, Mr. Krupp and his wife have been working to convince the Israeli government to transfer the famous building to Franciscan control.

“The Catholic Church has owned it since the 11th century. They have a bill of sale,” Mr. Krupp noted. For centuries, however, when Jerusalem was under the jurisdiction of the Ottoman Empire, the Church’s claim to the site meant little.

“It only makes sense now that it goes back to Catholic jurisdiction,” Mr. Krupp said. The Franciscans traditionally have held custody of many of the shrines and pilgrimage sites in the Middle East.



*Gary and Meredith Krupp meet Pope John Paul II in 1990 accompanied by Msgr. Edward Melton, former administrator of St. Agnes Cathedral, Rockville Centre.*

Mr. and Mrs. Krupp created the Pave the Way Foundation to improve relations among Christians, Jews, and Muslims. The return of the Upper Room is only one of the goals that the foundation is pursuing, Mr. Krupp explained.

*‘Self-interest’*

The foundation has been lobbying the Israeli government to address numerous complaints of the Holy See regarding the legal status of Catholic entities in Israel itself, the issues of visas for Church personnel working and living in Israel and its occupied territories, property rights, and access for pilgrims to some of the major shrines there.

“As a Jew, I feel a certain self-interest here,” Mr. Krupp explained. “The Pope and many of the cardinals are the biggest opponents of anti-Semitism in the world today.

“We who are Jewish need to thank the Catholic Church, in particular Pope John Paul II, for all that he has done to foster good relations between Catholics and Jews, and especially for Israel.” Most notably, Mr. Krupp said, Pope John Paul established full diplomatic relations between Israel and the Holy See in 1993.

“And that came about on the initiative of the Vatican itself, not Israel,” he noted.

Mr. Krupp’s involvement with the Catholic Church is nothing new. “It started out with my friendship with Msgr. Edward Melton,” long-time administrator of St. Agnes Cathedral here, who died in 1994.

Four years ago, Mr. Krupp became one of only seven Jewish people to receive the papal honor of knight commander in the Order of St. Gregory the Great since its institution in 1831. “And only three of us are living.”

Cardinal Angelo Sodano, Holy See secretary of state, conferred the honor in September of 2000 at St. Paul the Apostle Church, Brookville. The cardinal cited Mr. Krupp for recruiting medical equipment companies to donate \$15 million worth of equipment for the Casa Sollievo della Sofferenza, a hospital started by Padre Pio in Italy.

Mr. Krupp, who had made his living developing such medical facilities as diagnostic imaging centers and a kidney dialysis center, became interested in doing more to foster good relations among Jews and Christians. “As a Jewish person who has been honored by the Pope, I was in a unique position.”

So he founded Pave the Way Foundation, involving Christians, Jews, and Muslims from different traditions.

“Our slogan,” Mrs. Krupp said, “is ‘Embrace the Similarities — Savor the Differences.’”

“We all believe in the same God,” Mr. Krupp emphasized. The foundation sets up cultural exchanges, such as Israeli and Jewish speakers at Catholic organizations, encouraging Catholic pilgrimages to Israel, and projects with Catholic and Israeli youth.

Most significantly, he said, the foundation helped arrange a loan from the Vatican Library to the Israel Museum of the Vatican’s collection of the writings of Maimonides, the 12th century Jewish philosopher and theologian.

“This will be a tremendous event, both culturally and for what it will mean for the Jewish people and for Catholic-Jewish relations,” Mr. Krupp said. The exhibition is scheduled for next year during the Israel Museum’s 40th anniversary.

“Beyond the cultural is the personal,” Mrs. Krupp said. “We saw Jewish people who had never been in a church before meeting with high Church officials. You saw a rabbi embracing a cardinal. This is building relationships.”

### *Issues with Israel*

Mr. Krupp’s current focus is helping persuade the Israeli government to follow through on agreements that have been worked at since Israel and the Holy See signed a fundamental agreement for full diplomatic relations.

Since then, the Holy See and Israeli officials have been trying to resolve the issues of tax exemption for Church institutions, the Church’s right to have recourse to Israeli courts, and the return of holy sites to Church jurisdiction. Negotiations were stopped by the Israeli government last year and have not resumed.

Archbishop Celestino Migliore, who heads the Holy See’s permanent observer mission to the United Nations (U.N.), addressed these issues in a March 28 talk at Immaculate Conception Seminary (see *The Long Island Catholic* 03/31/04)

“A lot of the problem is that Israeli officials are preoccupied with the conflict” with the Palestinians, Mr. Krupp said. “These (Vatican-Israeli) issues are not of great concern to the Israeli people, many of whom are barely aware that their government has relations with the Vatican.”

For U.S. Jews, however, the issues are important. “We are the ones who were so concerned for many years that the Vatican have full relations with Israel,” he said. He also noted that further agreement is important for ensuring future good relations between Israel and the Holy See.

“Once these issues between the Vatican and Israel are resolved,” Mr. Krupp said, “my dream is that Christians, Jewish, and Muslim people will be able to come together to work for peace in the Middle East.”



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## **CIU Honored for Interfaith Accomplishments**

Pave the Way Foundation Honors CIU For Efforts to Promote Interfaith Dialogue, Peace

NEW YORK - Interfaith leaders from around the world came together on November 4, 2004 to honor the CIU's **Angelica Berrie** and **Rabbi Jack Bemporad** for their efforts in promoting interfaith dialogue.

The Pave the Way foundation hosted the event, which was held at the Harmony Club in Manhattan. Luminaries including **H. Em. William Cardinal Keeler**, Archbishop of Baltimore; **H.E. Archbishop Celestino Migliore**, Permanent Observer to the United Nations for the Holy See; **H.E. Ambassador Arye Mekel**, Consul General for the State of Israel; **H.E. Ambassador Oded Ben-Hur**, Israeli Ambassador to the Holy See; and **Reverend Dr. David Jaeger OFM**, Legal Representative and Spokesman for the Franciscan Custody in Israel, were in attendance.

Cardinal Keeler presented CIU Director Rabbi Bemporad with the Interreligious Dialogue Award and spoke warmly of his accomplishments. "Rabbi Jack Bemporad has been an enormous assistance in helping us to understand how the Jewish and Christian faiths are intimately related," Cardinal Keeler said. "The Pave the Way Foundation's philosophy is 'Embrace the similarities-savor the differences.' [Rabbi Bemporad's] lifetime of spiritual work has uniquely embodied this concept."

In his acceptance speech, Rabbi Bemporad spoke of the need for compassion and dialogue in today's increasingly divided world. "I have often said religion has great influence. If you have great influence, you have great responsibility," he stated. "One of the great Jewish philosophers said: 'We look for God and we find man; we look at man and we find God.' How can we do what God demands of us without looking on our fellow man? We have to be compassionate. If we look to the soul of man, how can we not look to the soul of all souls-God?" Rabbi Bemporad concluded by emphasizing the importance of interfaith cooperation. "Abraham was the first hero of the spirit because he was told to be a blessing," he said. "We should begin by being a blessing to one another."

Rabbi Bemporad has worked for 30 years to bring people of all religious faiths together to promote honest dialogue, mutual respect and theological understanding. A Holocaust refugee from Italy, Bemporad has been at the center of many of the efforts improving the relationship between Christians and Jews, including negotiating and writing the Prague Accord- the first time the Catholic Church asked for forgiveness of the Jews for its past acts of anti-Semitism- in 1990.

The CIU's Chair of the Board of Directors, Angelica Berrie, was presented with the Philanthropy Award. She spoke of the urgency of the CIU's mission to promote dialogue. "In these extraordinary times, interfaith cooperation is no longer an option, but a necessity," she said. "At a time of deep division between religions and nations, we must find ways to respect our differences while forging peaceful bonds based on our common humanity. The CIU is

dedicated to achieving this goal."

Angelica Berrie is the former Vice Chairman of the Board of Directors for Oakland, NJ-based Russ Berrie and Company. In partnership with her late husband Russ Berrie, Angelica has dedicated much of her life to philanthropy. She helped create The Berrie Center, the only comprehensive diabetes research and treatment center in the New York tri-state area, and is Chair of the Board for Gilda's Club Worldwide, a support group for men, women and children living with cancer.

Founded in 2002 by Gary Krupp and his wife Meredith, the Pave the Way Foundation promotes peace by embracing the similarities common to all religions. The foundation spreads its philosophy through cultural, technological and educational exchanges between the world's religions.

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## Paving the Way: Gary Krupp Unites Vatican and State of Israel

*"We tend to hate each other because of the differences and the intensity of our faiths. We have to understand that we are responsible for the well being of our fellow human beings. We must live honest lives respecting the rights of others. We must learn to embrace our similarities and savor the differences."* -Gary Krupp, founder of the Pave the Way Foundation

In September 2000, Gary Krupp of Long Beach, NY became only the seventh Jew ever to receive the papal honor of Knight Commander in the Order of St. Gregory the Great. This recognition came as a result of his success recruiting medical equipment companies to donate \$15 million dollars worth of equipment for the Casa Sollievo della Sofferenza Hospital in Italy.

As opposed to encouraging his career in medical facility development, this fortuitous honor from the Pope led Krupp in a totally new direction. He realized that as a Jew who had been honored by the Pope he had an amazing opportunity to help improve relations between the two religions. In 2003, he founded the Pave the Way Foundation.

"I could not believe this honor was given to me," explains Krupp in an interview with Rabbi Jack Bemporad. "I decided, at that time, that since there were only two other Jewish men alive who were so honored and that they were both working in the area of reconciliation between the religions it was my responsibility to do the same. I had to do something with this position within the Papal household to benefit the Jewish People and the State of Israel.

The foundation spreads its philosophy, "Embrace the Similarities - Savor the Differences," through cultural exchanges; arranging Israeli speakers at Catholic Churches, encouraging Catholic pilgrimages to Israel, and organizing Catholic-Jewish youth projects.

In addition, one of Pave the Ways' main goals is fostering a strong partnership between the Vatican and the State of Israel. Krupp has lobbied the Israeli government to address the concerns of the Vatican regarding the legal status of Catholic entities in Israel, visa issues for Church employees, and access of pilgrims to major shrines.

Most notably, Krupp has campaigned for the return of the Cenacle, the site of the Last Supper, to Catholic control and has successfully arranged a loan of the Vatican's Maimonides manuscripts to the Israeli Museum. These projects are great examples of his emphasis on concrete goals in the quest for reconciliation.

"We want to convince people that inter-religious action, not just dialogue, is needed," says Krupp. "In the future, Pave the Way is planning on producing a documentary that will give voice to the majority of good people in the Christian, Jewish and Muslim world who condemn killing in Gods name. We also hope to expand the goals of the Maimonides project by trying to arrange the repatriation of some of these documents to the Jewish people.

Krupps' work has not gone unnoticed by the Vatican or the state of Israel.

"Gary is a committed individual with a kind heart," says Ambassador Alon Pinkas of the Israeli Consulate in New York. "He utilizes his unique position within the Catholic Church and commitment to his own heritage as a springboard for dialogue between the two faiths."

Recently, Krupp's role in relations between Israel and the Vatican became even more important. Last year tensions arose between the Catholic Church and Israel as a result of an inability to finalize legislation relating to the Fundamental Agreement of 1993. The Israeli delegation even withdrew from negotiations at one point.

Krupp realized the gravity of the situation and took on the role of lead mediator between the two sides. Pave the Way reached out to Israeli diplomats, Jewish philanthropic organizations, Jewish congress-members, and influential Jewish leaders, asking them to contact the Prime Minister's office and emphasize the importance of cementing this relationship. With the help of Krupp's mobilization, Israel came back to the table.

"When the government of Israel withdrew from negotiations last August it was a crisis of unprecedented seriousness with possible dire consequences for both sides," tells Reverend Dr. David-Maria Jaeger, the official spokesman of the Franciscan Custody of the Holy Land. "For some of us, it was a time of tremendous anxiety, and even despondency, but Gary held fast to the hopes we all share, refused to give up, moved heaven and earth, as the saying goes, to help bring about the healing of the relationship."

Perhaps that is what is most notable about Krupp -- his spirit of optimism even in these dark times.

"Absolutely, no problem created by man cannot be solved by man," he says. "If we can give a voice to the silent majority of good people in the world we can fight those who have used religion for their own personal, financial or political gain. My message is simple: we must try to hear the message of God rather than concerning ourselves with the customs and methods through which that message is delivered."

For more information on the Pave the Way Foundation, visit [www.pavethewayfoundation.org](http://www.pavethewayfoundation.org).

### **Interview:**

**CIU:** *What made you make the leap from developing medical facilities to facilitating Jewish-Catholic relations?*

**Krupp:** On July 29, 2000, I received a call from the Vatican from H. Em Cardinal Renato Martino. He left a message on my answering machine and I still have the recording. He called to congratulate the Knights Commander of the Pontifical Equestrian Order of St. Gregory the Great. The Pope had personally approved me to be invested into a Pontifical Order of Knighthood, which is the highest honor bestowed by the Catholic Church to a Layperson. I was told that I was the seventh Jewish man in history to receive this honor.

I could not believe this honor was given to me. I decided, at that time that since there were only three Jewish men still alive who were so honored (Sir Sigmund Sternberg of Great Britain, Sir Gilbert Levine of the Vatican Orchestra Maestro and Myself) and Sir Siggy and Maestro Levine both work in the area of reconciliation between the religions, it was my responsibility to do the same. I had to do something with this position within the Papal household to benefit the Jewish People and the State of Israel. My wife Meredith and I started the Pave the Way Foundation.

**CIU:** *Why is the Maimonides Project such an important symbolic gesture on the part of the Vatican?*



**Krupp:** Maimonides was a medieval Rabbi, philosopher and physician whose writings are revered by Jews, Christians and Muslims. This past year was the commemoration of his death 800 years ago.

I saw potential to use this man's universal appeal as a guide or common denominator of mutual respect between the faiths. I wanted to use my position as a member of the Papal Household to request that the original writings of Maimonides, held in the Vatican Museum for hundreds of years, be seen by all.

We began the project by bringing a group of Jewish Scholars to the Vatican Library in September 2002 to view the manuscripts. Now we have received tentative approval to bring some of these manuscripts to the Israeli Museum for the first time in history for their 40th anniversary celebration exhibit in spring 2005. We hope to invite prominent Christian and Muslim leaders to Israel for this exhibit, helping foster feelings of good will between the faiths. And with the continued growth of the relationship between the Holy See and Israel, we hope to possibly repatriate some of these writings to the Jewish people worldwide.

**CIU:** *What is the most rewarding achievement of your career? Why?*

**Krupp:** I cannot answer this question in terms of "most rewarding" but I must say there are three events of which I am most proud.

First, in December 1992, I opened the first kidney Dialysis Center in Sullivan County New York. This was important because no one else would build a facility like this.

Although local residents were dying because they had to travel so far to receive hemodialysis treatment, the project was not considered economically sound. This essential medical project has saved hundred of lives

The second accomplishment was my work for Casa Sollievo Della Sofferenza, the hospital of Saint Padre Pio in San Giovanni Rotondo, Italy. For 15 years we have worked with medical equipment manufacturers to make Casa Sollievo a Beta site in Italy and consequently it is the best equipped Hospital in Europe. We were able to save 15 million dollars in equipment acquisition costs. We did this without any personal financial benefit. This has resulted in improved medical treatment for tens of thousands people in Italy.

The third accomplishment has been Pave the Way's work to remove the obstacles in the relationship between the State of Israel and the Holy See. While never considered to be an important or popular position, Meredith and I have worked directly with Father David Jaeger, legal representative for the Holy See in Israel. We have worked with Jewish Philanthropic organizations, prominent Jewish American businessmen, politicians and individual citizen leaders, encouraging them to write to the Israeli government officials emphasizing the importance of finalizing the fundamental agreements, which have been languishing in a bureaucratic maze of the last 10 years.

I have seen, from my unique position within the Papal household, the deterioration of the relationship between the Holy See and Israel. I use this rare perspective when I work with the staff of the Israel Prime Ministers office, Ambassador Alon Pinkas, the Israeli Consul General in New York, and Oded Ben-Hur, the Israeli Ambassador to the Holy See. I think the Israeli government has come to realize the importance of finalizing a relationship with the Holy See. We have helped move the Israeli government to restart and finalize the Bi-lateral commission talks with the intention of finalizing the fundamental agreements by the end of this year.

The Worldwide Catholic Church, with 1.1 billion people in 47 Catholic Countries, has been the only outspoken continuous voice to condemn Anti-Semitism and longs for a cordial, culturally benevolent relationship with Israel. This accomplishment will benefit millions of Jewish, Catholic, Israeli and Palestinians lives.

**CIU:** *What are your future goals for Pave the Way?*

**Krupp:** We hope to continue our efforts to improve the relationship between the Judeo Christian faiths, promoting gestures of good will to solidify these relationships. We want to convince people that inter-religious action, not just dialogue, is needed. Pave the Way is also planning on producing a documentary, which hopes to give a voice to the majority of good people in the Christian, Jewish and Muslim world who condemn killing in Gods name. We all need to follow the blue print of the Alexandria Declaration for peace in the Holy Land

**CIU:** *With the world the way it is today, do you still have hope in peace? What is your message to others?*

**Krupp:** Absolutely, no problem created by man cannot be solved by man. If we can give a voice to the silent majority of good people in the world we can fight those who have used religion for their own personal, financial or political gain. My message is simple: we must try to hear the message of God rather than concerning ourselves with the customs and methods through which that message is delivered. We tend to hate each other because of the differences and intensity of our faiths. We are responsible for the well being of our fellow human beings. We must love and respect one another and we must live honest lives while respecting the rights of others. We must learn to embrace our similarities and savor the differences, the slogan of Pave the Way Foundation.

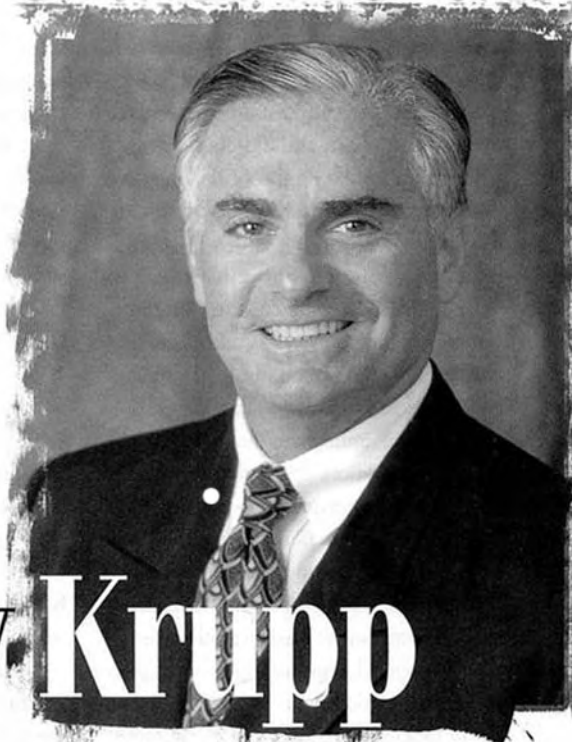
# Long Island Catholic Vol. 43 No. 33 November 10, 2004

## In Catholic-Jewish relations, Bishop Murphy is 'friend and partner' By Mary Gorry

Wantagh - Catholics and Jews from around Long Island met at the Suburban Temple here on Sunday, Nov. 7 to hear a panel of Catholic and Jewish leaders, including Bishop William Murphy, discuss the great strides made in Catholic-Jewish and Vatican-Israeli relations and the work that still needs to be done. "Jews and Catholics, Israel and the Vatican: Building Bridges," presented by the South East Nassau Synagogue Enterprise (SENSE), the Pave the Way Foundation, and the Diocese of Rockville Centre, marked the 10th anniversary of the establishment of formal diplomatic relations between Israel and the Vatican. Bishop William Murphy chats with Oded Ben-Hur, ambassador of Israel to the Holy See, at a conference Sunday in Wantagh marking the 10th anniversary of the establishment of formal diplomatic relations between Israel and the Vatican. (TLIC photo by Gregory A. Shemitz)

In addition to Bishop Murphy, the panelists included Rabbi Jack Bemporad, director of the Center for Interreligious Understanding and a professor of Interreligious Studies at the Vatican's Angelicum University in Rome; Father David-Maria Jaeger, a Franciscan Friar and legal representative for the Franciscan custody of the Holy Land; Father Priamo Etzi, associate dean of the Pontifical Athenaeum at the Franciscan University in Rome; and Oded Ben-Hur, the Israeli Ambassador to the Vatican. "My first impression as a seminarian, as a young priest, was of Cardinal Cushing of Boston," said Bishop Murphy. "Through-out his life he was an unabashed and unapologetic fighter for changing Catholic-Jewish relations." "At the second Vatican Council, he rose onto the floor for only two reasons," said the bishop. "He spoke with great gusto in favor of religious freedom. Two weeks later he was on his feet again to give a ringing endorsement to a declaration on the Jews, to an end to anti-Semitism." "Since the opening of dialogue between Catholics and Jews, Catholics have begun to see Jesus "in the perspective of his Jewishness," noted Bishop Murphy. "We've learned to like each other and we've also learned that we want to understand each other better." "Our two faiths use the same words but often mean very different things," said Rabbi Bemporad. Catholics and Jews will never understand the others' religion "unless we talk to each other theologically," he said. It's important to remember, however, that "it's not religions that communicate. It's human beings that communicate," noted Rabbi Bemporad. It's also important to remember that the issue is not whether or not Catholics and Jews agree on matters they are discussing. "The issue is rather whether we understand one another," he said. The Catholic Church "has had the courage and is the leader and has established the model" of working with Judaism, noted Rabbi Bemporad. Because of the Catholic Church, Judaism is viewed as Christianity's "dearly beloved elder brothers," he said. "Jesus was born, raised, and died a Jew," said Mr. Ben-Hur. "We have so much in common but we were afraid to talk about it. Two thousand years of unpleasant history between Jews and Christians created a kind of suspicion, fear, among Jews. It created fear and this fear created detachment, and this detachment created something that is very sad, ignorance," ignorance about what it means to be a Christian on the part of the Jews, and on the part of Christians, what it means to be a Jew. Israelis have spent so many years defending the right of Israel to exist that they never gave much thought to the future, noted Mr. Ben-Hur, but they are now, and that's what having a dialogue with the Vatican is about. In a relationship of love and friendship, "it is important to say 'I love you,'" said Father Jaeger, but it also important to act in ways that show that love. "Together we must stand for justice, we must stand for peace which is the fruit of justice." "We have come a long way in 40 years," noted Bishop Murphy. "Whatever the future is, I pledge to you I will always be your partner and your friend."

philanthropy



# Gary Krupp

## why is this knight different from all other knights

by Michelle McFaul

On August 19, 2000, Gary Krupp of Long Island, New York, was knighted in front of friends, family and numerous dignitaries. It was one of the most powerful experiences of his life.

No, it wasn't an honor bestowed upon him by the Queen. Even more wondrously, his recognition came from a higher authority, none other than Pope John Paul II. His Excellency Archbishop Renato R. Martino, Apostolic Nuncio and Permanent Observer of the Holy See to the United Nations, performed the ceremony at Saint Thomas the Apostle Church in West Hempstead, New York. There was plenty of pomp and circumstance, not to mention deep religious significance. Krupp became a Knight Commander of the Order of Saint Gregory the Great.

To make it even more official, a press release was issued by the Holy See Mission at the United Nations. It stated that Krupp was being "recognized by the Holy See for...tireless and outstanding efforts in assisting the Casa Sollievo della Sofferenza, a health care facility in Italy started by Blessed Padre Pio. Through the generosity and commitment of Mr. Krupp," the release continued, "this state-of-the-art hospital has been

able to acquire some of the most advanced medical equipment in Europe, thereby helping to expand the outstanding medical attention, care and compassion of the Catholic health care system for countless men, women and children."

The Order of Saint Gregory the Great was founded by Pope Gregory XVI in 1831, who named it after his predecessor, Pope Saint Gregory the Great, and is most frequently bestowed as a special mark of favor of the Holy See for persons who diligently serve the Catholic Church, or who have distinguished themselves by their accomplishments benefiting society, regardless of their religion or gender. This would be a remarkable honor for any good Christian but Krupp is a nice Jewish boy from New York. In fact, he is only the seventh Jewish person to receive this particular Pontifical Honor since 1831.

The beauty of the Order of Saint Gregory and much of the work of the Catholic Church for that matter is that it really has nothing to do with religion at all. It has everything to do with helping people in need. You can go to the smallest village in a third-world country and find a Catholic Church or missionary giving aid to the sick, the hungry and the poor through their outreach programs. Just as need transcends religion, it also ignores geography. People need help in our own backyard which

## philanthropy

is why Krupp gets calls from his friend Maria Milone to see if he can help a poor family in the program she runs at St. Thomas the Apostle Church, the very place where Krupp's "knighthood" was celebrated. He was amazed to learn from Maria that most of the people she and Monsignor Jim Lisante help are not Catholic at all.

"That's what I love about the Catholic Church," says Krupp. "I respect its universality, which is actually what the word 'catholic' means. But it all goes back to the basic teachings of Judaism that are the foundation of the Catholic Church. Charity and giving to the needy are central to leading a good Jewish life. So, when Sal and Maria Milone asked me if I would intervene on behalf of a hospital in Italy, I didn't hesitate to get involved.

"Years before, I had developed the first diagnostic imaging center on the South Shore of Long Island and built another one in the Bronx. In addition, I was an owner/operator of a kidney dialysis center in upstate New York. I frequently purchased sophisticated medical equipment for these facilities. Through my business relationships, I was able to convince both GE Medical Systems in the U.S. and Phillips Medical Systems in The Netherlands to place state-of-the-art equipment in Casa Sollievo della Sofferenza, the 2500-bed hospital in need. In the 11 years I have worked with the hospital, which is located in a town called San Giovanni Rotondo, we have saved many millions of dollars and obtained much-needed equipment that has greatly enhanced the overall level of care. I know we have saved many, many lives.

"It is a thrill to see that my efforts have helped transform the medical care available to so many people in one part of Italy. It also makes me thankful that I grew up appreciating the differences in people so that I could think beyond my personal boundaries and react to need on a basic human level. People needed help. It didn't matter if they were Italian or Indian, Catholic or Hindu. This I owe to my upbringing."

Krupp's mother's family came to America prior to the Revolutionary War and totally assimilated, while the members of his father's family were observant Jews. "I have to say it is quite wonderful to be born a Jew. It is a special part of who I am. But throughout my life I have been exposed to other religions by my parents' friends and in the mixed neighborhood in Queens where I spent my childhood. I attended Hebrew School and was a bar mitzvah, but I also grew up celebrating Christmas. I consider this a gift that has opened many doors for me in my life."

Krupp and his wife Meredith only recently moved to Long Beach, New York after 31 years in Rockville Centre. They brought up two sons, now in their early twenties, and were very active in community affairs. Rockville Centre is the only incorporated village in the world with its own Diocese. Krupp's affinity for the Church and his close friendship with Monsignor Edward Melton (who passed away a few years ago) brought him into situations in which he was able to contribute his business knowledge to church affairs. He helped with a variety of financial challenges and zoning controversies faced by the Diocese.

Says Krupp, "The fact is I would do the same to help my friends Rabbi Barry Dov Schwartz (who only wishes I would go to Temple more often) and Pastor Harald Kuehne of the Lutheran Church in town. These people have been part of the fabric of my life and my family's life. They have given me so much more than I can ever return. In fact, it was their influence and inspiration that contributed in large part to my decision to work on behalf of the hospital."

Krupp continues to make his mark on the business world through his firm, Gary Solutions, as a consultant to companies in need of reorganization and through networking on behalf of his clients. His business life would be much less satisfying if he did not balance it with his involvement in such organi-

zations as the Path to Peace Foundation, which was originated by his dear friend Archbishop Renato Martino.

"I suppose if I were to sum up what I do and why, I would have to say that I feel like a diplomat representing Jewish people in the Christian world, focusing on similarities and down-playing differences."

Since his investiture, he has met many representatives of the Vatican including Angelo Cardinal Sodano, the Secretary of State of the Vatican; Edmund Cardinal Szoka, the President of the Pontifical Council for the Vatican City State; and, closer to home, Edward Cardinal Egan, Archbishop of the Diocese of New York. "Through their intelligence and wisdom, I continue to learn more about life and what I have to give.

"My wife and I have met the Pope on two occasions, both times humbling and memorable experiences. If I have anything in common with Pope John Paul II it is a dedication to keeping an open heart and open mind. He has done more for the Jewish people than any other Pope. He has visited a synagogue in Rome, recognized the State of Israel and made it a sin to be antisemitic. He has begun a dialogue for reconciliation of past mistakes by the Church and visited the Holy Land. He made wonderful gestures of love and solidarity at the Western Wall and the Holocaust Museum. He is a symbol of hope and tolerance to all religions.

"I've saved the message that Archbishop Martino left on my answering machine when he called to give me the news about my 'knighthood,' just so I can relive the excitement every now and again. I highly recommend it. I also hope that my story will inspire others to give of themselves in any way that works in their lives and no matter what their religious background might be. I pray there will be many more Jewish Knight Commanders of the Pontifical Order of the Kings of Saint Gregory the Great. What a difference it will make to the world!"

[lifestyles](#)



## With LI man's help, Vatican to loan ancient texts to Israel

By Lisa J. Huriash  
Staff Writer

January 7, 2005

Because of efforts from a Long Island Jewish man, the Vatican will loan the work of one of Judaism's most celebrated rabbis and sages to Israel this year in a gesture meant to improve relations between Catholics and Jews.

Jewish community leaders said they are ecstatic to have the opportunity to study the work of Moses Maimonides, and at least three other medieval manuscripts.

Rabbi Benjamin Blech, a professor at Yeshiva University in New York, said the gesture by the Vatican "strengthens the bonds between Jews and Christians."

"We are asking a favor, they are showing us a kindness, to borrow these items," he said.

A delegation of about 160 rabbis and cantors worldwide, including Blech, and American laypeople will meet with Pope John Paul II this month to thank him for years of goodwill, including working out an agreement to display the priceless Jewish artifacts for the first time in Israel. Delegation members announced the plan to the South Florida Sun-Sentinel this week.

Gary Krupp, a Jewish man from Long Island who was knighted by the Pope in 2000, made the loan happen, Blech said.

Krupp, honored for his charity work for a hospital in Italy, worked with both religious groups.

"[The Vatican] has the largest repository of ancient Hebrew and medieval Hebrew manuscripts in the world," said Krupp, one of three living Jews to be knighted by a pope.



[Jewish World Review](#) Jan. 13, 2005 / 3 Shevat, 5765

## In goodwill gesture, Vatican allowing Jews to view priceless Maimonides manuscripts

By Lisa J. Huriash

There is no known recorded history showing exactly how or when the Vatican acquired the medieval writings.

Move seen as gesture to improve relations between Catholics and Jews

<http://www.JewishWorldReview.com> | (KRT) The Vatican will loan the work of Moses Maimonides, one of Judaism's most celebrated rabbis and sages, to Israel this year in a gesture meant to improve relations between Catholics and Jews.

Jewish community leaders said they are ecstatic to have the opportunity to study the Maimonides document, and at least three other medieval manuscripts.

Gary Krupp, a Jewish man from Long Island who was knighted by the Pope in 2000, made the loan happen, Blech said.

Krupp, honored for his charity work for a hospital in Italy, worked with both religious groups.

"(The Vatican) has the largest repository of ancient Hebrew and medieval Hebrew manuscripts in the world," said Krupp, one of three living Jews to be knighted by a pope.

In gratitude for the Pope's reaching out to Jews by such things as recognizing Israel in 1992, the delegation will meet with the pontiff at the Vatican on Jan. 18 to thank him, Krupp and Blech said. The elderly pontiff grew up in a heavily Jewish town in Poland and has visited a synagogue in Rome.

*continued...*



The Maimonides book has been on display previously, in Germany and elsewhere.

Blech said the works could be turned over to the Israel Museum in Jerusalem as early as May, although Krupp said it may not be until September, to celebrate the museum's 40th anniversary.

Krupp said the manuscripts are written in Hebrew and the Vatican has maintained them perfectly.

The agreement says that two of the manuscripts — including the copy of Maimonides' — must be returned to the Vatican Library after being on display for four months; the other two will be on display for six months, according to Krupp.

"The parties are committed to cultural cooperation," Father David Jaeger, a Vatican spokesman, legal advisor to the Church and professor, said in a telephone interview from Rome.

An initial Jewish delegation, including Blech, first got to see the manuscripts in 2002 with the aid of Krupp. In January 2004, The Jerusalem Post reported that Pope John Paul II met with Israel's chief rabbis in Vatican City and that the rabbis considered asking to search Vatican storerooms for artifacts such as the huge golden menorah that stood in the Temple in Jerusalem 2,000 years ago. But the rabbis decided not to mention the menorah, which the Vatican has maintained is not there. Instead, they were shown the work of Moses Maimonides and they asked for the documents to be lent to Israel. Rabbis at this upcoming January delegation, as well as Krupp, said it would be counterproductive at this time to discuss other items of Jewish interest being held in the Vatican's vault.

"Things in the future are very promising," Krupp added, however.

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

If the university accedes to the Vatican's wishes and leaves, it could open the door to more treasures being released, Krupp said.



[www.catholicnewsagency.com](http://www.catholicnewsagency.com)

## **Nation's top cantors to perform at celebration honoring Pope**

Vatican City, Jan. 14, 2005 ([CNA](#)) - On January 18th, Pope John Paul II will receive twelve of the United States' top cantors, who will perform for him at the Papal Palace.

The historic event is being held to honor the Pope for his years of good will and hard work toward bridging cultural and religious divides between the two faiths.

According to a press release, the group “will recognize the Pope’s efforts during his 26-year pontificate in bringing down the walls of hate as well as his contribution toward religious reconciliation with the Jewish people and the State of Israel.”

Steve Shor, a New York native and cantor at Temple Shalom in Brooklyn is one of the cantors chosen to perform for the Holy Father. He said that performing for the Pope will be “one of his greatest honors.”

*On January 17th, The 12 cantors will also perform a concert at the Great Synagogue in Rome for Vatican delegates and the Roman Jewish community.*

During the event, the press release states, “the Rabbis intend to recite a special prayer in his honor...and the cantors will sing a special blessing to commemorate the event.”

The event, which will bring together some 160 Jewish rabbis, cantors and laypeople from the U.S. Europe and Israel, “the largest gathering of Jewish leaders ever to meet with a sitting Pope”, is being praised as a “once in a lifetime event.”

The celebration is being sponsored by the Pave the Way Foundation.



## Worldwide Jewish Delegation Meets the Pope

Cantor Yehuda Rossler

On Sunday, January 16, 2005, thirteen cantors converged on Rome, Italy with the express purpose of making history. They were joining a much larger delegation, consisting of 160 cantors, rabbis, and other Jewish community leaders from around the world, encompassing all the different main streams of Judaism. This was all a part of a Worldwide Jewish Delegation to meet with Pope John Paul II. Before that was to take place however, the Cantors would make history by presenting the first cantorial concert to ever be held at the Great Synagogue in Rome.

This entire journey was organized, almost single handedly by Mr. Gary Krupp, the president and founder of Pave the Way Foundation. This is the organization that promoted and organized this peace mission and is dedicated to bridging the gap between religions with understanding and mutual respect. The purpose of this mission was for all the Jewish leaders to express their appreciation for the many ways in which this Pope has shown his support for the Jewish people. On Monday evening, the thirteen cantors, including Cantor Yehuda Rossler of Spring Valley, NY, all members of the Jewish Ministers Cantors Association of America (JMCA), led by their president Cantor Victor Beck presented the first ever concert in the 100 year old Great Synagogue of Rome for members of the delegation, representatives of the Vatican, the Roman Jewish community, and other dignitaries. Cantor Rossler was the only representative from Rockland County.

The enormous ornate synagogue was filled to capacity throughout the entire two and a half hour concert; even though only the warmth of the spirits of those in attendance heated the synagogue. At the conclusion of the concert, with the audience already standing, everyone began singing the Hatikvah spontaneously. There was not a dry eye in the audience. Cantor Rossler found the cantorial concert in Rome's Great Synagogue extremely uplifting and emotional.

RAI, the Italian television, covered the concert and broadcasted the performance making the delegation recognizable to many Romans in the streets during the rest of the visit.

On Tuesday morning, January 18th, the members of the delegation met to load the buses for the trip to the Vatican. The buses wove through the narrow roadways, passing several checkpoints manned by guards who stood at attention and saluted our buses as they passed. Finally reaching the inner courtyard of the Papal Palace, the delegation was led up several flights of wide stairs until we reached the Clementine Hall of the Apostolic Palace, a large ornately decorated room. The walls and ceiling were all covered by colorful frescoes and the floor was covered with large marble tile.

The room had been set up with enough chairs for the entire delegation with an aisle down the center. Finally, the rear doors opened and a thickly upholstered white chair, mounted on a wheeled dolly was silently pushed into the room. The Pontiff, dressed entirely in white remained seated as he was pushed to the front of the room, all the while waving to the now standing and applauding delegation.

After the Pope was situated, Mr. Gary Krupp, dressed in his full knightly regalia, addressed the Pontiff with a carefully crafted message "...We are a group of people who represent a cross section of Judaism, who traveled here with blessings of millions of our faith in order to thank you." He continued "...You have defended the Jewish people at every opportunity, as a priest in Poland and during your 26 year pontificate. You have denounced anti-Semitism as a 'sin against humanity'." Mr. Krupp then continued to enunciate the many different ways in which the Pope has pursued peace and reconciliation. He closed his statement saying "... you have referred to us the children of Abraham, as your beloved elder brothers. My prayerful wish is that Jews, Christians and Muslims may soon bond together in one common cause and voice to defend all humanity against those who defame G-d by committing wanton acts of violence in His Holy name. "Your Holiness, thank you, thank you, thank you. Shalom, shalom, shalom."

The Pope then responded, first by noting that this year marks the 40th anniversary of the Vatican's landmark Nostra Aetate declaration, which rejected the charge that Jews collectively were responsible for the death of Jesus.

" May this be an occasion for renewed commitment to increased understanding and cooperation in the service of building a world ever more firmly based on respect for the divine image in every human being." "...Upon all of you, I invoke the abundant blessings of the Almighty and in particular the gift of peace. Shalom Aleichem."

After the priestly benediction said by the rabbis, the 13 cantors then chanted the Shehecheyanu prayer to commemorate this occasion. Each member of the delegation was then invited to greet and shake hands with the Pontiff.

**LONG BEACH****Journey of gratitude to Vatican****Long Beach man heading to Rome to thank the pope for his work with Jewish community**

BY TOMOEH MURAKAMI TSE  
STAFF WRITER

January 16, 2005

Over the years, millions of Catholics have expressed their gratitude to the pope for his guidance and leadership. But now, a Long Island man is leading a group of Jews to the Vatican to thank Pope John Paul II for reaching out to Jews throughout his tenure.

"He was the first pope to ever go into the synagogue," said Gary Krupp of Long Beach, president of Pave the Way Foundation, a Manhattan-based nonprofit that promotes religious understanding.

Krupp was speaking of the pope's 1986 visit to a synagogue in Rome. "He has said it is a sin against God and humanity to be anti-Semitic and been the only loud continuous defendant of Jews against anti-Semitism in the world."

Krupp, who is one of seven Jews knighted by the pope, three of them living, will be joined by 165 rabbis, cantors and other religious leaders from around the world on the Tuesday visit to Rome.

"It's giving the Jewish people and the state of Israel an opportunity to thank him for what he has done during his 26-year pontificate," Krupp, 57, said.

Krupp, who said he grew up celebrating Christian and Jewish customs and attends Mass with a friend, state Sen. Dean Skelos (R-Rockville Centre), started the foundation three years ago with his wife, Meredith. The hope, he said, is to improve relations with major religions by promoting gestures of goodwill.

"While trillions of dollars are being spent on defense and Homeland Security, not 10 cents is being spent on the cause of all of it, which is religious extremism," Krupp said.

For centuries, contentious issues existed between Jews and the Catholic Church, including alleged Jewish responsibility in the death of Jesus.

One sign of the warming relations between Israel and the Catholic Church, Krupp said, is the Vatican's recent agreement to loan four manuscripts, including one by Moses Maimonides, thought to be the greatest sage of Judaism. Krupp, who was recognized for helping a hospital in Italy, said he requested the loan last year when he and others were in Rome.

The writings, to be displayed in the Israel Museum in Jerusalem this year, include the Mishneh Torah, the code of Jewish law that details Jewish observance.

The gesture is an important step in establishing communication between religions at the highest levels, said Rabbi Jack Bemporad, director for the Center of Interreligious Understanding in Secaucus, N.J.

"I think it's important in terms of the future and it's very important in terms of full diplomatic accords between Israel and the Vatican," Bemporad said.

"Cultural cooperation of this sort would be helpful to the climate of the totality of the relationship," said the Rev. David Jaeger, professor of church law at the Pontifical Antonianum University in Rome and legal adviser to the Catholic Church in its negotiations with Israel. "I hope that this will serve to highlight the friendship between the Catholic Church and the Jewish people everywhere."

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## Brasil e no Mundo

### **Cento e sessenta rabinos no Vaticano para agradecer João Paulo II Por seu apoio ao povo judeu, especialmente ao denunciar o anti-semitismo**

CIDADE DO VATICANO, segunda-feira, 17 de janeiro de 2005 (ZENIT.org).- Cerca de 160 rabinos e cantores judeus provenientes de Israel, Estados Unidos e Europa serão recebidos esta terça-feira em audiência por João Paulo II no Vaticano.

O encontro foi solicitado para celebrar o quadragésimo aniversário da declaração do Concílio Vaticano II *Nostra Aetate* (28 de outubro de 1964), que marcou uma virada na relação entre judeus e católicos.

Segundo um comunicado difundido pela fundação que pediu o encontro, a «Pave the Way Foundation», os representantes judeus darão graças a João Paulo II pelo que fez a favor da reconciliação entre judeus e católicos. Neste sentido, os rabinos pretendem recitar uma oração especial em honra do Papa.

Gary Krupp, presidente e fundador da «Pave the Way Foundation», sublinhou que «sua Santidade João Paulo II tem uma longa história de apoio ao povo judeu, sobretudo na hora de denunciar o anti-semitismo e a discriminação de todo grupo étnico».

Em 1987, por exemplo, o Papa convidou todos os cristãos a promover junto à comunidade judaica programas educativos comuns para ensinar às futuras gerações esses valores que não permitam que se repita um horror como o do Holocausto.

Krupp confirmou que o Santo Padre lutou contra o ódio racial e a favor da paz durante décadas e, por este motivo, «dou-lhe humildemente graças».

Por sua parte, o rabino Jack Bemporad, diretor do Centro para o Entendimento Inter-religioso (CIU, por suas siglas em inglês) explicou que «é a primeira vez na história que os rabinos, em testemunho de todos os ramos do judaísmo, encontram-se juntos em Roma para agradecer ao pontífice João Paulo II e à Igreja pelo que fizeram para construir pontes e respeito recíproco entre judeus e católicos».

Bemporad considera que «na história do mundo, os últimos quarenta anos serão vistos como os mais revolucionários e significativos em termos de progressos nas relações judaico-cristãs».

O diretor do CIU recorda que João Paulo II foi o primeiro Papa que visitou a Sinagoga de Roma, em 13 de abril de 1986; com o qual se publicou o documento «Nós recordamos: uma reflexão sobre o “Shoah”» (16 de março de 1998); que estabeleceu relações diplomáticas com Israel, e que pediu perdão pelos atos de anti-semitismo cometidos pelos católicos na história.

«Creio que João Paulo II tem de ser considerado o grande senador das relações entre judeus e católicos», acrescentou Bemporad. «Ao chegar ao Vaticano de todo o mundo, nós, os rabinos, dizemos: “obrigado!”».

Formam parte do grupo que se encontrará com o Papa, entre outros, Oded Bem-Hur, embaixador israelense ante a Santa Sé; Amire Ofek, cônsul israelense para os Meios de Comunicação em Nova York; o rabino Adam Mintz, presidente do Colégio de Rabinos de Nova York, o rabino Shmuel René Sirof, ex-rabino-chefe na Europa e França; David Lincoln, rabino-chefe da Sinagoga de Park Avenue, em Nova York, o rabino Shlomo Riskin, rabino-chefe de Efrat, Jerusalém, o rabino Joseph Arbib da Grande Sinagoga de Roma e Gadi Golan, ex-diretor de Assuntos Religiosos do Ministério de Exteriores israelense.

Da delegação formam parte também doze cantores que, esta segunda-feira, ofereceram um concerto aberto ao público na Sinagoga Maior de Roma, com a participação de representantes da Santa Sé.

12:30:00, Categorie: [Immediapress](#)

## La Biblioteca Vaticana presterà rari manoscritti di Maimonide all'Israel Museum

(IMMEDIAPRESS) Pave the Way Foundation: La Biblioteca Vaticana presterà rari manoscritti di Maimonide all'Israel Museum ROMA, 18 gennaio 2005 / PRNewswire / –

- Pave The Way Foundation annuncia il prestito in seguito alla più grande udienza di capi ebrei mai tenutasi prima d' ora con il Papa

Gary Krupp, fondatore e presidente dell' associazione Pave the Way, ha annunciato, in data odierna, che il Vaticano ha acconsentito a prestare all' Israel Museum di Gerusalemme, i rari manoscritti di Mosé Maimonide, in occasione del 40° anniversario del museo che si celebrerà a settembre.

Il sig. Krupp ha rilasciato questa dichiarazione al termine di una speciale udienza privata con Papa Giovanni Paolo II, alla quale hanno partecipato circa 160 capi ebrei, rabbini e cantori degli Stati Uniti e di Israele. Questa udienza speciale, alla quale ha partecipato il gruppo più numeroso di capi ebrei mai riunitosi nel corso di un incontro con il papa, è stata organizzata a riconoscimento degli sforzi compiuti dal Papa nel corso del suo pontificato che dura ormai da 26 anni, sforzi che si sono concentrati nell' abbattere le barriere dell' odio. Inoltre, è stato messo in evidenza il contributo del papa a favore della riconciliazione religiosa tra il popolo ebreo e lo stato di Israele.

Il gruppo che ha partecipato all' udienza comprendeva Oded Ben-Hur, ambasciatore israeliano presso la Santa Sede; il rabbino Adam Mintz, presidente del New York Board of Rabbis; il rabbino Shmuel Rene Sirot, ex rabbino capo in Europa e Francia; il rabbino David Lincoln, rabbino capo della sinagoga di Park Avenue, New York; il rabbino Shlomo Riskin, rabbino capo di Efrat, il rabbino Joseph Arbib della Grande Sinagoga di Roma e Gadi Golan, ex direttore degli Affari religiosi del Ministro degli esteri israeliano.

Il gruppo comprendeva inoltre 12 Cantori che ieri sera hanno tenuto un concerto nella Grande Sinagoga di Roma in onore della delegazione e dei rappresentanti del Vaticano e della comunità ebraica di Roma.

Pave the Way, la cui missione è quella di unire gli uomini di buona volontà, indipendentemente dal loro background religioso, ha consacrato molto del proprio tempo e ha compiuto numerosi sforzi collaborando con i funzionari del governo israeliano e i rappresentanti della Santa Sede in Israele per la conclusione di accordi decisivi con i quali si sanciscono diplomatiche stabili fra Israele e il Vaticano.

“La nostra missione prevede numerosi progetti di azioni interreligiose e questa missione ha portato al consenso da parte del Vaticano di prestare i manoscritti ad Israele. Il Vaticano è il più grande depositario di manoscritti ebraici di tutto il mondo”, ha affermato il sig. Krupp, uno dei tre ebrei viventi ad essere stato ordinato dal Papa cavaliere dell’ Ordine di San Gregorio Magno. Il signor Krupp si è poi messo in contatto con l’ Israel Museum per sollecitare la presentazione della domanda presso la Biblioteca Vaticana e dare così avvio alle procedure per il prestito dei quattro rari manoscritti ebraici, tra cui un illuminante manoscritto del rabbino Mosé Ben Maimon Maimonide.

“Grazie all’ intervento del Nunzio apostolico, l’ arcivescovo Pietro Sambì e la Custodia francescana in Israele, in particolare, il consiglio e l’ aiuto di padre David Jaeger, la Santa Sede ha approvato il prestito di tali manoscritti”. Inoltre padre Jaeger, portavoce e legale rappresentante della Custodia francescana in Israele e professore di diritto canonico ha affermato: “Entrambe le parti si impegnano ad una cooperazione culturale”.

“Le opere di Maimonide, medico e filosofo del 12° secolo in Egitto, sono state trascritte da uno scriba nel 1400, 200 anni dopo la sua morte e sono considerate come un documento unico in cui sono descritte regole di vita quotidiana, quali il matrimonio e altri codici di condotta”, ha aggiunto il sig. Krupp. per maggiori informazioni: Per maggiori informazioni, rivolgersi a: Joseph Gallo di KCSA Worldwide, tel. +1-212-896-1269, o email [jgallo@kcsa.com](mailto:jgallo@kcsa.com), per Pave the Way Foundation; o Roma, Gary Krupp di Pave the Way Foundation, tel. +011-39-06-338-329-03901

## Providence Alaska

### Rabbis thank pope for defense of Jews

By FRANCES D'EMILIO, Associated Press Writer

Published: January 18th, 2005

Last Modified: January 18th, 2005 at 03:58 PM

VATICAN CITY (AP) - A delegation of prominent rabbis and Jewish leaders from around the world met with Pope John Paul II on Tuesday to thank him for what they called a lifelong commitment to the defense of Jews.

Recalling the pope's visit to Auschwitz during his first trip to his Polish homeland in 1979, Gary Krupp of the Pave the Way Foundation praised John Paul for setting a "tone of reconciliation" in his papacy.

"You have defended Jewish people at every opportunity, as a priest in Poland and during your 26-year-old pontificate. You have denounced anti-Semitism as sin against God and humanity," said Krupp, whose foundation works to better relations between religious groups, as he stood before the pontiff in a frescoed, marble-lined hall of the Apostolic Palace.

John Paul thanked Krupp, who is from Long Beach, N.Y., and then urged Catholics and Jews to further improve relations. Only decades ago the two groups were divided by Christian thinking that Jews were to blame for Jesus' death.

John Paul noted that this year marks the 40th anniversary of a Vatican declaration rescinding the accusation holding Jews collectively responsible for the crucifixion of Christ.

"May this be an occasion for renewed commitment to increased understanding and cooperation in the service of building a world ever more firmly based on respect for the divine image in every human being," the pope said.

Most of the participants in the long-scheduled



AP Photo/OSSERVATORE ROMANO

In this photo released Tuesday Jan. 18, 2005 by the Vatican's Osservatore Romano newspaper, Pope John Paul II receives Jewish representatives at the Vatican, Tuesday Jan. 18, 2005. The pontiff called for renewed commitment to stronger dialogue between Jews and Catholics as he received more than 100 Jewish leaders, rabbis, cantors and their family members Tuesday in what was described as the largest such Vatican audience with Jewish representatives.



CBS4 | [cbs4boston.com](http://cbs4boston.com)

## Pope Meets With Jewish Leaders

•Calls For More Understanding

Jan 18, 2005 12:05 pm US/Eastern

Pope John Paul II called for renewed commitment to stronger dialogue between Jews and Catholics Tuesday as he warmly received more than 100 Jewish leaders, rabbis, cantors and their relatives in what was described as the largest such audience at the Vatican.

Most of the participants were from the United States, including a large contingent from the New York metropolitan area, but there were also rabbis from Israel, France, India, Canada and Croatia among the group wanting to thank the pontiff for his dedication in improving relations between Jews and Catholics.

The long-scheduled gathering happened to come amid revived debate over a contentious postwar issue—the Vatican's attempt to keep hold of some Jewish children who were baptized to save them from the Nazis. But no echoes of that dispute seemed to resound in the marble-lined, frescoed Clementine Hall of the Apostolic Palace where John Paul, seated in his white, upholstered wheeled chair, enthusiastically received his guests.

John Paul noted that this year will mark the 40th anniversary of Nostra Aetate, a landmark Vatican declaration which rescinded the accusation holding Jews collectively responsible for the crucifixion of Christ.

"May this be an occasion for renewed commitment to increased understanding and cooperation in the service of building a world ever more firmly based on respect for the divine image in every human being," the pope said.

The pontiff has made better relations with Jews a hallmark of a papacy and has met large gatherings of Jews on several occasions, including his groundbreaking 1986 visit to Rome's main synagogue and his 2000 trip to Israel.

"Upon all of you, I invoke the abundant blessings of the Almighty and, in particular, the gift of peace. Shalom aleichem," John Paul said, using the traditional greeting when two Jews meet.

His guests lavished praise on pope for his defense of the Jews.

"You have defended Jewish people at every opportunity, as a priest in Poland and during your pontificate," Gary Krupp, from the Pave the Way Foundation, said in opening remarks. John Paul thanked Krupp, of Long Beach, N.Y., for his "kind words."

Toward the end of the half-hour encounter, as rabbis, other Jewish representatives, spouses and children came up one by one to shake the pope's hand, cantors broke out in brief song.

John Paul smiled warmly at his guests, most of whom appeared more at ease in meeting the pope than some at many other audiences, when participants often seem stiff or intimidated when their turn arrives before the pontiff.

Many of Tuesday's participants were from the Pave the Way Foundation, a New York-based group aimed at better relations between the faiths.

"Posterity will surely consider the last 40 years as the most revolutionary and significant in terms of progress in relations between Jews and Catholics," Rabbi Jack Bemporad of Englewood, N.J., said in a statement.

"From the Second Vatican Council and under the guidance of John Paul II, the church has made extremely significant steps to construct new links with Jews on the basis of sincere mutual affection," Bemporad said.

During John Paul's papacy, the Vatican established diplomatic relations with Israel.



## John Paul greets Jews at Vatican Groups hope event encourages dialogue.

*Published Tuesday, January 18, 2005*

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Posted on Tue, Jan. 18, 2005

## Rabbis Thank Pope for Defense of Jews

**FRANCES D'EMILIO**  
Associated Press

**VATICAN CITY** - A delegation of prominent rabbis and Jewish leaders from around the world met with Pope John Paul II on Tuesday to thank him for what they called a lifelong commitment to the defense of Jews.

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"May this be an occasion for renewed commitment to increased understanding and cooperation in the service of building a world ever more firmly based on respect for the divine image in every human being," the pope said.

Most of the participants in the long-scheduled audience came from the United States, particularly from the New York metropolitan area, but there were also prominent Jews from Israel, France, India, Canada and Croatia.

Rabbi Jack Bemporad recounted that John Paul, shortly after being ordained a priest in 1946, refused to baptize an orphaned Jew in Krakow, Poland, and ordered the Catholic couple who had cared for the boy during the Nazi occupation to see that he was returned to Jewish relatives.

Jews were a vibrant part of the community in southern Poland, where John Paul grew up in the 1920s and 1930s, before being persecuted under German occupiers.

"I felt genuine affection," said Bemporad, of his encounter Tuesday with the pontiff. "I really thought he was moved" by the meeting.

"We were there for no other reason than to say 'thank you,'" said the rabbi from Alpine, N.J., who has served on Vatican-Jewish committees. "We were not demanding anything, we were not asking for anything."

The pontiff has made better relations with Jews a hallmark of his papacy and has met large gatherings of Jews on several occasions, including his groundbreaking 1986 visit to Rome's main synagogue and his 2000 trip to Israel.

"Upon all of you, I invoke the abundant blessings of the Almighty and, in particular, the gift of peace. Shalom aleichem," John Paul said, using the traditional greeting when two Jews meet.

Many Vatican audiences are almost somber affairs, with participants often stilted or hesitant when their turn comes to greet the pope. But Tuesday's gathering radiated with warmth as the rabbis, their spouses and even some of their children came up one by one to shake the pope's hand. Cantors broke out in brief song.

While the Vatican under John Paul has been hailed by Jews for such strides as opening diplomatic relations with Israel, Jewish-Vatican relations are not without controversy. Among the sore points for some Jewish leaders are Vatican's efforts to consider Pius XII for beatification. Some Jews contend that the wartime pontiff, who died in 1958, didn't do enough to oppose the Holocaust.



International

News summary

## Pope receives big Jewish delegation

18.01.2005 - 17:30

VATICAN CITY (Reuters) - Pope John Paul has addressed one of the largest groups of rabbis and Jewish leaders ever to visit the Vatican and praised their efforts to promote inter-religious dialogue.

The 84-year-old Pope, who has vastly improved relations with Jews, granted an audience for some 160 members of the U.S- based Pave the Way Foundation, whose mission is to improve religious understanding.

Most of the participants at the audience were rabbis and synagogue cantors, or singers, from the United States.

The worldwide Jewish community considers the current Pope one of the best friends it has ever had. He was the first Pontiff ever to visit a synagogue or a concentration camp and has repeatedly condemned all forms of anti-Semitism.

During the audience in the Vatican's frescoed Clementina Hall, several of the cantors sang a special Hebrew blessing for the Pope, calling him a "dear friend" of the Jewish people.

"You've defended Jewish people at every opportunity ... you've denounced anti-Semitism as a sin against God and humanity," Gary Krupp, the foundation's president, told him.

"This tone of reconciliation has been a cornerstone of your papacy and your relations with the Jewish people. Your Holiness thank you, thank you, thank you. Shalom, Shalom, Shalom," he said.

In his brief address to the group, the Pope noted that this year marks the 40th anniversary of the landmark 1965 Second Vatican Council declaration *Nostra Aetate* (In Our Times).



# Radio Vaticano

*La voz del Papa y de la Iglesia dialogan con el mundo*



18/01/2005 13.31.15

## **Historical encounter of the Pope with 160 rabbis emphasizes the reciprocal respect between Jews and Catholics**

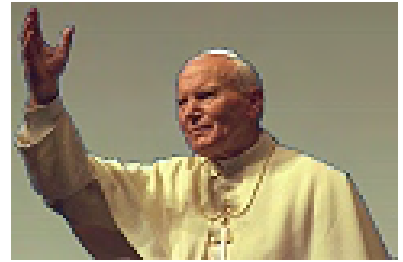
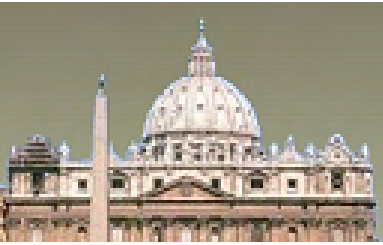
Tuesday, 18 ene (RV). - “Que this one is an occasion to renew the commitment to impel the understanding and the cooperation in the service to construct a world that holds fast, every time with greater firmness, in the respect of the divine image that is in each being humano”. It is the yearning that Juan has reiterated Pablo II in his greeting, this morning, to the 160 representatives of an ample sector of the world-wide Judaism, whom they have loved to be thankful to the Pope and the Church by everything what the understanding and the reciprocal respect between Jews and Catholics do please in.

In this historical encounter - asked for by the foundation “Pave the Way”, whose objective is to eliminate the obstacles, impelling the dialogue and the collaboration between Jews and Christians - the Pope has greeted to the members of the mentioned foundation, being thankful the words of his president, Gary Krupp.

After remembering that this year anniversary of the Declaration of Vatican Concilio II Nostra Aetate is celebrated the 40, that Jew-catholic has significantly contributed to the fortification of the dialogue, the Pontiff has invoked the abundant blessings of the Almighty and, in individual, the gift of La Paz.

On the other hand, the president of the Foundation “Pave the Way”, he has put of relief that had arrived at the Vatican in representation of million Jews worldwide to express their gratefulness to Juan Pablo II by the numerous ones and important actions which he has fulfilled and he continues fulfilling, without faint - from the beginning of its Pontificate - in please the reconciliation and La Paz, not only between Catholics and Jews, but also between all the religions.

In this context Gary Krupp he has insisted on which “Jews, Christian and Muslim, descending of Abraham, they must work together in the only cause common to proclaim the defense of all the humanity against which they defame to God perpetrating unjustifiable acts of violence in his name”.

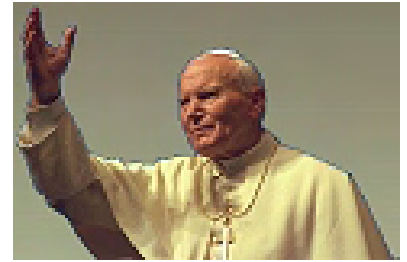
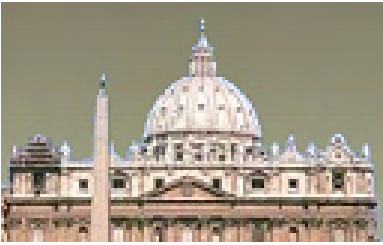


## **Un grup de lideri evrei îi mulțumesc Papei în Vatican 18.01.2005, Vatican (Catholica)**

Un grup de 160 de evrei - lideri, rabini și cantori - participă marți, 18 ianuarie 2005 la o audiență la Papa Ioan Paul al II-lea, pentru a-i mulțumi pentru efortul său de a reconcilia cele două credințe. Întâlnirea celebrează împlinirea în acest an a 40 de ani de la Declarația Conciliului Vatican II "Nostra Aetate", care a marcat o schimbare importantă în relațiile dintre catolici și evrei.

Potrivit unei declarații a Fundației "A netezi calea", care a cerut întâlnirea, Gary Krupp, președintele și fondatorul acesteia, a spus: "Misiunea noastră în cadrul Fundației este de a aduce împreună oameni de bunăvoință, indiferent de apartenența lor religioasă, și de a dărâma orice zid care împiedică această apropiere". "Sanctitatea Sa Papa Ioan Paul al II-lea face tocmai acest lucru de zeci de ani", a adăugat Krupp. "Se cuvine doar să îi mulțumim cu umilință pentru tot ceea ce a făcut pentru poporul evreu din întreaga lume, și în schimb să înaintăm spre adevărata pace pe pământ". Krupp a fost al șaptelea evreu în istorie decorat de Papa cu Ordinul Sf. Grigore cel Mare.

Rabinul Jack Bemporad, director al Centrului pentru Înțelegerea Interreligioasă, a arătat într-o declarație: "Este pentru prima dată în istorie când rabini reprezentând toate ramurile iudaismului din întreaga lume vin împreună să îi mulțumească în mod colectiv Papei Ioan Paul al II-lea și Bisericii pentru tot ceea ce au făcut pentru a construi punți de înțelegere și respect reciproc între evrei și catolici". "În istoria lumii, ultimii 40 de ani vor fi considerați cei mai revoluționari și mai semnificativi din punctul de vedere al progresului în cadrul relațiilor iudeo-catolice", a declarat Rabinul.



"De la Conciliul Vatican II și în timpul pontificatului Papei Ioan Paul al II-lea, Biserica a făcut pași dramatici pentru a construi noi legături cu poporul evreu, bazate pe afecțiune reală și reciprocă." Rabinul Bemporad a continuat: "Nici un Papă nu a făcut atât de mult sau s-a preocupat atât de mult de crearea unei relații fraterne între catolici și evrei, cum a făcut-o Papa Ioan Paul al II-lea. A fost primul Papă care a vizitat Sinagoga din Roma. A dat declarația `Ne aducem aminte` cu privire la Holocaust." "

"A stabilit relații diplomatice depline cu statul Israel. Și a cerut iertare de la evrei pentru toate actele din trecut de anti-semitism comise de fiii și fiicele Bisericii, în timpul pelerinajului său în Israel, în 2001. Pentru mine, este pur și simplu revoluționar. (...) Eforturile Papei Ioan Paul al II-lea și ale Bisericii de a se apropia de poporul evreu sunt profund semnificative deoarece una dintre cele mai mari surse de anti-semitism din întreaga istorie au constituit-o învățăturile catolice". Rabinul a încheiat: "Venind la Vatican din întreaga lume, noi Rabinii spunem `mulțumim`."

Acest articol a aparut in data de [22 ianuarie 2005](#)
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Vineri, 25 martie 2005 / Numarul 857

# Cea mai mare audienta acordata vreodata de Papa liderilor evrei

Dumitru Manolache



**Marti, 18 ianuarie 2005**, s-a desfasurat la Vatican cea mai mare audienta privata acordata vreodata de un Papa liderilor evrei, informeaza site-ul Catholica. In dimineata zilei respective, Papa Ioan Paul al II-lea a primit 160 de rabini si cantori evrei din Israel, Statele Unite si Europa, Sfantul Parinte aratand ca, "in acest am vom celebra a 40-a aniversare a Declaratiei «Nostra aetate» a Consiliului Vatican II, care a contribuit semnificativ la intarirea dialogului iudeo-catolic".

"Fie ca aceasta sa fie o ocazie pentru un reinnoit angajament pentru a creste intelegerea si cooperarea in slujba construirii unei lumi tot mai ferm bazata pe respectul pentru chipul divin din fiecare fiinta umana", s-a exprimat Suveranul Pontif.

Rabinii prezenti la intalnire, care fac parte din Fundatia "A netezi calea", au recitat o rugaciune in cinstea Papei. Adresandu-se Sfantului Parinte, in numele celor prezenti, **Gary Krupp**, presedintele Fundatiei, a trecut in revista gesturile acestui pontificat care au promovat dialogul dintre catolici si evrei.

Amintind de "graitoarea calatorie la Auschwitz", pe care Papa a intreprins-o imediat dupa ce a ajuns pe tronul Sfantului Petru, vorbitorul a spus : "Ati aparat poporul evreu in orice ocazie, ca preot in Polonia si in timpul pontificatului dumneavoastra de 26 de ani. Ati denuntat antisemitismul ca un pacat impotriva lui Dumnezeu si a omenirii... Acest ton al reconcilierii a fost piatra de temelie a papalitatii Dumnevoastra si a relatiei ei cu poporul evreu".

In incheiere, Gary Krupp a spus ca "dorinta mea este ca evreii, crestinii si musulmanii, cei trei fii ai lui Avram, sa se uneasca in curand intr-o cauza comuna si intr-un singur glas, pentru a apara intreaga omenire impotriva acelor care il defaimeaza pe Dumnezeu, comitand acte necontrolate de violenta in numele Sau preasfant".

**EURO-ASIAN**

**JEWISH**

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January 18, 2005

Despite ups and downs over the years, Pope John Paul II has made bettering relations with Jews a key platform of his 26-year papacy.

On Tuesday, an international group of more than 100 rabbis, cantors and other Jewish leaders from all streams of Judaism thanked him for his efforts during a special private audience at the Vatican.

Dressed in white and seated in an upholstered wheeled chair, the 84-year-old pontiff gave the group an enthusiastic welcome in the ornate Clementine Hall of the Apostolic Palace. In his remarks, the pope noted that this year marks the 40th anniversary of the Vatican's landmark *Nostra Aetate* declaration, which rejected the charge that Jews collectively were responsible for the death of Jesus.

"May this be an occasion for renewed commitment to increased understanding and cooperation in the service of building a world ever more firmly based on respect for the divine image in every human being," he said. "Upon all of you, I invoke the abundant blessings of the Almighty and, in particular, the gift of peace. Shalom aleichem."

The group — which organizers said was the largest Jewish delegation to have a private audience with a pope — came to the Vatican under the auspices of the Pave the Way Foundation, a New York-based nonprofit organization that promotes interfaith understanding.

"You have defended Jewish people at every opportunity, as a priest in Poland and during your pontificate," Pave the Way president and founder Gary Krupp of New York told the pontiff.

Krupp has had earlier dealings with the Vatican and was awarded a papal knighthood in 2000 for his support of a Catholic health care facility in Italy.

Most members of the delegation were from the United States, but there also were Israeli rabbis and officials, including the Israeli ambassador to the Holy See, as well as Jews from various other countries including France, Italy, India, Canada and Croatia.

"We are a vast cross-section of Jewish leaders who wanted to say thanks to the pope for what he has done for Israel and the Jewish people," Krupp told JTA.





## International News Story

### Jewish Leaders Thank Pope for Fighting Anti-Semitism

1/18/2005

VATICAN CITY, JAN. 19, 2005 (Zenit) - At Historic Audience in Vatican, John Paul II called for reinforcement of dialogue between Catholics and Jews when he received in audience a group of about 160 Jewish leaders, rabbis, cantors and their relatives.

The unprecedented meeting -- never before had so many rabbis gone to the Vatican for a private audience with the Pope -- was requested by the New York-based **Pave the Way Foundation**.

Today's event aimed to help commemorate the 40th anniversary this year of the Second Vatican Council declaration "Nostra Aetate," which marked a key turn in Judeo-Christian dialogue.

In addition, **Gary Krupp**, president of **Pave the Way Foundation**, proposed the meeting as an opportunity to thank John Paul II for the extraordinary effort made in his life, especially during his 26-year pontificate, to combat anti-Semitism.

The Holy Father, in a brief address to his guests in English, said: "May this be an occasion for renewed commitment to increased understanding and cooperation in the service of building a world ever more firmly based on respect for the divine image in every human being."

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

Greeting the Pope on behalf of those present, Gary Krupp reviewed the gestures of this pontificate that have advanced the dialogue between Catholics and Jews.

"Soon after your ascension to the throne of St. Peter, you made a telling trip to Auschwitz in order to pay homage to victims of the Holocaust," Krupp said. "You have defended the Jewish people at every opportunity, as a priest in Poland and during your 26-year pontificate.

"You have denounced anti-Semitism as a 'sin against God and humanity.' This tone of reconciliation has been the cornerstone of your papacy and its relations with the Jewish people."

Krupp recalled that John Paul II has been the first Pope "since St. Peter to visit a synagogue."

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

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

"My prayerful wish," Krupp added, "is that Jews, Christians and Muslims, the three children of Abraham, may soon bond together in one common cause and voice, to defend all humanity against those who defame God by committing wanton acts of violence in his holy name." He concluded by thrice saying "Thank you" and "Shalom."

On the eve of the meeting, Krupp announced that the Vatican has given permission for the loan of the manuscripts of the great Jewish philosopher and theologian Maimonides (1138-1204), along with other writings, to the Israel Museum for its 40th-anniversary exhibit this spring.

At the audience, three rabbis pronounced a blessing on John Paul II, and the meeting ended with a chant.



## Pope Meets With Jewish Leaders Calls For More Understanding

*Jan 18, 2005 12:05 pm US/Eastern*

**VATICAN CITY (AP)** Pope John Paul II called for renewed commitment to stronger dialogue between Jews and Catholics Tuesday as he warmly received more than 100 Jewish leaders, rabbis, cantors and their relatives in what was described as the largest such audience at the Vatican.

Most of the participants were from the United States, including a large contingent from the New York metropolitan area, but there were also rabbis from Israel, France, India, Canada and Croatia among the group wanting to thank the pontiff for his dedication in improving relations between Jews and Catholics.

The long-scheduled gathering happened to come amid revived debate over a contentious postwar issue—the Vatican’s attempt to keep hold of some Jewish children who were baptized to save them from the Nazis. But no echoes of that dispute seemed to resound in the marble-lined, frescoed Clementine Hall of the Apostolic Palace where John Paul, seated in his white, upholstered wheeled chair, enthusiastically received his guests.

John Paul noted that this year will mark the 40th anniversary of *Nostra Aetate*, a landmark Vatican declaration which rescinded the accusation holding Jews collectively responsible for the crucifixion of Christ.

“May this be an occasion for renewed commitment to increased understanding and cooperation in the service of building a world ever more firmly based on respect for the divine image in every human being,” the pope said.

The pontiff has made better relations with Jews a hallmark of a papacy and has met large gatherings of Jews on several occasions, including his groundbreaking 1986 visit to Rome’s main synagogue and his 2000 trip to Israel.

“Upon all of you, I invoke the abundant blessings of the Almighty and, in particular, the gift of peace. *Shalom aleichem*,” John Paul said, using the traditional greeting when two Jews meet.

His guests lavished praise on pope for his defense of the Jews.

“You have defended Jewish people at every opportunity, as a priest in Poland and during your pontificate,” Gary Krupp, from the Pave the Way Foundation, said in opening remarks. John Paul thanked Krupp, of Long Beach, N.Y., for his “kind words.”

Toward the end of the half-hour encounter, as rabbis, other Jewish representatives, spouses and children came up one by one to shake the pope’s hand, cantors broke out in brief song.

John Paul smiled warmly at his guests, most of whom appeared more at ease in meeting the pope than some at many other audiences, when participants often seem stiff or intimidated when their turn arrives before the pontiff.

Many of Tuesday’s participants were from the Pave the Way Foundation, a New York-based group aimed at better relations between the faiths.

“Posterity will surely consider the last 40 years as the most revolutionary and significant in terms of progress in relations between Jews and Catholics,” Rabbi Jack Bemporad of Englewood, N.J., said in a statement.

“From the Second Vatican Council and under the guidance of John Paul II, the church has made extremely significant steps to construct new links with Jews on the basis of sincere mutual affection,” Bemporad said.

During John Paul’s papacy, the Vatican established diplomatic relations with Israel. © 2005 The Assoc



## Pope meets large Jewish group

By Ruth Ellen Gruber

ROME, Jan. 18 (JTA) -- Despite ups and downs over the years, Pope John Paul II has made bettering relations with Jews a key platform of his 26-year papacy.

On Tuesday, an international group of more than 100 rabbis, cantors and other Jewish leaders from all streams of Judaism thanked him for his efforts during a special private audience at the Vatican.

Dressed in white and seated in an upholstered wheeled chair, the 84-year-old pontiff gave the group an enthusiastic welcome in the ornate Clementine Hall of the Apostolic Palace. In his remarks, the pope noted that this year marks the 40th anniversary of the Vatican's landmark Nostra Aetate declaration, which rejected the charge that Jews collectively were responsible for the death of Jesus.

"May this be an occasion for renewed commitment to increased understanding and cooperation in the service of building a world ever more firmly based on respect for the divine image in every human being," he said. "Upon all of you, I invoke the abundant blessings of the Almighty and, in particular, the gift of peace. Shalom aleichem."

The group -- which organizers said was the largest Jewish delegation to have a private audience with a pope -- came to the Vatican under the auspices of the Pave the Way Foundation, a New York-based nonprofit organization that promotes interfaith understanding.

"You have defended Jewish people at every opportunity, as a priest in Poland and during your pontificate," Pave the Way president and founder Gary Krupp of New York told the pontiff.

Krupp has had earlier dealings with the Vatican and was awarded a papal knighthood in 2000 for his support of a Catholic health care facility in Italy.

Most members of the delegation were from the United States, but there also were Israeli rabbis and officials, including the Israeli ambassador to the Holy See, as well as Jews from various other countries including France, Italy, India, Canada and Croatia.

"We are a vast cross-section of Jewish leaders who wanted to say thanks to the pope for what he has done for Israel and the Jewish people," Krupp told JTA.

He described the half-hour audience as "just marvelous" and said the pope appeared to be "strong, healthy, animated and aware."

"This man is strong," he said.

The rabbis collectively blessed the pope, and the dozen cantors in the group -- who had given a concert in Rome's Great Synagogue the night before -- chanted the Shehecheyanu prayer as the delegates and their family members moved forward to shake the pope's hand. Each guest received a special medal emblazoned with the word "shalom."

Tuesday's long-planned audience coincided with ongoing controversy over the Holocaust role of Pope Pius XII, and in particular over recent revelations that the Vatican tried to keep hold of some Jewish children who were baptized to save them from the Nazis. None of this debate, however, marred the festive atmosphere of the audience.

"This is the first time in history that rabbis representing all branches of Judaism from all over the world have come together to collectively thank Pope John Paul II and the church for all they have done to build bridges of understanding and mutual respect between Jews and Catholics," Rabbi Jack Bemporad, director of the Center for Interreligious Understanding in Secaucus, N.J., said in a statement.

Bemporad noted that John Paul became the first pontiff to visit a synagogue, issued many condemnations of anti-Semitism and apologized for earlier church policy and sins against Jews carried out by Catholics. He presided over the establishment of full diplomatic relations between Israel and the Holy See, and in 2000 made an emotional pilgrimage to Israel.

"In the history of the world, the last 40 years will be seen as the most revolutionary and significant in terms of progress in the Jewish-Catholic relationship," Bemporad said. "No pope has done as much or cared as much about creating a brotherly relationship between Catholics and Jews as Pope John Paul II.

"For me, it's simply revolutionary," he said.

International Herald Tribune | 3  
Wednesday, January 19, 2005

# 130 Jewish leaders thank John Paul II

## Reconciliation called pope's hallmark

By Jason Horowitz

**ROME:** The largest delegation of Jewish leaders ever to have an audience at the Vatican thanked Pope John Paul II on Tuesday for his efforts in improving relations between the two faiths, even as a debate rages here over the Roman Catholic Church's policies toward Jewish children after World War II.

"You have defended the Jewish people at every opportunity," said Gary Krupp, president of the Pave the Way Foundation, a Jewish group working to improve interreligious relations that organized the audience attended by more than 130 rabbis, cantors and other Jewish leaders from around the world. "These reconciliatory acts have in fact been the hallmarks of your pontificate."

John Paul noted in his remarks that 2005 marks the 40th anniversary of the Vatican's *Nostra Aetate* declaration, which repealed the accusation that Jews were collectively responsible for Christ's crucifixion, and he called for greater commitment and understanding between the religions.

The tone of the long-scheduled meeting was one of mutual thanksgiving and praise. It was its timing that cast it in a darker light.

The audience lands square in the middle of a renewed and in some corners raw debate over the policies of Pope Pius XII toward Jews during and after the war, especially after historians this month unearthed a cold and terse 1946 directive that some scholars believe is written confirmation of a well-known Church policy that refused to allow Jewish children who had been sheltered and baptized by Catholics during the war to return to Jewish communities.

The discovery has once again cast doubt on Pope Pius XII, who apparently approved the directive, and whose candidature for sainthood enters a new phase in March. Critics of Pius XII say that he was an anti-Semite, and condemn him for his public silence during the Holocaust. Supporters argue that silence was a risk calculated with the intention of saving Jewish and Catholic lives.

While some Jewish leaders, like Amos Luzzatto, president of the Union of Italian Jewish Communities, argue that, in light of the document, the beatification process of Pius XII should come to a halt, some church officials dismiss the demands.

"It is regrettable that these things continue to appear, but we are accustomed to it," Reverend Peter Gumpel, chief investigative judge in the procedure to make Pius XII a saint, said in a recent interview. He doubted the authenticity of the 1946 directive, and also lamented the criticism from Jewish groups. "It's true

that a small number of Jews are doing this, but they are losing the battle." Indeed, Pius XII received measured support Tuesday from some of the Jewish leaders who met with the pope.

"When the Bishops and Cardinals came to Pius XII and said please condemn the Nazis for killing Catholics he didn't. Does that make him anti-Catholic?" asked Jack Bemporad, a rabbi from New Jersey who runs the Center for Interreligious Understanding. "It made him timid, afraid. He was worried about saving lives." Bemporad also said that, in hindsight, the last 40 years would be seen as remarkable for the progress made in relations between Catholics and Jews.

During John Paul's 26-year pontificate, the Vatican established diplomatic relations with Israel, where the pope prayed in 2000 after visiting Rome's main synagogue in 1986. "This notion is not healthy, harping back on the past and not looking forward. Our salvation is to the future and not the past," Krupp said in a recent interview. "To keep asking for forgiveness, what good does it do?"

The New York Times

# IL TEMPO

QUOTIDIANO INDIPENDENTE ANNO LXII N. 18 MERCOLEDÌ 19 GENNAIO 2005 € 0,90

Ieri in udienza 160 rappresentanti della Fondazione «Pave the way»

## Appello dei rabbini per la pace

Canti nella lingua dell'antico testamento in onore del Pontefice

Ribadita la necessità di «accrescere l'intesa tra cristiani ed ebrei per costruire un mondo che rispetti l'immagine divina in ogni uomo»

IL PAPA che, in lingua ebraica, invoca su un gruppo di rabbini la benedizione dell'Onnipotente, augurando loro «shalom aleichem», il dono della pace, e tre rabbini che, in sefardita, con le parole del Libro dei Numeri recitano la formula di benedizione che chiede «pace e felicità» per il Papa. Situazioni inusuali in un incontro con 160 rabbini e cantori ebrei, definito dalla Radio vaticana «particolarmente emozionante», che ha dato occasione a Giovanni Paolo II di ribadire la necessità di impegnarsi ad «accrescere la comprensione e la cooperazione» tra cristiani ed ebrei «per costruire un mondo che sia davvero basato sul rispetto dell'immagine divina presente in ogni essere umano».

Canti nella lingua dell'Antico testamento e uomini con la kippa (una, bianca e gialla, donata anche al Papa), ieri nella Sala clementina per l'udienza alla Fondazione "Pave The Way", che ha portato in Vaticano rabbini e cantori ebrei di Usa, Europa e Israele, allo scopo dichiarato di ringraziare Giovanni Paolo II in quanto, come ha detto il rabbino Jack Bemporad, sopravvissuto dell'

Olocausto, nessun Papa prima di lui «ha mai fatto tanto o si è preoccupato tanto di creare una relazione fraterna tra Cattolici ed Ebrei», mentre Gary L. Krupp, fondatore e presidente della fondazione, ha elencato le tante iniziative del Papa a favore del superamento delle antiche fratture: dalla condanna senza attenuanti dell'antisemitismo, definita «pietra angolare» del pontificato, alla visita ad Auschwitz, dalla normalizzazione dei rapporti con Israele alla visita al Museo dell'Olocausto a Gerusalemme, dalla visita alla sinagoga di Roma alla preghiera al Muro del pianto, dove ha rinnovato la richiesta di perdono per le colpe di cattolici contro gli ebrei.

Delegazione di un ente privato, certo, ma presenza comunque di significato, nell'anno nel quale, come ha ricordato il Papa, si celebrano i quaranta anni della dichiarazione conciliare Nostra Aetate, «che ha significativamente contribuito a dare forza al dialogo ebraico-cristiano». Papa peraltro in buone condizioni e palesemente contento dell'incontro, nel corso del quale ha salutato uno ad uno tutti i presenti,



scambiando molti sorrisi e qualche battuta e leggendo per intero il suo saluto, in inglese.

Ci sono stati anche canti, in un clima di amicizia e di affetto, come l'ha definito quasi commosso il rabbino Bemporad, che è il direttore del Centro per la comprensione interreligiosa, che si trova nel New Jersey: «Questa è la prima volta nella storia che i rabbini in rappresentanza di tutte le branche del giudaismo, si ritrovano insieme a Roma per ringraziare il Pontefice Giovanni Paolo II e la Chiesa, per quanto hanno fatto per costruire

ponti e rispetto reciproco tra ebrei e cattolici».

Ed alla fine, un «grazie» ed uno «shalom» ripetuti 3 volte hanno segnato il saluto che Gary L. Krupp, fondatore di «Pave the Way», ha rivolto al Papa, che ha definito «personificazione dello spirito di Aronne». Per l'intero discorso Krupp ha sottolineato l'impegno di Giovanni Paolo II per migliorare i rapporti con gli ebrei, per la riconciliazione ed in particolare la sua denuncia dell'antisemitismo come un peccato contro Dio e contro l'umanità sono la pietra angolare del pontificato.

# Chicago Tribune

AROUND THE WORLD

## Jews thank pontiff for long support

Items compiled from Tribune news services

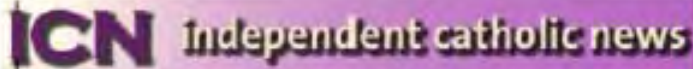
*Published January 19, 2005*

VATICAN CITY, THE VATICAN -- A delegation of prominent rabbis and other Jewish leaders from around the world met Tuesday with Pope John Paul II to thank him for what they called a lifelong commitment to the defense of Jews.

Recalling the pope's visit to Auschwitz during his first trip to his Polish homeland in 1979, Gary Krupp of the Pave the Way Foundation praised the pontiff for setting a "tone of reconciliation" in his papacy.

"You have defended Jewish people at every opportunity, as a priest in Poland and during your 26-year-old pontificate. You have denounced anti-Semitism as sin against God and humanity," said Krupp, whose foundation works to better relations between religious groups, as he stood before the pontiff in a frescoed, marble-lined hall of the Apostolic Palace.

The pope thanked Krupp and then urged Catholics and Jews to improve relations further. Only decades ago the two groups were divided by Christian thinking that Jews were to blame for Jesus' death.



ROME - 19 January 2005 - 372 words

### **Rabbis from around the world thank Pope John Paul**

Yesterday morning, in the largest private audience ever given by a Pope to Jewish leaders, John Paul II received 160 Jewish rabbis and cantors from Israel, the United States and Europe.

The Holy Father pointed out that: "this year we will be celebrating the fortieth anniversary of the Second Vatican Council's Declaration 'Nostra aetate', which has significantly contributed to the strengthening of Jewish-Catholic dialogue.

"May this be an occasion for renewed commitment to increased understanding and cooperation in the service of building a world ever more firmly based on respect for the divine image in every human being."

The rabbis, who all belong to the Pave the Way Foundation, thanked the Holy Father for: "all the efforts he has sustained over 26 years of pontificate to reconcile the two faiths and demolish the wall of hatred," according to a communique from the Foundation published last evening. During the audience, they recited a prayer in honour of John Paul II.

Gary Krupp, founder and president of the Pave the Way Foundation, affirmed that the aim of his group is: "to unite men and women of good faith, beyond any religious belief and without prejudice, and to remove with determination all obstacles in the way of this objective. The Pope has done this for decades. The least we can do is to thank him humbly for all he has done for the Jewish people in the world; and in our turn we undertake to make serious efforts for peace on Earth," he said.

Rabbi Jack Bemporad, director of the Centre for Inter-religious Understanding, said: "since Vatican Council II, and under the guidance of Pope John Paul II, the Church has made many extremely significant steps to create new bonds with Jews on a foundation of sincere affection and reciprocity."

"No Pope before John Paul II has ever done as much, or been so concerned to create fraternal relations between Catholics and Jews. ... I am convinced that Pope John Paul II will be considered a great healer of relations between Catholics and Jews. ... Coming to the Vatican from all over the world, we rabbis say thank you!"

Source: VIS

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## Unos 160 rabinos agradecen al Papa su lucha contra el antisemitismo

La asociación judía Pave the way fue recibida en Audiencia por el Papa.

*En una audiencia en el Vaticano celebrada a los 40 años de «Nostra Aetate»*

CIUDAD DEL VATICANO, martes, 18 enero 2005 ([ZENIT.org](http://ZENIT.org)).- Juan Pablo II pidió que se refuerce el compromiso a favor del diálogo entre judíos y católicos al recibir este martes a un grupo de unos 160 rabinos y cantores de Israel, Europa y Estados Unidos.

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纽约“Pave The Way Foundation”代表。

教宗向在场人士发表了以下讲话：

“亲爱的朋友们，

在你们访问梵蒂冈之际，我向你们‘Pave The Way Foundation’成员表示热烈的欢迎。并感谢克拉帕先生代表你们大家，向我所表达的美好话语。

今年，正值庆祝梵蒂冈第二届大公会议宣言《Nostra Aetate》发表四十周年。这一文件为犹太教会-基督信仰对话作出了具有深远意义的贡献。借此机会，可以更新促进相互理解与合作的努力，从而建设一个越来越坚定不移地奠定在尊重天主的肖像——每一个人的基础上的世界。

我祈求全能上主赐予丰富的降福，特别是和平的恩宠。

*Shalom Aleichem”*

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## A „Pave the Way” – „Kövezd ki az Utat” – Alapítvány és a Vallásközi Megértés Központ közleménye a zsidó vezetők és a Pápa kedden esedékes találkozásáról

A közlemény a következő vastag betűs szavakkal kezdődik:

**„KÖSZÖNET II. JÁNOS PÁL PÁPÁNAK A VILÁG MINDEN RÉSZÉRŐL ÉRKEZETT 160 RABBITÓL, AKIK A VATIKÁNBAN GYŰLNEK ÖSSZE”**

Kedden, január 18-án délelőtt, 160 rabbi kántor a Vatikánban találkozik II. János Pál pápával. A történelem eddigi legnagyobb magánkihallgatásáról van szó, amelyre valaha is sor került a Vatikánban egy Pápa és zsidó vallási vezetők között. A rabbik, akiket a „Pave the Way” – a „Kövezd ki az Utat” alapítvány gyűjtött egybe, a kihallgatás során elismeréssel adóznak azokért a történelmi lépésekért, amelyeket a Szentszék tett a katolikusok és zsidók közötti kapcsolatok javítása érdekében, és köszönetüket fejezik ki a Pápának azokért az erőfeszítéseiért, amelyeket pápasága eddigi 26 éve során tett, hogy kiengesztelje a két vallást, és ledöntse a gyűlölet falát.

A rabbik, a kihallgatás során imát mondanak majd a Szentatya tiszteletére.

**Gary Krupp**, az Alapítvány elnöke és létrehozója a következőket nyilatkozta: „Alapítványunk küldetése, hogy



19-01-2005 [新聞報導](#) [資料庫](#) [主日彌撒讀經](#)

全球一百六十位猶太教經師梵蒂岡拜訪教宗

## 教宗與聖座

- 天主教伊拉克摩蘇爾的總主教卡思慕撒遭綁架二十四小時後被釋放，聖座表示滿意
- 全球一百六十位猶太教經師梵蒂岡拜訪教宗，感謝他始終維護猶太民族
- 義大利外交部長菲尼拜會聖座國務卿索達諾樞機主教及與各國關係部門秘書長拉約洛總主教

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## Unos 160 rabinos agradecen al Papa su lucha contra el antisemitismo

martes, 18 enero 2005

La asociación judía Pave the way fue recibida en Audiencia por el Papa.

*En una audiencia en el Vaticano celebrada a los 40 años de «Nostra Aetate»*

CIUDAD DEL VATICANO, martes, 18 enero 2005 ([ZENIT.org](http://ZENIT.org)).- Juan Pablo II pidió que se refuerce el compromiso a favor del diálogo entre judíos y católicos al recibir este martes a un grupo de unos 160 rabinos y cantores de Israel, Europa y Estados Unidos.

El encuentro sin precedentes --nunca habían venido al Vaticano tantos rabinos para una audiencia privada con el Papa-- fue solicitado por la [«Pave the Way Foundation»](http://Pave the Way Foundation) para recordar los cuarenta años de la declaración del Concilio Vaticano II [«Nostra Aetate»](http://Nostra Aetate) (28 de octubre de 1965), que marcó un giro decisivo en el diálogo judeocristiano.

Asimismo, Gary Krupp, presidente la Fundación, había propuesto el encuentro como una oportunidad para agradecer al Papa Karol Wojtyla el extraordinario esfuerzo realizado con su vida, y en particular con sus más de 26 años de pontificado, en la lucha

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## Brasil e no Mundo

### **Cento e sessenta rabinos no Vaticano para agradecer João Paulo II Por seu apoio ao povo judeu, especialmente ao denunciar o anti-semitismo**

CIDADE DO VATICANO, segunda-feira, 17 de janeiro de 2005 ([ZENIT.org](http://ZENIT.org)).- Cerca de 160 rabinos e cantores judeus provenientes de Israel, Estados Unidos e Europa serão recebidos esta terça-feira em audiência por João Paulo II no Vaticano.

O encontro foi solicitado para celebrar o quadragésimo aniversário da declaração do Concílio Vaticano II Nostra Aetate (28 de outubro de 1964), que marcou uma virada na relação entre judeus e católicos.

Segundo um comunicado difundido pela fundação que pediu o encontro, a «Pave the Way Foundation», os representantes judeus darão graças a João Paulo II pelo que fez a favor da reconciliação entre judeus e católicos. Neste sentido, os rabinos pretendem recitar uma oração especial em honra do Papa.

Gary Krupp, presidente e fundador da «Pave the Way Foundation», sublinhou que «sua Santidade João Paulo II tem uma longa história de apoio o povo judeu, sobretudo na hora de denunciar o anti-semitismo e a discriminação de todo grupo étnico».

## Rabbis Applaud Pope at Private Audience

Wednesday, January 19, 2005 12:00:00 AM GMT

Vatican, Jan. 18 (CWNews.com) - Pope John Paul II (bio - news) called for renewed cooperation between Catholics and Jews, as he met with 160 rabbis and cantors in a private audience at the Vatican on January 18.

Noting that this year brings the 40th anniversary of the Vatican II declaration *Nostra Aetate* (doc) , a landmark Church statement on relations with Judaism, the Pope said the anniversary should be "an occasion for renewed commitment to increased understanding and cooperation in the service of building a world ever more firmly based on respect for the divine image in every human being."

The January 18 meeting was the largest private audience with Jewish leaders during the current pontificate. The Jewish leaders, drawn together by the New York-based Pave the Way Foundation, applauded John Paul II for "all the efforts he has sustained over 26 years of pontificate to reconcile the two faiths and demolish the wall of hatred."

The meeting came at a time when relations between Catholic and Jewish leaders have been strained once again by controversy over the wartime record of Pope Pius XII. But representatives of the Pave the Way Foundation took pains to emphasize that their visit had been scheduled well in advance, and their purpose was to thank the Pope for his work rather than to criticize the Church.

Rabbi Jack Bemporad, director of the Center for Inter-religious Understanding, said "No pope before John Paul II has ever done as much, or been so concerned to create fraternal relations between Catholics and Jews. ... Coming to the Vatican from all over the world, we rabbis say thank you!"

The Holy Father drew loud applause when he greeted his Jewish visitors by saying "Shalom!" He read the entirety of his own prepared remarks, in English, during the audience.

At the conclusion of the audience Gary Krupp, the president of the Pave the Way Foundation, announced that the Vatican had agreed to loan a collection of rare 14th-century manuscripts by the Jewish scholar Maimonides to the Israeli Museum.

*This article courtesy of Catholic World News. To subscribe or for further information, contact [subs@cwnews.com](mailto:subs@cwnews.com) or visit [www.cwnews.com](http://www.cwnews.com)*

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CITTÀ DEL VATICANO

Mercoledì 19 Gennaio 2005

Udienza del Papa alla «Pave the Way Foundation»

## Rafforziamo il dialogo tra ebrei e cattolici. «Shalom aleichem»



«Rafforziamo il dialogo tra ebrei e cattolici... "Shalom aleichem"». Con quest'esortazione il Santo Padre si è rivolto ai membri della «Pave the Way Foundation» ricevuti in udienza nella mattina di martedì 18 gennaio, nella Sala Clementina. «Quest'anno — ha detto il Papa — celebreremo il quarantesimo della Dichiarazione "Nostra aetate"... Che questa possa essere un'occasione di rinnovato impegno per una comprensione e una cooperazione maggiori per l'edificazione di un mondo sempre più fermamente basato sul rispetto dell'immagine divina in ogni essere umano!».



«Quest'anno celebriamo il quarantesimo anniversario della Dichiarazione del Concilio Vaticano II "Nostra aetate", che ha contribuito in modo significativo al rafforzamento del dialogo fra ebrei e cattolici. Che questa possa essere un'occasione di rinnovato impegno per una comprensione e una cooperazione maggiori per l'edificazione di un mondo sempre più fermamente basato sul rispetto dell'immagine divina in ogni essere umano!»



UDIENZA Giovanni Paolo II alla «Pave the Way Foundation» a 40 anni dalla Dichiarazione del Concilio Vaticano II «Nostra aetate»

# Rafforziamo il dialogo tra ebrei e cattolici «Shalom aleichem»

«Rafforziamo il dialogo tra ebrei e cattolici: "Shalom aleichem"». È quanto auspicato Giovanni Paolo II rivolgersi ai membri della «Pave the Way Foundation» ricevuti in udienza nella mattina di martedì 18 gennaio, nella Sala Clementina. Ecco le parole del Santo Padre:

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

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

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



Questa è una nostra traduzione italiana delle parole del Santo Padre:

Cari amici, con affetto vi saluto, membri della «Pave the Way Foundation», in occasione della vostra visita in Vaticano e ringrazio il signor Krupp per le cordiali parole che mi ha rivolto a vostro nome.

Quest'anno celebriamo il quarantesimo anniversario della Dichiarazione del Concilio Vaticano II *Nostra aetate*, che ha contribuito in modo significativo al rafforzamento del dialogo fra ebrei e cattolici. Che questa possa essere un'occasione di rinnovato impegno per una comprensione e una cooperazione

maggiore per l'edificazione di un mondo sempre più fermamente basato sul rispetto dell'immagine divina in ogni essere umano!

Su di voi invoco le benedizioni abbondanti dell'Onnipotente e, in particolare, il dono della pace. *Shalom aleichem*.

## L'indirizzo d'omaggio al Santo Padre

All'inizio dell'udienza, il signor Gary L. Krupp ha rivolto a Giovanni Paolo II, a nome dei presenti, l'indirizzo d'omaggio che pubblichiamo di seguito:

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

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

On April 13, 1986, you became the first Pope since St. Peter to visit a synagogue. Upon presenting his credentials to you in June 2003, Israeli Ambassador Oded Ben-Hur expressed this enormous gesture best when he said, "On that day you took upon your shoulders the 2000 year old church, back to the first century synagogue of Capernaum, where Jesus used to pray, thus closing an historic circle."

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

Your pilgrimage to Israel and the Holy Land on March 21, 2000, was immortalized in the hearts and minds of the Jewish people around the world,

when you placed your prayer asking for forgiveness in the Western Wall.

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

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

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

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

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

VATICAN CITY

## **Rabbis thank the pope for his defense of Jews**

A delegation of prominent rabbis and Jewish leaders from around the world met with Pope John Paul II on Tuesday to thank him for what they called a lifelong commitment to the defense of Jews.

Recalling the pope's visit to Auschwitz during his first trip to his Polish homeland in 1979, Gary Krupp of the Pave the Way Foundation praised John Paul for setting a "tone of reconciliation" in his papacy.

"You have defended Jewish people at every opportunity, as a priest in Poland and during your 26-year-old pontificate. You have denounced anti-Semitism as sin against God and humanity," said Krupp, whose foundation works to better relations between religious groups.

John Paul thanked Krupp, who is from Long Beach, N.Y., and then urged Catholics and Jews to further improve relations.

## Rabbis, cantors meet pope, thank him for efforts with Jews

By Cindy Wooden

VATICAN CITY (CNS) -- Pope John Paul II, meeting an international group of rabbis and cantors, urged continuing efforts to promote Jewish-Catholic dialogue and respect for every person.

"This year we will be celebrating the 40th anniversary of the Second Vatican Council's declaration 'Nostra Aetate,' which has significantly contributed to the strengthening of Jewish-Catholic dialogue," the pope told the group, which came to Rome under the auspices of the U.S.-based Pave the Way Foundation.

The group of 130 rabbis and cantors, accompanied by about 30 Catholic friends, was the largest group of Jewish leaders ever to travel to the Vatican to meet the pope, said Salesian Father Norbert Hofmann, secretary of the Vatican's Commission for Religious Relations With the Jews. Before greeting each member of the group individually Jan. 18, the pope expressed his hope for a "renewed commitment to increased understanding and co-operation in the service of building a world ever more firmly based on respect for the divine image in every human being."

Gary Krupp, founder and president of the Pave the Way Foundation, thanked the pope for his efforts to promote Catholic-Jewish dialogue, for his condemnations of anti-Semitism, for his asking forgiveness for wrongs committed by Catholics against Jews and for his 2000 visit to Israel.

"It is impossible to describe the emotional impact these milestones have had on Jews worldwide," Krupp told the pope.

Most of the rabbis and cantors were from the United States, but the group also included members from Canada, Israel, France, Croatia and India.

During the audience, Rabbi Jack Bemporad, director of the New Jersey-based centre for Inter-religious Understanding, and two other rabbis formally asked God to bless Pope John Paul, using a blessing drawn from the Book of Numbers.

"May the Lord bless you and keep you, Pope John Paul II, in good health and in uplifted spirits," they prayed. "May the Lord let his countenance shine upon you and be gracious unto you and all your loved ones and dear ones. May the Lord bestow upon you and upon all his creation the gift of love, the gift of understanding and the greatest gift of all, the gift of peace, shalom."

In a Jan. 17 speech in Rome, Rabbi Bemporad said the group came to Rome to thank Pope John Paul for all he has done to promote Catholic-Jewish understanding and, especially, for all he has done to extend the Second Vatican Council's positive teachings about Jews and Judaism.

The audience took place at the beginning of a year filled with events to celebrate the 40th anniversary of the council's declaration on non-Christian religions, which included a section on the special ties that bind Christianity and Judaism.

"I think the only way to properly characterize what that anniversary signifies is 'revolution, a spiritual revolution,'" the rabbi told his audience at the "Centro Pro Unione," a centre for dialogue run by the Atonement Fathers.

"Never before in history -- as far as I can tell -- has any really great, significant religion decided to investigate itself and what it has taught about a religion that for many years it had held in contempt," Rabbi Bemporad said.

The Enlightenment, with its ideals of the rights of man, liberated the Jews politically," he said. "Vatican II with its 're-cognition' of the Jewish people began to liberate the Jews religiously."

The civil rights won by European Jews following the Enlightenment, he said, were threatened as long as the European Christian majority felt the Jews were inferior and were being punished by God for not believing in Christ.

The Catholic Church not only has reviewed its teaching about the Jews and apologized for the ways individual Catholics used the teaching to despise and even justify violence against the Jews, the rabbi said, but the church also has made a commitment to teaching about Judaism in a way that Jews would recognize as reflecting their faith. Rabbi Bemporad said the biggest challenge facing Catholic-Jewish relations today is to follow up the council's teaching with "a theology of a living Judaism," which explains how God's covenant with the Jews endures and can be a means of salvation and which recognizes the theological importance of the land of Israel for the Jews.

"Because of the Shoah (Holocaust) and the destruction of European Jewry, the significance of the land of Israel, not only as a land of refuge but as a place for the rebirth of Jewish life, has taken on a central significance in Jewish consciousness," he said.

Father Hofmann told Rabbi Bemporad and his audience that Catholic theologians and scholars are engaged in study and debate on a "Catholic theology of Judaism" and that pushing for an authoritative statement too soon could freeze the discussion prematurely.

In response to a question, Rabbi Bemporad said that for him the ongoing discussion about whether or not to beatify Pope Pius XII is not "a theological challenge" to Catholic-Jewish dialogue.

His beatification and eventual canonization are "not a Jewish issue. That is a strictly internal Catholic matter," he said.

When discussing Pope Pius, he said, people must realize that "since Vatican II the Catholic Church is not the same church, and to dredge up what happened" before the council would not be fair.

"The real issue is: Should Pius XII have spoken out?" the rabbi said.

"The sad thing is that he thought he did speak out" when he condemned race-based discrimination in Europe in his 1942 Christmas message, Rabbi Bemporad said.

"There is no question that Pius XII was afraid" of the German's reaction if he spoke too explicitly, the rabbi said. "I think he did what he thought he could do to hold it together."

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Friday January 21, 2005

## **Pope meets Jewish delegation, calls for renewed relations**

by ruth ellen gruber

jta

**rome** | Despite ups and downs over the years, Pope John Paul II has made bettering relations with Jews a key platform of his 26-year papacy.

An international group of more than 100 rabbis, cantors and other Jewish leaders from all streams of Judaism thanked him this week for his efforts during a special private audience at the Vatican.

Dressed in white and seated in an upholstered wheelchair, the 84-year-old pontiff gave the group an enthusiastic welcome in the ornate Clementine Hall of the Apostolic Palace. In his remarks, the pope noted that this year marks the 40th anniversary of the Vatican's landmark Nostra Aetate declaration, which rejected the charge that Jews collectively were responsible for the death of Jesus.

"May this be an occasion for renewed commitment to increased understanding and cooperation in the service of building a world ever more firmly based on respect for the divine image in every human being," he said. "Upon all of you, I invoke the abundant blessings of the Almighty and, in particular, the gift of peace. Shalom aleichem."

The group — which organizers said was the largest Jewish delegation to have a private audience with a pope — came to the Vatican under the auspices of the Pave the Way Foundation, a New York-based nonprofit that promotes interfaith understanding.

"You have defended Jewish people at every opportunity, as a priest in Poland and during your pontificate," the Pave the Way president and founder, Gary Krupp of New York, told the pontiff.

The long-planned audience coincided with ongoing controversy over the Holocaust role of Pope Pius XII, and in particular over recent revelations that the Vatican tried to hold onto some Jewish children who had been baptized and placed in Catholic homes to save them from the Nazis. None of this debate, however, marred the festive atmosphere of the audience.

"This is the first time in history that rabbis representing all branches of Judaism from all over the world have come together to collectively thank Pope John Paul II and the church for all they have done to build bridges of understanding and mutual respect between Jews and Catholics," Rabbi Jack Bemporad, director of the Center for Interreligious Understanding in Secaucus, N.J., said in a statement.

< California Northern of weekly news Jewish the >





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

*Tuesday, 18 January 2005*

*Dear Friends,*

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

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

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

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# A SOLDIER OF PEACE

**Gary Krupp, both a Jew and a papal knight, helps repair relations between Jews and Catholics.**

BY LISA J. HURIASH  
STAFF WRITER

Gary Krupp straddles both sides of the divide.

He is a Jewish man from Long Island, knighted by the Pope, who sings the praises of the Vatican. When he

talks in terms of "we," he often needs to clarify whether he's speaking of we the Catholics or we the Jews.

He is also one of the people behind a recent agreement between the Vatican and Israel to display priceless Jewish artifacts in Israel for the first time.

"I love my religion and I'm devoted to the security and prosperity of Israel," he said. "That's why when I was knighted, I said to my wife, we have to do something with this position to help the Jewish people. Quite literally, no one else can do what we do."

His goal, he said, is to foster Catholic-Jewish relations unlike any other time in history.

"We have a Holy War, so to speak," said Oded Ben-Hur, Israeli Ambassador to the Holy See, in a telephone interview from Rome. "And he's a soldier of peace."

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Among the four books that will be shown is the work of Moses Maimonides, one of Judaism's most celebrated

# A SOLDIER OF PEACE

Gary Krupp, both a Jew and a papal knight, helps repair relations between Jews and Catholics.

BY LISA J. HURIASH  
STAFF WRITER

Gary Krupp straddles both sides of the divide.

He is a Jewish man from Long Island, knighted by the Pope, who sings the praises of the Vatican. When he

talks in terms of "we," he often needs to clarify whether he's speaking of we the Catholics or we the Jews.

He is also one of the people behind a recent agreement between the Vatican and Israel to display priceless Jewish artifacts in Israel for the first time.

"I love my religion and I'm devoted to the security and prosperity of Israel," he said. "That's why when I was knighted, I said to my wife, we have to do something with this position to help the Jewish people. Quite literally, no one else can do what we do."

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Among the four books that will be shown is the work of Moses Maimonides, one of Judaism's most celebrated

rabbis and sages, and will be sent to Israel this year in a gesture meant to improve relations between Catholics and Jews.

A New York developer, Krupp became a favorite of the Vatican in 1988 after helping a hospital in Rome buy equipment at an \$18 million savings. Catholic friends had approached Krupp for help because he had some expertise in building medical facilities and working with companies such as General Electric, who supply them.

"I always had an affinity for the church. They are marvelous people; I just enjoyed their company.

"When they asked me to help them, I said it would be my pleasure," Krupp said.

In 2000, Krupp was knighted with the Vatican, specifically as Commander of the Order of St. Gregory the



■ KRUPP CONTINUES ON 2H

# A SOLDIER OF PEACE

## ■ KRUPP

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1H

Great. He is only the seventh Jew to be so honored, and only one of three living.

Krupp said he wanted to use his position to bring the relationship between Catholics and Jews to a new stage.

That work really began after Sept. 11, 2001. He was at the Maimonides Research Institute in New York where a friend was being honored, when the wife of one of the rabbis on the board asked about the medal around his neck. He explained he was a member of the Papal Household and could "do anything with the Vatican."

For years rabbis had begged the Vatican for access to Judaica treasures, especially the work of Maimonides, and each time they were denied. The rabbi's wife fetched her husband, Benjamin Blech, who persuaded Krupp to take up their plight.

Krupp wrote a letter in 2002, and the priest of the Vatican Library answered. "He said, 'We would be delighted to entertain your group, and you can even come when the library is closed to the public,'" Krupp said.

And with that accomplishment, Krupp said his job now remains to persuade both sides to give a little so they both get what they want.

"I think he is one of the greatest people I have met in my life and I am 80," said Papal Chamberlain Rolando Clementoni, a protocol officer for the Pope, in a telephone interview from Rome. "He has me 100 percent convinced he will succeed."

Krupp "is an excellent man and he does excellent work," said Rabbi David Rosen, the former chief rabbi of Ireland, a director for the American Jewish Committee and a member of the original commission that established diplomatic ties with Israel and the Holy See in 1993.

While talks have been going

on between the two faiths since the early 1990s, Krupp is helping to speed it along, said Rosen.

The future, he said, "is extremely rosy. Until 40 years ago, Catholics believed Jews were condemned and rejected by God. Now the attitude is mutual respect, and now the Pope says Jews are 'dearly beloved elder brothers of the church of the original covenant never broken and never to be broken.'

"It's not an exaggeration to say Catholic-Jewish relations [have become] the most dramatic ideological revolution in human history."

But while the governments and hierarchy of both faiths sing the praises of the new relationship, a complete change in attitude has not happened. Many average Catholic and Jewish people still harbor resentment.

Krupp said he has come across Catholics who still refer to Israel as the "Holy Land" instead of its proper name.

On the Jewish side, he hears the same points again and again about Catholic persecution, including the deaths of Jews during the Blood Libel period of the Middle Ages, the deaths and destruction of Jewish communities during the Crusades in Europe, the Spanish Inquisition which led to the conversion or expulsion of Spain's Jews, and the Vatican's silence during the Holocaust.

"The Inquisition didn't happen to anybody that's alive today," says Krupp. "You can't forget what happened. But we have to have a clean slate to start from scratch. [Jews say to me,] 'Look at what they did to us for 2,000 years?' I say, 'What Catholic did something to you?' Don't condemn an entire group. And it's a Jewish concept to forgive people. When someone asks for forgiveness, you do it. They've asked 4,000 times. I don't want to discuss anything that happened a minute ago; I want to build the relationship now."

The rewards, he said, can be

greater than anyone can imagine.

Some Jews are interested in seeing more Judaica treasures hidden in the Vatican's vaults. They want many of the items returned to the Jewish people, via museums in Israel, or at the least, the work loaned, such as the manuscripts of Rambam. More importantly, the leaders say they want the Vatican's goodwill, which can be fruitful in political support in the United Nations, and also worldwide Catholic tourism to Israel.

The Catholics have a list of wants, too, including property tax exemptions for religious institutions in Israel and access to the courts for disputes over property. In addition, the Vatican wants Hebrew University to leave part of a convent it has been using since 1948.

"These issues are all going to be cleared up very soon. This is not a major issue," said Ambassador Oded Ben-Hur.

In addition, the Vatican wants to own the Upper Room, the site thought to be the spot of Christ's Last Supper. The problem is the room is on the second floor of the Tomb of King David, Judaism's most revered leader.

"Once this is resolved, the potential cultural exchange is incredible," Krupp said. "The Pope has [recognized] Israel, the Pope said it's a sin to be anti-Semitic. What have we done for them? Nothing."

Said Ben-Hur: "We've had 2,000 years of unpleasant history, hatred and suspicion. We were afraid, and had a historical reason to feel that way."

But that's "not smart," he said. "What Israel wants is full understanding, it's not that parchment or that menorah. It's to normalize relationships. The war against anti-Semitism has not even begun."

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**RESPECT:** Meredith and Gary Krupp prepare for a three-week mission last year in Israel and Rome. Gary Krupp is the seventh Jewish man in history to be knighted to the Order of St. Gregory the Great. At left, the Krupps deliver a cross from the World Trade Center to the pope in 2002 on behalf of New York City firefighters. *Newsday* photo/Julia Gaines, above; Photo courtesy Gary Krupp, left

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24 de enero de 2005

**LA NACION LINE**  
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## Los hijos de Abraham

[Jorge Rouillon](#)

Fuente:

En el país no tuvo repercusión una audiencia privada que el Papa concedió a 160 rabinos y representantes judíos de todo el mundo, que lo visitaron para agradecerle su contribución a la reconciliación entre los hijos de Abraham y a la lucha contra el antisemitismo.

El encuentro fue pedido por la Pave the Way Foundation (Fundación para preparar el terreno), con el fin de celebrar los 40 años de la declaración "Nostra Aetate", del Concilio Vaticano II, del 28 de octubre de 1965, que abrió nuevas perspectivas a las relaciones entre judíos y católicos.

El rabino Jack Bemporad, del Centro para el Entendimiento Interreligioso, se mostró convencido de que Juan Pablo II "será considerado el gran sanador de las relaciones entre judíos y católicos". Y señaló que rabinos de todo el mundo, de todas las ramas del judaísmo, llegaban al Vaticano para dar gracias a Juan Pablo II y a la Iglesia "por lo que han hecho para construir puentes y respeto recíproco". Los rabinos recitaron una plegaria en honor del Papa y éste invocó para ellos bendiciones del Todopoderoso y el don de la paz, en inglés, para concluir en hebreo: "Shalom aleichem".

Entre otros, estaban Shmuel Sirat, de Francia, ex rabino jefe en Europa; Adam Mintz, presidente del consejo de rabinos de Nueva York, y Joseph Arbid, rabino de la gran sinagoga de Roma. Se recordó la visita del Papa a ese centro, a Auschwitz y al Muro de los Lamentos. El presidente de la fundación visitante, Gary Krupp, dijo que por su tenaz búsqueda de la reconciliación de todos los creyentes, Su Santidad es la personificación del "espíritu de Aarón, el sumo sacerdote, del antiguo Israel". Krupp deseó que judíos, cristianos y musulmanes, los tres hijos de Abraham, se unan en una causa común y eleven su voz contra "los que difaman a Dios cometiendo inútiles actos de violencia en su santo nombre".

Un viejo propulsor del diálogo entre judíos y católicos, Baruj Tenenbaum, argentino, fundador de la Fundación Raoul Wallenberg, consideró "un día histórico" el de este encuentro en una entrevista que publicó la agencia católica Zenit, de Roma.

•Artículo siguiente: [«Un día histórico» para el...](#)

[Artículos relacionados](#)

ROCKVILLE CENTRE

## LI rabbi returns from visit with pope

BY RHODA AMON  
STAFF WRITER

January 28, 2005

In a visit last week designed to thank Pope John Paul II for reaching out to the Jewish people, three rabbis blessed the pope and 12 cantors sang to him.

So noted Rabbi Barry Schwartz of Rockville Centre after his return from the Vatican. The pope, he said yesterday, smiled and said in Hebrew, "Shalom aleichem," which means "peace unto you." He offered his hand, and the rabbi grasped the pope's hand in both of his. "I felt so warm towards him," the rabbi said, and he sensed "the feeling was mutual."

Schwartz, spiritual leader of Temple B'Nai Sholom for 32 years, and his wife, Sonia, were among 130 delegates from Pave the Way Foundation, an organization to promote religious understanding, founded by Gary Krupp of Long Beach, who arranged the visit to the Vatican.

"He was the first pope to go to Israel and the first pope to go into a synagogue," Schwartz said.

The 84-year-old Polish-born pope, who suffers from Parkinson's disease, insisted on shaking hands with all the delegates, the rabbi said. "He seemed frail but spiritually energetic. He gave us a full half hour. It was beyond our expectations."

A warm handshake went to Sonia Schwartz who was born to Holocaust survivors in Veilheim, Germany, and brought to America as a young child.

Two other rabbis who blessed the pope were Rabbi Benjamin Blech of Manhattan and Rabbi Jack Bemporad of Secaucus, N.J., director of the Center of Interreligious Understanding. The group was made up of mostly Jewish religious leaders and a few non-Jews who joked about their success in getting an audience with the pope by "going with rabbis."

**Local News**

Web posted Saturday, January 29, 2005

**Rabbi Belzer gets personal meeting with the Pope**

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It's not easy to get an audience with the pope.

But last week, when Rabbi Arnold Belzer and his wife, Arlene, visited Rome, they spent an hour at an elegant, Vatican palace. They heard Pope John Paul II speak and chatted with him one-on-one.

And, said Rabbi Belzer of Mickve Israel, "We shook his hand."

The Belzers, along with Savannah obstetrician Steve Gordon and his wife, Maureen, were part of a New York-based group, the Pave the Way Foundation, that seeks better relations between people of different faiths.

The group included more than 100 Jewish leaders, rabbis, cantors and their relatives.

At that Jan. 19 meeting, the pope made headlines around the world as he called for a stronger dialogue between Catholics and Jews.

At the same time, the pontiff made a warm, personal impression on his visitors, Belzer said.

The Pope enthusiastically greeted each guest. And when he learned the Belzers were from Savannah, the pontiff remarked, "Ah, I know Savannah," Belzer recounted.

As the meeting continued, "The Pope blessed us," Belzer said. And, speaking in Hebrew, "We blessed him."

After Belzer returned to Savannah, he answered questions about his experience.

**Q: Why did you go to the Vatican?**

**A:** I was there because of my work with Rabbi Jack Bemporad in a group called Association for Progressive Judaism, an approach to interfaith relations that avoids the pratfalls of political discussion. We focus on the spiritual.

I've been interested in Catholic-Jewish relations for years. I went to Iona, a Catholic college in New Rochelle, N.Y. I'm a founder and vice president of the Mastery Foundation, which does seminars for clergy of all denominations. We've worked with Protestants and Catholics in Ireland.

And I'm speaking about Judaism to the entire Savannah community. (Belzer will lead a free, 12-hour workshop March 12 at his temple called, "Judaism: Are You Curious?")

**Q: What was it like to meet the pope?**

**A:** It was surprising. It was in one of the papal palaces with frescoed ceilings, gilt. It was grand and royal as befitting a head of state.

He came into the room in a special wheelchair, white. And his robe was white.

The people had been silent but they gave him great applause. And they allowed us to



*Bishop J. Kevin Boland speaks to the media at a press conference Monday. Bob Morris/Savannah Morning News*

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take pictures. We were sitting inches from him.

What shocked me - the strength of his voice. He comes across (on television) as weak but he was speaking without a mike. His voice was strong. You just get from the power of his voice the kind of inner strength he has. It was quite amazing.

**Q: What was it like to shake his hand?**

**A:** We were invited to go forward, to kiss his ring. Jewish participants shook hands. Strong handshake! And this fellow was shaking a lot of hands.

**Q: What did you say to him?**

**A:** I said, "I bring blessings from Savannah." And he said, "Ah, I know Savannah. Shalom and be blessed."

**Q: What do you think of this meeting?**

**A:** I think it really was unique. There was no political agenda. This was a friendly, social visit. Perhaps it was a meeting of normalization.

There are still issues. Yesterday, there was report of Vatican representatives criticizing Israel for not doing enough for tsunami aid. And that is so incredibly wrong. But the Vatican is unique; they can separate political issues versus spiritual.

**Q: What did you learn from meeting the Pope?**

**A:** I learned about his humaneness and graciousness, even though he's suffering. (The 83-year-old Pope has Parkinson's disease and arthritis.)

This was an inspiring meeting - one that gives greater motivation for us to consider more interfaith work. We'll be doing the program in Ireland this coming fall.

*Posted 29 January, 2005*

## **Scientologists among Religious Leaders Joining Largest-ever Delegation Granted Audience by the Pope**

Members of Churches of Scientology were among leaders of different faiths who joined the largest group of rabbis and other Jewish delegates to be granted audience by the Pope.



*Delegation Granted Audience by the Pope*

The delegation was organized by Mr. Gary Krupp, founder of the Pave the Way Foundation, a multi-faith alliance that strives to improve conditions on this planet by bettering relationships between the world's major religions. Mr. Krupp, who is Jewish, is a Knight Commander in the Order of St. Gregory the Great, a status awarded him by the Pope for his substantial contributions to the people of Italy.



*In the Vatican, Scientologist, Darlene Slamen is presented to Pope John Paul II*

The 130-strong delegation to give support to Pave the Way Foundation's efforts to bring about interfaith understanding and to acknowledge the Pope for his personal commitment to respecting the rights of all religions, in this particular case Judaism.

Pave the Way Foundation is also enhancing relationships between the world's faiths by bringing about an exchange of religious treasures between Christianity and Judaism. The Foundation's literature states, "If the government of Israel were to announce that to show appreciation for efforts towards the Jewish people and the State of Israel by Pope John Paul II, it will return, to the Christian world after 453 years, the Cenacle Shrine of the Upper room (the site of the last supper and third most important shrine in Christianity), the international image of Israel and its relationship with 2.3 billion Christians will have an enormous worldwide impact.... If the Vatican were to announce that... it is returning to the Jewish people, in the care of the State of Israel, the manuscripts of [12th century rabbi, physician and philosopher] Maimonides, again, this would gain world attention and further cement relations."

During the January 18th reception, Mr. Krupp thanked Pope John Paul II for having "defended the Jewish people at every opportunity, as a priest in Poland and in your pontificate." The Pope responded, "May this be an occasion for renewed commitment to increased understanding and cooperation in the service of building a world ever more firmly based on respect for the divine image in every human being."

Scientologists have embraced the concept of religious tolerance since the dawn of the religion, as expressed in the Creed of the Church of Scientology of 1954, written by founder L. Ron Hubbard: "That all men have inalienable rights to conceive, choose, assist or support their own organizations, churches and governments." For more information, see <http://www.scientology.org/world/worldeng/corp/creed.htm>



Trzykrotne Szalom

Beata Zajązkowska (Radio Watykańskie)

„Nostra aetate”, odrzucając pojęcie zbiorowej winy za śmierć Jezusa, obciążającej wszystkich wyznawców judaizmu, zapoczątkowała przełom w stosunkach chrześcijańsko-żydowskich.

To największa grupa żydowskich przywódców religijnych, jaka kiedykolwiek przybyła do Watykanu. Spotkanie 18 stycznia br. zorganizowała nowojorska fundacja Pave the Way – „Torujcie Drogę”. Odbyło się ono nazajutrz po dniu dialogu chrześcijańsko-żydowskiego.

Założyciel i przewodniczący fundacji Gary Krupp zwrócił się do Papieża z trzykrotnym pozdrowieniem „Szalom”. Podkreślił historyczny wkład Jana Pawła II w chrześcijańsko-żydowskie pojednanie.

– Jesteśmy grupą reprezentującą przekrój judaizmu. Przybyliśmy, by przynieść Waszej Świątobliwości słowa błogosławieństwa i podziękowania od milionów naszych współwyznawców – mówił Krupp. Modlił się za żydów, chrześcijan i muzułmanów, którzy są dziećmi Abrahama, o to, by jak najprędzej złączyli się we wspólnej sprawie, podnosząc głos przeciw tym, którzy zniesławiają Boga, popełniając bezsensowne akty terroru i przemocy w Jego święte imię.

Z kolei Papież przypomniał przypadającą w tym roku czterdziestą rocznicę deklaracji Soboru Watykańskiego II „Nostra aetate”. – Niech ten jubileusz będzie okazją do wzajemnego zrozumienia i współpracy dla budowy świata opartego na szacunku dla Bożego obrazu, obecnego w każdym człowieku – powiedział Papież.

Prosił Boga o szczodre błogosławieństwo i dar pokoju dla Żydów.

Mianem historycznej określił wizytę rabinów w Watykanie Baruch Tenenbaum, założyciel Międzynarodowej Fundacji im. Raoula Wallenberga, jeden z pionierów dialogu żydowsko-katolickiego. Podkreślił on, że w dialogu nastąpił ogromny postęp, a u jego podstaw leżą działania Angelo Roncallego, papieża Jana XXIII. Jego zdaniem, nie doszłoby do wielu wzajemnych uprzedzeń i przesądów, gdyby obie wspólnoty religijne lepiej się znały.

„Zawsze broniłeś Żydów. Zawsze potępiłeś antysemityzm. Przyjacielu, dziękujemy”. Tak rozpoczęła się niecodzienna audyencja Jana Pawła II dla 160 rabinów, kantorów i żydowskich działaczy religijnych z całego świata.

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– Naszym największym wrogiem jest ignorancja, a największym przyjacielem prawda – podkreślił rabin Tenenbaum. Z kolei rabin Jack Bemporad, dyrektor Centrum Porozumienia Międzyreligijnego w Secaucus w stanie New Jersey, zauważył, że „nigdy żadna inna religia nie przeszła tak ogromnej rewolucji, nie zdecydowała się na ocenę i refleksję nad swymi stosunkami z inną religią”.

Przypomniał tu wizytę Jana Pawła II w rzymskiej synagodze, 13 kwietnia 1986 roku, oraz „wielką odwagę”, którą wykazał, decydując się na nawiązanie stosunków dyplomatycznych z państwem Izrael. Dołączyć do tego trzeba także jubileuszowe mea culpa, za grzechy popełnione przeciwko Żydom, oraz papieską modlitwę przy Ścianie Płaczu.

W dniu bezprecedensowej wizyty żydowskich przywódców religijnych u Papieża dziennik „Corriere della Sera” opublikował historię Stanleya Bergera, Żyda, którego w 1946 roku przyszły Papież nie chciał ochrzcić, ponieważ nie było to zgodne z wolą nieżyjących już rodziców chłopca. Shachne Hiller, gdyż tak brzmiało jego prawdziwe nazwisko, jako dwuletnie dziecko powierzony został katolickiej rodzinie Jachowiczów. Oddając go, matka zastrzegła jednak, że nie powinien on być ochrzczony. Ojciec i matka chłopca zginęli. Jachowiczowie zdołali ocalić dziecko, wychowując je jak własnego syna. W roku 1946 chcieli go ochrzcić. Odradził im to jednak młody ksiądz z krakowskiej parafii, który uważał, że chłopiec powinien zachować wiarę przodków. Shachne, który w 1949 roku wyjechał do Ameryki, gdzie połączył się z dalszą rodziną i przyjął jej nazwisko, dowiedział się o tym od nieżyjącej już dziś pani Jachowicz w 1978 roku.

– Po raz pierwszy wyjawiała mi, że chciała mnie ochrzcić i wychować po katolicku, ale powstrzymał ją przed tym młody ksiądz, przyszły kardynał krakowski Karol Wojtyła, wybrany właśnie na papieża – powiedział amerykański Żyd.

Wiele osób podaje w wątpliwość tę historię, podkreślając, że nie zgadza się ona z biografią Wojtyły. Wiadomo jednak, że już w czasach swej młodości Karol Wojtyła spotykał się z żydami i miał wśród nich wielu przyjaciół.

artykuł z numeru 5/2005 30-01-2005

## Rabbik a pápánál

II. János Pál pápa január 18-án fogadta az amerikai "Pave the Way" (Kövezd ki az utat) nevű alapítvány százhatvan képviselőjét. A szervezet fő célkitűzése, hogy a világvallások közös pontjait felmutatva elősegítse a béke ügyét, bátorítva a megértést a kulturális és intellektuális párbeszéd és kölcsönös tisztelet révén. Az alapítvány számos oktatási és emberbaráti kulturális programot támogat. Ez volt a legnagyobb magánkihallgatás, ami a Vatikánban lezajlott egy pápa és zsidó vezetők között. A látogatás aktualitását az adja, hogy az egyház most emlékezik a II. vatikáni zsinat *Nostra aetate* kezdetű, a világvallásokról szóló dokumentum közzétételének negyvenedik évfordulójára.

A zsidó vezetőkhez intézett beszédében a Szentatya reményét fejezte ki, hogy akárcsak a *Nostra aetate* kezdetű dokumentum, ez a mostani látogatás is hozzájárul a zsidó-katolikus párbeszéd megerősítéséhez. *Gary Krupp*, az amerikai alapítvány elnöke válaszában leszögezte: az egész emberiség iránt megnyilvánuló szeretete, a béke és a minden vallás közötti kiengesztelődés fáradhatatlan keresése miatt II. János Pál pápa Áron, az ősi Izrael főpapja lelkiületének és eszményeinek megszemélyesítője.

A Szentatyanál tett látogatásra tizenkét zsidó kántort is meghívtak, akiket szintén a szervezet támogattott, hogy művészetüket a pápa előtt is bemutassák. Az egyik brooklyni énekes, *Steven Shor* elmondta: élete egyik legnagyobb megtiszteltetése, hogy a pápa előtt énekelhetett. A "Kövezd ki az utat" Alapítvány és a tizenkét zsidó kántor ezzel a látogatással és zenei ajándékkal szerette volna leróni tiszteletét a pápa előtt, s köszönetet mondani neki azért a felmérhetetlenül fontos szerepért, amelyet a katolikus egyház és a zsidóság, illetve Izrael állam közötti kiengesztelődés terén játszott.

Az Argentínában élő *Baruch Tenenbaum*, a Raoul Wallenberg Nemzetközi Alapítvány létrehozója, a zsidó-katolikus párbeszéd egyik úttörője szintén történelminek nevezte a pápa és a rabbik közötti találkozót. A több mint ötven évvel ezelőtti kezdeményezés tehát rendkívül sikeresnek mondható - nyilatkozta a római székhelyű *Zenit* hírügynökségnek adott telefoninterjújában. Azt is jelentősnek nevezte, hogy a Vatikán kölcsönadja az 1204-ben elhunyt nagy zsidó filozófus és rabbi, *Maimonides* kéziratát, amit tavasszal kiállítanak Izraelben. Tenenbaum szerint a legnagyobb ellenség a tudatlanság és a legjobb barát az igazság a zsidó-katolikus párbeszédben.

A találkozót követően *Bemporad* rabbi, a Vallásközi Megértés Központ vezetője, az *Il Messaggero* című olasz napilapnak adott nyilatkozatában elismerte: XII. Piusz egyáltalán nem volt antiszemita, sőt, éppen az ellenkezője volt, felesleges tehát szüntelenül vádaskodni ellene. A *Pacelli* pápa által választott "csend diplomáciája" célravezetőbb volt, akkor is, amikor a nácik papokat és szerzeteseket üldöztek - mondta az olaszországi születésű *Bemporad* rabbi, aki a keddi találkozó egyik legmeghatóbb pillanatában, két társával együtt a Számok könyvéből vett hármassal fordult a pápához: "Áldjon meg az Úr és oltalmazzon!"

Az eseménnyel kapcsolatban *Schweitzer József* nyugalmazott országos főrabbi is nyilatkozott a Vatikáni Rádió magyar műsorának.

(VR/MK)

A **stop!**-on megjelenő cikkek szerzői jogai, védjegy, stb a (továbbiakban Kiadó) tulajdonát képezik.



Rovat: **politika**

## Magas rangú zsidó küldöttség meglátogatta a pápát

Több mint száz rabbiból, chazanból és más zsidó vezetőkből, főleg USA és Izraelbeli zsidó társadalmi és vallási vezetőkből álló küldöttség látogatta meg II. János Pál pápát, jelentette ma a JTA.

A nyolcvannégy éves katolikus vezető fehér ruhában, kerekesszékekben fogadta vendégeit az Apostoli Palota Clementina Termében. A vallási vezető a találkozáskor kiemelte, idén negyven éve annak, hogy a Vatikán kiadta Nostra Aetate nyilatkozatát, amely elutasította azt a korábbi keresztény vádat, miszerint a zsidók voltak felelősek Jézus haláláért.

„Talán ez egy új alkalom arra — mondta a pápa —, hogy elkötelezzük magunkat egy olyan világ építése mellett, amely az Isten iránti tiszteleten nyugszik. Mindannyiukhoz szól a felhívásom, miszerint bőségesen áldják a Mindenhatót, különösen a béke ajándékáért, amely tőle származik. Salom aleichem.”

Ez volt az eddigi legnagyobb zsidó csoport, amely magánlátogatáson vizeselt a pápánál. Az eseményt a Pave the Way Alapítvány szervezte, amely egy zsidó New Yorki nonprofit szervezet. Célja, hogy hidat építsen a vallások között. Az alapítvány vezetője, Gary Krupp megköszönte János Pálnak, hogy pápasága idején kiállt a zsidók mellett. Krupp 2000-ben megkapta a pápai lovagi kinevezést, mert katolikus kórházak fejlesztésében vett részt.

A látogatók nagy része amerikai volt, emellett részt vettek izraeli rabbik és állami tisztviselők is. Jelen voltak zsidó vezetők Franciaországból, Olaszországból, Indiából, Kanadából és Horvátországból is.

A rabbik kollektívan megáldották a pápát, és tizenkét chazan (kántor) elénekelte a pápának a Sehechejanu imát. Ezután a vendégek és családtagjaik kezet fogtak a pápával. Minden vendég kapott a pápától egy speciális medált, amire „Salom” volt írva.

A Felekezetek Közti Megértés Központjának a vezetője, Secaucusból (New Jersey Állam) érkező Jack Bemporad rabbi kijelentette: „Ez az első alkalom a történelemben, hogy a Judaizmus minden ágának képviselői megköszönik II. János Pál pápának és az egyháznak, hogy kölcsönös tiszteleten alapuló hidat épít a zsidók és katolikusok között.” Rabbi Bemporad azt is kiemelte, hogy II. János Pál az első pápa, aki bement egy zsinagógába. Annak is nagy jelentőséget tulajdonított, hogy János Pál is sokat tett a vatikáni-izraeli diplomáciai kapcsolatok létrejöttéért.



## Unos 160 rabinos agradecen al Papa su lucha contra el antisemitismo



La asociación judía Pave the way fue recibida en Audiencia por el Papa.

*En una audiencia en el Vaticano celebrada a los 40 años de «Nostra Aetate»*

CIUDAD DEL VATICANO, martes, 18 enero 2005 ([ZENIT.org](http://ZENIT.org)).- Juan Pablo II pidió que se refuerce el compromiso a favor del diálogo entre judíos y católicos al recibir este martes a un grupo de unos 160 rabinos y cantores de Israel, Europa y Estados Unidos.

El encuentro sin precedentes --nunca habían venido al Vaticano tantos rabinos para una audiencia privada con el Papa-- fue solicitado por la [«Pave the Way Foundation»](http://www.pavetheway.org) para recordar los cuarenta años de la declaración del Concilio Vaticano II [«Nostra Aetate»](http://www.vatican.va/holy_father_john_paul_ii/encyclicals/encyc00036_00.html) (28 de octubre de 1965), que marcó un giro decisivo en el diálogo judeocristiano.

Asimismo, Gary Krupp, presidente la Fundación, había propuesto el encuentro como una oportunidad para agradecer al Papa Karol Wojtyla el extraordinario esfuerzo realizado con su vida, y en particular con sus más de 26 años de pontificado, en la lucha contra el antisemitismo.

El Papa deseó que el aniversario «sea una ocasión para un renovado compromiso que fomente el entendimiento y la cooperación al servicio de la construcción de un mundo basado cada vez más firmemente en el respeto a la imagen divina en todos los seres humanos».





«Sobre todos vosotros, invocó las abundantes bendiciones del Todopoderoso y, en particular, el don de la paz» dijo en el breve discurso que dirigió en inglés y que concluyó en hebreo deseando: «Shalom aleichem».

En el saludo dirigido al obispo de Roma en nombre de los presentes, el señor Krupp hizo un repaso de todos los gestos de este pontificado que han dado un histórico impulso al diálogo entre católicos y judíos.

«Poco después de su llegada al trono de san Pedro, usted hizo un elocuente viaje a Auschwitz para rendir homenaje a las víctimas del Holocausto. Usted ha defendido al pueblo judío en cada momento, como sacerdote en Polonia y durante sus 26 años de pontificado».

«Usted ha denunciado el antisemitismo como "pecado contra Dios y la humanidad". Este tono de reconciliación ha sido la piedra angular de su papado y de sus relaciones con el pueblo judío», aseguró.

Como recordó el representante judío, este Papa ha sido el primero desde san Pedro en visitar una sinagoga, ha establecido relaciones diplomáticas entre la Santa Sede y el Estado de Israel, y conmovió a judíos y católicos al visitar Tierra Santa, el 21 de marzo de 2000, cuando colocó una oración de petición de perdón en el Muro de las Lamentaciones de Jerusalén.

«Por sus actos de amor a todo el género humano y por su implacable búsqueda de la paz y la reconciliación de todos los creyentes, Su Santidad es verdaderamente la personificación» del «espíritu de Aharón, el sumo sacerdote del antiguo Israel», afirmó el representante judío.

«Mi deseo orante es que judíos, cristianos y musulmanes, los tres hijos de Abraham, se unan cuanto antes en una causa común y que eleven su voz para defender a la humanidad de todos los que difaman a Dios cometiendo inútiles actos de violencia en su santo nombre», dijo para concluir pronunciando tres veces «gracias» y «Shalom».

En vísperas del encuentro, el señor Krupp anunció que el Vaticano ha dado permiso para prestar los manuscritos de Maimónides (1138-1204), gran filósofo y teólogo judío nacido en Córdoba (España), que serán expuestos por el Museo de Israel en la primavera de 2005.

La delegación entregó al Papa una escultura en cristal titulada «Los ideales de Aharón». A continuación, tres rabinos pronunciaron una bendición a Juan Pablo II.

La audiencia concluyó con un canto entonado por cantores judíos.



## A „Pave the Way” – „Kövezd ki az Utat” – Alapítvány és a Vallásközi Megértés Központ közleménye a zsidó vezetők és a Pápa kedden esedékes találkozásáról

A közlemény a következő vastag betűs szavakkal kezdődik:

**„KÖSZÖNET II. JÁNOS PÁL PÁPÁNAK A VILÁG MINDEN RÉSZÉRŐL  
ÉRKEZETT 160 RABBITÓL, AKIK A VATIKÁNBAN GYŰLNEK ÖSSZE”**

Kedden, január 18-án délelőtt, 160 rabbi kántor a Vatikánban találkozik II. János Pál pápával. A történelem eddigi legnagyobb magánkihallgatásáról van szó, amelyre valaha is sor került a Vatikánban egy Pápa és zsidó vallási vezetők között. A rabbik, akiket a „Pave the Way” – a „Kövezd ki az Utat” alapítvány gyűjtött egybe, a kihallgatás során elismeréssel adóznak azokért a történelmi lépésekért, amelyeket a Szentszék tett a katolikusok és zsidók közötti kapcsolatok javítása érdekében, és köszönetüket fejezik ki a Pápának azokért az erőfeszítéseiért, amelyeket pápasága eddigi 26 éve során tett, hogy kiengesztelje a két vallást, és ledöntse a gyűlölet falát.

A rabbik, a kihallgatás során imát mondanak majd a Szentatya tiszteletére.

**Gary Krupp**, az Alapítvány elnöke és létrehozója a következőket nyilatkozta:

„Alapítványunk küldetése, hogy összegyűjtsük a jóakarató embereket, mindenféle vallási hitre való tekintet és előítélet nélkül, továbbá hogy határozottan leküzdjünk bármilyen korlátot, amely akadályozza ezt a célkitűzésünket. A Pápa ezt tette évtizedeken át. A legkevesebb, amit tehetünk, hogy alázatosan *megköszönjük* mindazt, amit a zsidó népért tett, és hogy mi is komolyan tevékenykedjünk a béke megvalósulásáért. Gary Krupp a történelemben a hetedik zsidó vallású személy, akit a Pápa Nagy Szent Gergely renddel tüntet ki.

A kihallgatáson jelen lesz Jack Bemporad rabbi, aki New Jersey-ben él, és aki a **Vallásközi Megértés** Központjának igazgatója, az Angelicum Pápai Egyetem Vallásközi Tanulmányainak professzora, római tartózkodása során a következő címmel tart előadást: „*A Zsidó-Keresztény párbeszéd kihívása*”. Részt vesz majd, az idén tavasszal és ősszel Rómában megrendezésre kerülő ünnepeken, amelyeken a „*Nostra Aetate*” k. zsinati dokumentum közzétételének 40. évfordulójára emlékeznek. Ez az a történelmi nyilatkozat, amellyel a katolikus egyház felmentette a zsidóságot, Jézus keresztre feszítésének felelőssége alól, és amelyben hivatalosan is elítélte az antiszemitizmust.

Jack Bemporad rabbi a keddi találkozó alkalmából a következőket nyilatkozta:

„Ez az első alkalom a történelemben, hogy a világ minden részéről érkező

**教宗与圣座**

- 天主教伊拉克摩苏尔的总主教卡思慕撒遭绑架二十四小时後被释放，圣座表示满意
- 全球一百六十位犹太教经师梵蒂冈拜访教宗，感谢他始终维护犹太民族
- 义大利外交部长菲尼拜会圣座国务卿索达诺枢机主教及与各国关系部门秘书长拉约洛总主教

**教会与社会**

- 全球展开基督徒合一祈祷周
- 韩国天主教会发表“合一祈祷周”讯息，强调各教会灵性层面合作的重要

**世界24小时**

- 沙龙和阿布·马赞有望举行会晤
- 17岁越南少年可能死于禽流感
- 泰国南部叁人在伊斯兰分裂分子的进攻中死亡
- 孟加拉国发生里氏4，9级地震

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**教宗与圣座**



天主教伊拉克摩苏尔的总主教卡思慕撒遭绑架二十四小时後被释放，圣座表示满意  
**(梵蒂冈电台讯)** 天主教伊拉克北部摩苏尔教区的总主教巴西勒·乔治·卡思慕撒 (Basile Georges Casmoussa) 元月十七日下午遭当地几名武装份子绑架二十四小时後，於十八日午後被释放。消息传来，教宗若望保禄二世表示满意。

圣座新闻室主任纳瓦罗博士发表声明说：“得悉昨天下午遭绑架的伊拉克摩苏尔的总主教巴西勒·乔治·卡思慕撒已被释放的消息，令人感到极大的满意。教宗立刻被告知消息，他为这个事件的良好结束感谢天主”。纳瓦罗博士又表示，卡思慕撒总主教的获释没有付任何赎金。他表示这位总主教的遭绑架很令人感到意外，因为不论是基督信徒或伊斯兰教徒都很爱戴他。

十七日下午卡思慕撒总主教被绑架的消息传到梵蒂冈後，圣座国务院与各国关系部便发表公报说：“伊拉克摩苏尔‘西罗天主教’礼节的总主教巴西勒·乔治·卡思慕撒遭绑架的消息已传到此地。圣座以最坚定的态度谴责这项卑鄙的恐怖行为，同时要求让这位可敬的牧人立刻安然无恙的回到他的任所”。

卡思慕撒总主教获得释放後，接受本台电话访问说：“我很高兴回到主教公署，这有很多朋友和教友等着我。我为这个经验感谢天主。总的说来，我没有遭到虐待，绑架者对我很客气。他们知道我是主教後，态度就改变了。於是在中午时分我被释放了，没有付赎金。今天上午他们告诉我教宗要求释放我。我回答说感谢天主”。

日前回到罗马参加会议的圣座驻伊拉克大使费南多·菲洛尼总主教得知这件事後，告诉本台说：“卡思慕撒总主教获释的消息很令人感到欣慰。事实上，他遭绑架的事件曾使我们难过万分，因为这位主教不但为教会，也为伊拉克全国人民慷慨大方的做了很多事。他的获释为我们当然是一件好消息，对摩苏尔的教友也不在话下。他回到家时，有许多人围绕着他”。



全球一百六十位犹太教经师梵蒂冈拜访教宗，感谢他始终维护犹太民族

**(梵蒂冈电台讯)** 来自全球各地的一百六十位犹太教经师元月十八日上午抵达梵蒂冈，拜访教宗若望保禄二世，感谢他一向以来为保护犹太人所尽的心力。这些犹太教经师是美国“铺路基金会” (Pave The Way Foundation) 的成员。

教宗向来宾们表示：“必须努力增进基督信徒和犹太教徒之间的了解与合作，以便共同建立一个以尊重人是天主的肖像为基础的世界”。教宗也提到今年是天主教梵蒂冈第二届大公会议颁布[教会对非基督宗教态度宣言]四十周年，这道文献对加强天主教与犹太教之间的对话关系贡献重大。

## Pope John Paul II meets large Jewish delegation

In spite of ups and downs over the years, Pope John Paul II has made bettering relations with Jews a key platform of his 26-year papacy.

On Tuesday, an international group of more than 100 rabbis, cantors and other Jewish leaders from all streams of Judaism thanked him for his efforts during a special private audience at the Vatican.

Dressed in white and seated in an upholstered wheeled chair, the 84-year-old pontiff gave the group an enthusiastic welcome in the ornate Clementine Hall of the Apostolic Palace. In his remarks, the pope noted that this year marks the 40th anniversary of the Vatican's landmark *Nostra Aetate* declaration, which rejected the charge that Jews collectively were responsible for the death of Jesus.

"May this be an occasion for renewed commitment to increased understanding and cooperation in the service of building a world ever more firmly based on respect for the divine image in every human being," he said. "Upon all of you, I invoke the abundant blessings of the Almighty and, in particular, the gift of peace. Shalom aleichem."

The group -- which organizers said was the largest Jewish delegation to have a private audience with a pope -- came to the Vatican under the auspices of the Pave the Way Foundation, a New York-based nonprofit organization that promotes interfaith understanding.

"You have defended Jewish people at every opportunity, as a priest in Poland and during your pontificate," Pave the Way president and founder Gary Krupp of New York told the pontiff.

Krupp has had earlier dealings with the Vatican and was awarded a papal knighthood in 2000 for his support of a Catholic health care facility in Italy. Most members of the delegation were from the United States, but there also were Israeli rabbis and officials, including the Israeli ambassador to the Holy See, as well as Jews from various other countries including France, Italy, India, Canada and Croatia.

"We are a vast cross-section of Jewish leaders who wanted to say thanks to the pope for what he has done for Israel and the Jewish people," Krupp told JTA.

He described the half-hour audience as "just marvelous" and said the pope appeared to be "strong, healthy, animated and aware."

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"This man is strong," he said.

The rabbis collectively blessed the pope, and the dozen cantors in the group -- who had given a concert in Rome's Great Synagogue the night before -- chanted the Shehecheyanu prayer as the delegates and their family members moved forward to shake the pope's hand. Each guest received a special medal emblazoned with the word "shalom."

Tuesday's long-planned audience coincided with ongoing controversy over the Holocaust role of Pope Pius XII, and in particular over recent revelations that the Vatican tried to keep hold of some Jewish children who were baptized to save them from the Nazis. None of this debate, however, marred the festive atmosphere of the audience.

"This is the first time in history that rabbis representing all branches of Judaism from all over the world have come together to collectively thank Pope John Paul II and the church for all they have done to build bridges of understanding and mutual respect between Jews and Catholics," Rabbi Jack Bemporad, director of the Center for Interreligious Understanding in Secaucus, N.J., said in a statement.

Bemporad noted that John Paul became the first pontiff to visit a synagogue, issued many condemnations of anti-Semitism and apologized for earlier church policy and sins against Jews carried out by Catholics. He presided over the establishment of full diplomatic relations between Israel and the Holy See, and in 2000 made an emotional pilgrimage to Israel.

"In the history of the world, the last 40 years will be seen as the most revolutionary and significant in terms of progress in the Jewish-Catholic relationship," Bemporad said. "No pope has done as much or cared as much about creating a brotherly relationship between Catholics and Jews as Pope John Paul II.

"For me, it's simply revolutionary," he said.

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A SOURCE THROUGH WHICH COMMUNICATION AND INCREASED KNOWLEDGE ENHANCES THE SAFETY AND GROWTH OF OUR COMMUNITY

One man can make a difference. Gary Krupp, Founder of Pave the Way Foundation, an organization with a goal to bring peace and tolerance between religions, did. Gary is a Jew who was knighted by Pope John Paul II as Knight Commander of the Pontifical Order of St. Gregory the Great for his help in making a hospital in San Giovanni Rotondo, Italy one of the best equipped in Europe. On January 18, 2005, he arranged and orchestrated an historic event—over 100 Jewish leaders, rabbis and cantors were granted a private audience with Pope John Paul II in Clementine Hall at the Vatican in Rome.

"Shalom," said the Pope as he greeted his Jewish visitors. His greeting was met with loud applause. Then the Pope read his prepared remarks in English: "May this be an occasion for renewed commitment to increased understanding and cooperation in the service of building a world ever more firmly based on respect for the divine image in every human being. Upon all of you, I invoke the abundant blessings of the Almighty

## Leader Arranges Historic Audience with the Pope

*Pave the Way Foundation embraces similarities, savors differences*

by Elyse Van Breemen



Doyle Mills shaking hands with Pope John Paul II after being introduced by Gary Krupp KSCG.

and, in particular, the gift of peace. Shalom Aleichem."

Gary Krupp praised the Pope for "acts of love of all humankind" and his "implacable pursuit of peace and reconciliation of all faiths" He acknowledged the Pope for his denunciation of anti-Semitism as a "sin against God and humanity;" for being the first

Pope since St. Peter to visit a synagogue; for his trip to Auschwitz to pay homage to victims of the Holocaust; his pilgrimage to Israel in 2000 and his defense of the Jewish people as a priest in Poland.

"My prayerful wish, Krupp told the Pope, " is that Jews, Christians and Muslims, the three children of Abraham, may soon bond together in one common cause and voice, to defend all humanity against those

*"...all men have inalienable rights to their own religious practices and their performance..."*

## Local Rabbi Meets the Pope John Paul II

by Rebecca Moldwin

As part of a delegation of over 130 rabbis, cantors and other Jewish leaders from around the world, Rabbi Jeremiah Wohlberg, spiritual leader of Congregation Ohav Shalom, met with Pope John Paul II.

The group's mission was to express gratitude for all the Pope has done on behalf of the Jewish people. The trip was organized by "Pave the Way Foundation," a Jewish organization whose express purpose is to improve inter-religious relations. The papal audience took place on January 18. It marked 40 years since the Vatican's historic *Nostra Aetate* declaration repealing the accusation of collective Jewish guilt for the crucifixion of Jesus, and forever changing the nature of Jewish-Catholic relations.

The rabbis collectively blessed the Pope and cantors chanted the ritual blessing of thanksgiving. Each delegate had the opportunity to extend personal greetings to the Pope and received a special medal emblazoned with the word, "Shalom."

Gary Krupp, founder of Pave the Way Foundation, was happy to observe that Pope John Paul II appeared "strong, healthy, animated and aware."

Rabbi Wohlberg fondly remembers his personal moment with the Pope. While expressing his own gratitude, the rabbi quoted a passage from the Purim Megillah of Esther. As he came to its end, the Pope completed the quote in Hebrew.

The following text is a statement drafted by the group and read to the Pope.

Your Holiness:

We are a group of people who represent a cross section of Judaism, who

have traveled here with the blessings of millions of our faith in order to thank you. Soon after your ascension to the throne of St. Peter, you made a telling trip to Auschwitz in order to pay homage to the victims of the Holocaust. You have defended the Jewish people at every opportunity, as a priest in Poland and during your twenty-six year pontificate. You have denounced anti-Semitism as a "sin against God and humanity." This tone of reconciliation has been the corner stone of your papacy and its relations with the Jewish people.

On April 13, 1986, you became the first Pope since St. Peter to visit a synagogue. Upon presenting his credentials to you in June 2003, Israeli Ambassador Oded Ben-Hur expressed this enormous gesture best when he said, "On that day you took upon your shoulders the 2000-year-old Church, back to the first century Synagogue of Capernaum, where Jesus used to pray, thus closing an historic circle."

You moved the Holy See to initiate the process of normalizing of diplomatic relations with the state of Israel in 1992, the beloved biblical homeland of the Jewish people, symbolically acknowledging the existence of Eretz Yisrael (Israel) yesterday, today and forever. Your pilgrimage to Israel and the Holy Land on March 21, 2000, was immortalized in the hearts and minds of the Jewish people around the world, when you made your prayer asking for forgiveness in the Western Wall. Your



RABBI JERIMIAH WOHLBERG MEETS POPE JOHN PAUL II: Rabbi Wohlberg, Gary Krupp of Long Beach, founder of Pave The Way Foundation and the only Jewish Papal Knight, converse with Pope John Paul II.

solemn remarks during your visit to the Hall of Remembrance at Yad Vashem (Holocaust Memorial) profoundly moved us and touched our hearts.

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

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

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

**From:** [The International Raoul Wallenberg Foundation - Jerusalem](#)

**To:** [pavetheway@optonline.net](mailto:pavetheway@optonline.net)

**Cc:** [irwf@irwf.org](mailto:irwf@irwf.org)

**Sent:** Monday, March 14, 2005 7:19 AM

**Subject:** To "Pave the way foundation"

**Mr. Elliot M. Hershberg** / Chairman of the Board of Directors

**Mr. Gary L. Krupp**, KCSG / President

Pave the way Foundation

Dear Mr. Hershberg and Mr. Krupp :

On behalf of the International Raoul Wallenberg Foundation, we want to congratulate your organization for the recent visit paid by your distinguished members to Pope John Paul II.

"The Pave the way foundation" initiative encourages understanding between world's religions promoting peace and respect.

Your goals are very similar to those of the International Raoul Wallenberg Foundation.

The International Raoul Wallenberg Foundation (IRWF) is an interreligious and non-profit organization, with the aim of promoting peace among nations and people, as well as developing educational projects based on concepts of solidarity, dialogue and understanding, with no distinctions.

The Foundation, with branches in New York, Buenos Aires, and Jerusalem, has focused all of its efforts to honor the deeds of Raoul Wallenberg, who is considered one of the greatest heroes of our times. Our mission is to render homage, promote the message and remember the actions of all those Heroes of the Holocaust, who like Raoul Wallenberg, Aristides de Sousa Mendes and Angelo Roncalli, among many others, risked their lives to save persecuted people during the Second World War.

Since being set up in 1996 the International Raoul Wallenberg Foundation has carried out an extensive international campaign in recognition of the achievements of this Swedish diplomat and the Silent Heroes of the Holocaust, including Apostolic Nuncio Angelo Roncalli (later Pope John XXIII), Aristides de Sousa Mendes and Jan Karski, among many others.

**The Angelo Roncalli International Committee** was established by the International Raoul Wallenberg Foundation in September 2000 to render tribute to the humanitarian deeds achieved by Nuncio Angelo Roncalli - later known as Pope John XXIII-- on behalf of those persecuted by the Nazi regime. Among the many significant initiatives taken by the Angelo Roncalli International Committee, we can mention an extensive research project to determine and broaden the humanitarian measures begun by Apostolic Delegate Angelo Giuseppe Roncalli for refugees persecuted by the Nazi regime in different countries of occupied Europe. You can read this research at : <http://www.raoulwallenberg.net/?en/roncalli/research/summary/>

We wish your organization much success,

**Dr. Mario E. Ablin**

**The International Raoul Wallenberg Foundation / Jerusalem**

[www.raoulwallenberg.netf@irwf.org.il](mailto:www.raoulwallenberg.netf@irwf.org.il)





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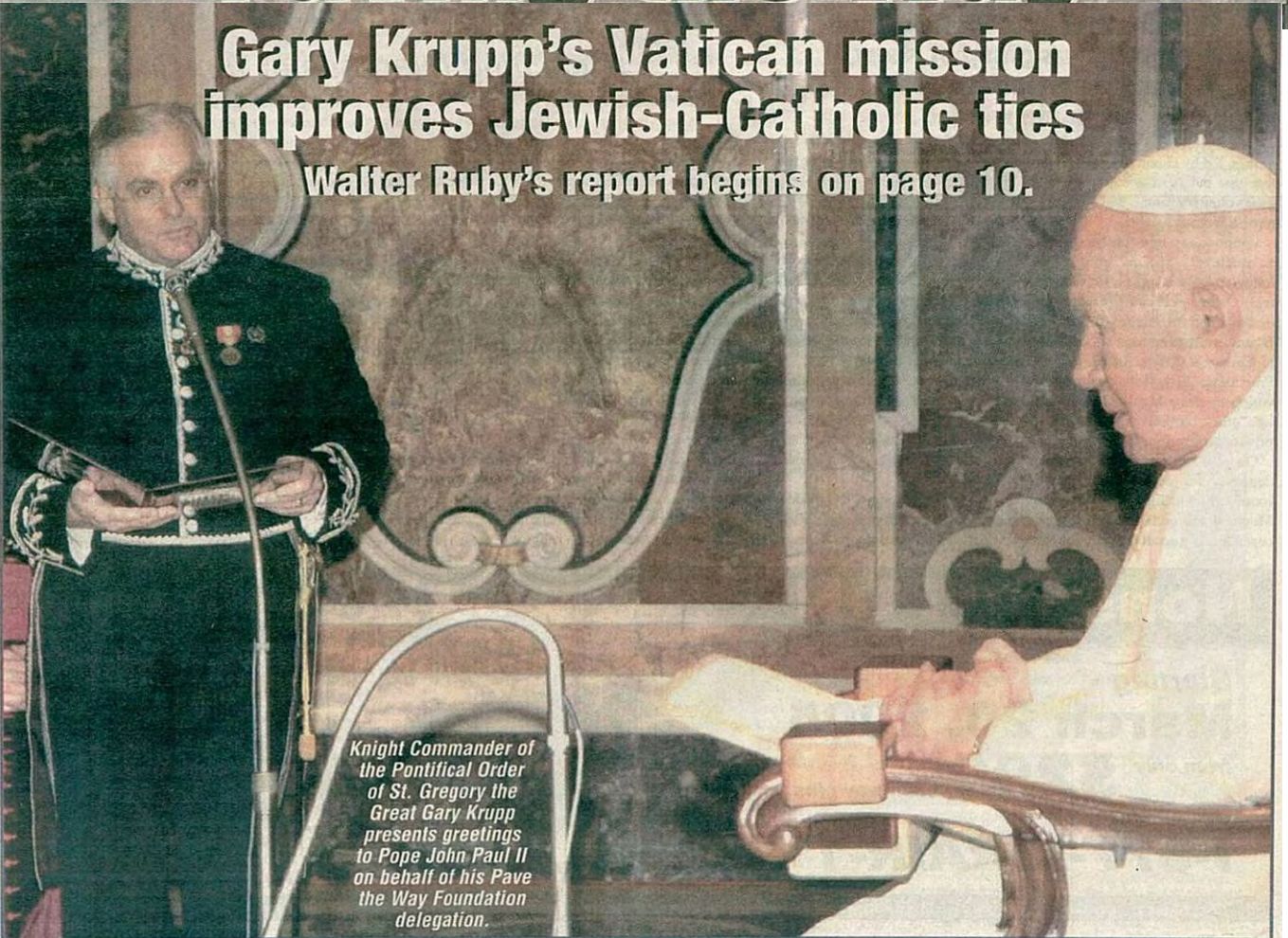
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(But Not For Long - Page 38)

One Dollar Two Dollars Outside of Metropolitan N.Y.C.

# Paving the Way

## Gary Krupp's Vatican mission improves Jewish-Catholic ties

Walter Ruby's report begins on page 10.



*Knight Commander of the Pontifical Order of St. Gregory the Great Gary Krupp presents greetings to Pope John Paul II on behalf of his Pave the Way Foundation delegation.*

# Paving the Way

## A Jewish knight from Long Beach shines at the Vatican

By WALTER RUBY

Gary Krupp is not one to rest on his laurels. Fresh from the triumph of leading a predominantly Jewish delegation of 160 to meet with Pope John Paul II in the Vatican—the largest ever Jewish audience to meet with a pope—Krupp, a resident of Long Beach and founder and president of Pave the Way Foundation, a national agency dedicated to promoting peace by strengthening ties between the world's great religions, is embarking on two new efforts with important implications for Israel-Vatican relations.

On one hand, Krupp is preparing for the exhibition at the Israel Museum this September of the Vatican Library's priceless collection of manuscripts by Maimonides, a collection to which scholars of Maimonides gained access two years ago thanks to Krupp's intervention with Vatican authorities. At the same time, he is pressing the Israeli government to allow Catholic prelates to celebrate mass in the traditional site of Jesus' Last Supper in Jerusalem and to implement all the terms of the 1993 Fundamental Agreement it signed with the Vatican over a decade ago under which the Holy See recognized the State of Israel. The Vatican is unhappy that local municipalities in Israel are continuing to charge the Church property taxes on churches and other facilities it owns and maintains in Israel, even though the Fundamental Agreement stipulates that such properties should be tax-free.

If all that isn't enough to test the mettle of Krupp's negotiating and coalition building skills, he is also in the process of preparing a first-ever visit to Israel by a delegation of Islamic religious leaders from around the world. Krupp said the members of the delegation will be people who have unambiguously condemned terrorism and have urged the Muslim world to come to terms with the Jewish state.

In a recent interview, Krupp, formerly an owner-operator of medical facilities who was knighted by the Holy See in 2000 with the title Knight Commander of the Pontifical Order of St. Gregory the Great, took issue with the notion that he is a starchy-eyed idealist dedicated to getting leaders of different faiths to hold hands and sing "Kumbaya."

"Actually, I see myself as a practical and realistic person who is very much dedicated to getting tangible things accomplished," Krupp said. "For that reason, I do not much care for interreligious dialogue, which may be rewarding for participating religious leaders, but never seems to trickle down to the grass roots.



Knight Commander Gary Krupp (standing at right) exchanges greetings with Pope John Paul II (left) at the Vatican this past January.

Instead, I am engaged in interreligious action in pursuit of a specific goal: to empower Christian, Jewish and Muslim moderates so as to prevent the growth of religious extremism. That is a very dangerous phenomenon; something that threatens the very survival of the human race."

A refreshingly unscripted figure who expresses his opinions in an outspoken and pungent way, Krupp is the first to acknowledge that his career as an amateur diplomat is an unlikely one. A onetime owner and operator of kidney-dialysis and medical imaging centers in the New York area, Krupp used his connections with companies like General Electric and Philips Medical Equipment to help equip a Vatican-affiliated hospital in southern Italy with state-of-the-art medical equipment while saving the hospital millions of dollars in the process.

The Vatican let Krupp know it was deeply appreciative for his help, yet he was "stunned" on March 29, 2000 to receive a call from a high Vatican official informing him he had been awarded the Order of St. Gregory at the Pope's behest.

Krupp learned that he was only the seventh Jew in history to have been knighted by the Vatican. He acknowledged, however, that unlike other recent Jewish awardees—including Sir Sigmund Sternberg, Gerhardt Reigner of the World Jewish Congress and the late Rabbi Mordecai Waxman of Great Neck—his own award "had nothing to do with Jewish-Catholic relations or with Israel. I was honored for helping the hospital," he said.

Nevertheless, Krupp quickly decided that he had a "moral obligation" to make use of his influential position at the Vatican for the betterment of relations between the Vatican and Israel and world Jewry. "I've always been a Zionist, but going to shul and



Rabbis Barry Dov Schwartz, Benjamin Blech and Jack Bemporad, members of Pave the Way Foundation's delegation, meet with Pope John Paul II.

## Building bridges of understanding

Four members of the 160-strong Pave the Way Foundation delegation that Gary Krupp took to meet Pope John Paul II in the Vatican on January 18—two of them Catholic and two Jewish—said that the encounter with the pontiff was deeply meaningful for them personally, and that the fact that people of different faiths participated in the meeting made it a rich experience for all concerned.

Father Hector LaChapelle, pastor of the Holy Trinity Church in Westfield, Mass., met Krupp in Phoenicia, N.Y., where LaChapelle was a pastor and Krupp had a second home, and eventually signed on as an enthusiastic member of the

As for the encounter with John Paul, LaChapelle stated, "I had met the pope before, but to do so as part of a predominantly Jewish group was spiritually overwhelming for me. Experiencing the charisma of the Pope together as Jews and

**'I was in a position to make a real difference, to act as an unofficial advocate for Israel within the walls of the Vatican.'**

reading blessings are not my cup of tea," Krupp declared. "Rather, I express my spirituality by doing concrete things for Israel. Upon receiving the Order of St. Gregory, I understood I was in a position to make a real difference in that regard, to act as an unofficial advocate for Israel within the walls of the Vatican."

Determined to turn that vision into reality, Krupp decided to devote himself full-time to interreligious work, and he and his wife, Meredith, sold their house and much of Meredith's jewelry to raise funds to support their efforts. Eventually the couple started the Pave the Way Foundation to acquire tax-deductible status and enlist like-minded people in their efforts.

"At the beginning, Meredith and I were funding Pave the Way completely on our own, and our financial situation became very difficult," Krupp said. "Yet every time the organization was almost broke, a check would come in that would keep us afloat. Now, thankfully, we have managed to build a network of supporters."

In 2002, Krupp was informed by Rabbi Benjamin Blech, a professor of Torah and Talmud at Yeshiva University and an old hand at Jewish-Catholic relations, that Jewish scholars were unable to gain access to the Vatican Library, which contains a treasure trove of Judaica. Part of that trove is a unique collection of original works by Maimonides, who wrote voluminously on Jewish law, theology and philosophy during the late 12th and early 13th centuries. Indeed, the Maimonides documents had never before been made available for public viewing.

Krupp contacted Cardinal Edmund Szoka, president of Pontifical Commission for the Vatican City State, about the problem, asking for permission to bring a Jewish delegation to Rome to view the Maimonides documents. He received a positive response, and on September 15, 2003, Krupp led a delegation of rabbis and Maimonides scholars to the Vatican that Interreligious Understanding in Secaucus, N.J. and Rabbi Barry Dov Schwartz of Temple Beth Torah in Rockville Centre.

According to Blech, "There we were in the heart of Vatican City, viewing precious Judaic documents few outside the Vatican had seen. It was an incredible experience for all of us."

That, however, was only the beginning. At Krupp's request the Vatican agreed to lend the Maimonides documents and other rare Hebrew manuscripts to the Israel Museum for an exhibition in September of this year that will mark the museum's 40th anniversary. This will be the first time in history that these precious works of Judaica will have left the Vatican. At the same

time, Pave the Way is working with Vatican officials and a private collector for this special event to coordinate uniting both halves of the illuminated Maimonides Mishna Torah for the first time in over 600 years.

It was Bemporad, a veteran of decades of Jewish-Catholic dialogue efforts, who suggested to Krupp the idea of bringing a delegation of rabbis, cantors and other Jewish leaders to the Vatican to thank the Pope for everything he has done during his 25-year pontificate to improve relations with Israel and world Jewry.

According to Bemporad, "John Paul was the first Pope to visit a synagogue and express contrition for the Catholic Church's treatment of the Jews over the centuries. He was the pope who extended full diplomatic relations with Israel and went to the Western Wall and place a *kvitel* (piece of paper with a prayer) in the Wall. So I said to Gary Krupp, 'Why not organize a group of rabbis and cantors to go to the Vatican to thank the pope for everything he did?' Gary took my idea and turned it into reality."

For his part, Blech also saw the urgent need for such a mission in light of John Paul's deteriorating health.

"I was aware from my contacts in the Vatican that there was a feeling among people there that after all that the Pope did for the Jews, they never said 'thank you.' We certainly did not want such negative feelings impacting Catholic-Jewish relations after John Paul leaves the scene. It was in that context that arranging such a visit became crucial," Blech explained.

Krupp took up the challenge; proposing a large-scale meeting of Jewish leaders with the pope to Cardinal Walter Casper, president of the Pontifical Commission for Religious Relations with the Jews. Krupp soon received a positive reply and set about assembling a delegation.

Originally, Krupp told the Vatican he would bring 100 Jewish leaders, but ended up arriving with 167 people, including not only prominent rabbis and cantors, but also Catholic clergy and the prominent participants were Oded Ben-Hur, Israel's Ambassador to the Holy See; Rabbi Joseph Potasnik, executive vice president, New York Board of Rabbis; Shmuel Rene Sirof, past chief rabbi of Europe and France; David Lincoln, chief rabbi of the Park Avenue Synagogue, New York; Shlomo Riskin, chief rabbi of Efrat, Israel; and Rabbi Joseph Arbib of the Great Synagogue in Rome.

Two members of the Church of Scientology, who serve on the board of directors of the Pave the Way Foundation, also took part in the mission to Rome.

*continued on page 14*



Gary Krupp (center) introduces delegation member Paul Monte (left) to Pope John Paul II.



Gary Krupp (left) in discussion with Archbishop Pietro Sambì, Apostolic Delegate to Israel.



Gary Krupp (left) discusses Vatican-Israel relations with Shmuel Hadas, Israel's first ambassador to the Holy See.

Christians somehow transcended all the divisions in our group, including the anguish over past anti-Semitism. As we encountered the pope together, our delegation felt united by our common roots as children of Abraham."

Paul Monte, general manager of Gurney's Inn in Montauk [see "The East End Treatment, page 12], a long-time friend of Krupp's, and, backer of Pave the Way Foundation, made the trip to Rome together with his 85-year-old father, Angelo Monte Sr., Lola Monte (Angelo's wife), his uncle, Nick Monte and his brother, Chip Monte.

According to Paul Monte, "It was humbling to be in the presence of one of the great men of our time, and it was especially meaningful to

make the trip together with members of my family. My father had never been to Italy before and was deeply moved by the papal visit. The pope was very frail, but seemed very much in control. His voice was strong. It was deeply moving for me to have the chance to greet him personally and shake his hand."

Monte said he found it "fascinating" as a Catholic to make his first ever pilgrimage to the Vatican as part of a predominantly Jewish delegation.

"I certainly learned a lot about Judaism. I had known there were different denominations within Judaism, but after the Reform, Conservative and Orthodox rabbis blessed the pope, I learned a lot more about the differences between these groups. It was

interesting to see them put aside those differences to bless the pope together."

He added, "I think what Gary Krupp is doing through the Pave the Way Foundation to promote better understanding between religions is wonderful and plan to continue to support the organization."

Rabbi Shalom Stern, spiritual leader of Temple Beth El in Cedarhurst, said he was pleased to take part in a mission offering thanks to John Paul. "First of all, anything that can be done to strengthen relations with the Vatican is helpful. This pope has been so much better than his predecessors on Jewish issues. He was the first to speak in a synagogue; the first to acknowledge Israel as a Jewish state and to ask for forgive-

ness for the sins of the Church. For all of that, it makes sense to say 'Thank you.'"

Stern contended that, "There is still much more to be done. The Church still hasn't come fully clean on its failure to combat anti-Semitism over the years. For example, the Vatican's plans to beatify Pope Pius XII are troubling, especially in light of recent reports that he resisted returning baptized Jewish children to their parents who survived the Holocaust. Nevertheless, if we continue to make progress in Jewish-Catholic relations over the next 50 years at a comparable level to what was accomplished during the past 50 years, we will be very gratified."

Cantor Victor Beck, president of the Jewish Ministers

Cantors Association of America, was one of a group of cantors who took part in the meeting with the pope and, overwhelmed with emotion during the event, began a spontaneous singing of Shehechyanu (the blessing thanking God for keeping us alive to experience a special moment) for the pontiff. "It was the first time a group of cantors sang for the pope, and I could see that our singing moved him a great deal," Beck said, adding, "Overall, I felt this was a momentous event that meant a great deal to me personally. Having Jews and Catholics meet the pope together certainly helped to build bridges of understanding between us, which is what Gary Krupp and his Pave the Way Foundation are all about."

—Walter Ruby

# JEWISH LEDGER

AN INDEPENDENT WEEKLY NEWSPAPER SINCE 1929

## Local rabbis visited the Pope this winter

By Linda Tishler Levinson

APR 8, 2005 n CHESHIRE - Rabbi Eric A. Silver of Temple Beth David in Cheshire is part of an effort to pave the way toward peace.

In January, as part of a delegation from the **Pave the Way Foundation**, Silver traveled to Rome with 25 rabbis (including Rabbi Joseph Ehrenkranz of Stamford) and a number of Christian clergy. The goal of the foundation is to "promote peace by embracing the similarities common to the world's religions."

The founder and president of Pave the Way is **Gary Krupp**. In September 2000, Krupp became the seventh Jew ever to receive the papal honor of Knight Commander in the Order of St. Gregory the Great, according to the foundation's Web site.

"The purpose of the trip was to say thank you to the Pope for his leadership," Silver said.

In particular, the group wanted to thank Pope John Paul II for his views toward Jews.

"I don't think most Jews understand how far he has moved that church," the rabbi said.

"This was the first Pope to say the word Israel and to visit Israel," he said.

Silver added that the Pope said that while Jews, Christians and Muslims all have a claim to Jerusalem, "It is holy in a special way to Jews."

Silver said that John Paul II proclaimed anti-Semitism a sin and that to be anti-Israel is to be anti-Semitic.

"The landscape has changed profoundly for Jews over the last 40 years," Silver said. "But this Pope has gone beyond."

This Pope said that persecutions do not just happen, and he apologized to Jews for 2000 years of persecution, the rabbi said.

Under this Pope, he said that Catholics were taught to treat Judaism as an elder sibling and were forbidden to target Jews for conversion. He recognized God's Covenant with the Jews as forever binding.

"Nobody had thanked him for it. Our group was selected to do just that."

On Jan. 18 the Pave the Way delegation met with the Pontiff and several Vatican officials. There were learning sessions between Jews and Christians. They offered their thanks to the Pope.

Silver said that the Pope responded: "Shalom alechem, shalom, shalom, shalom, shalom. Thank you for coming here."

"He was extremely gracious," Silver said.

Last month, Silver said, the World Jewish Congress, to which he is a delegate, held a world symposium in New York to discuss Catholic-Jewish relations. Cardinals from five continents and rabbis from four were among the 40 clergy in attendance.

Patrick Desbois, a French priest, spoke about his photographic study of sites in Eastern Europe where Jews were murdered. He has interviewed locals about what they know, Silver said, stressing that this study was not initiated by a Jewish group but by the priest himself.

Another speaker was Cardinal Jean Marie Lustiger, whose parents were killed at Auschwitz. Born Jewish, Silver said, the cardinal "has been a tireless worker for reconciliation between Jews and Christians."

The group included cardinals who are in line to be considered for the papacy. He said the rabbis wanted "just to lay our agenda before them." They are working to encourage the selection of a Pope who will be friendly toward the Jewish people.

Silver said that they received reassurances that the reforms would be continued.

The rabbi said that he has received some criticism for his interfaith efforts.

"Many of the older generations remember the Catholic Church as the enemy," he said.

But those times have changed, he said.

"The Catholic Church has done an excellent job of instructing its priests ... prayers are done for Jews, not to convert Jews."

"We have to communicate that to our people," Silver said.



## NYC clergy extend condolences

Top Stories

By Anthony M. DeStefano  
STAFF WRITER

April 3, 2005

With the death of Pope John Paul II, New York area clergy extolled him as a courageous global spiritual leader whose legacy will be his tireless work to pull humanity together through religion.

Jews, in particular, saw John Paul as the Pope who opened the door to a reconciliation with them and took bold steps, such as being the first leader of the Church since St. Peter, visit the Great Synagogue in Rome.

"You felt you were in the presence of a very holy person," Rabbi Joseph Potasnik, executive vice president of the New York Board of Rabbis, said yesterday. "He reminded us we are all part of the human family."

Potasnik, who was part of a large delegation of Jewish clergy and others who were part of John Paul's last major public audience in January, said the Pope carried out unprecedented outreach to Jews and taught us that "religion has to be used for love and respect not for hatred and horror."

"He was always courageous," said Rev. William Tully, rector at St. Bartholomew's Church in Manhattan. "It's possible to emphasize all the divisions among Christians, but I think the fact is in the last generation those boundaries have not been as firm, and when there's the death of a significant Christian leader, I think we all feel that."

Ghazi Y. Khankan, former director of interfaith affairs for the Islamic Center of Long Island in Westbury, where he is a member, said the Pope also helped build a bridge with Muslims.

"Obviously we send our heartfelt condolences from the Muslim community in Long Island and America," he said, "the Pope was a man of peace and will be missed."

While not a member of the clergy, Gary Krupp of Rockville Center is unique among area Jews in that he is one of only three living Jewish Papal Knights.

Yesterday, Krupp nearly broke down as he talked about his special relationship with John Paul and what the Catholic leader did to mend the rift between Christianity and Judaism.

"The most significant thing he did was placing a prayer of forgiveness in the Wailing Wall in March 2000," Krupp said. That was a signature act which changed the entire relationship between the two religions, he said.

During the January audience the Pope had with 143 Jewish clergy and two dozen Christians, Grupp said John Paul was visibly moved as rabbis from the three branches of Judaism blessed him in English.

Krupp, whose Pave The Way Foundation has been active in establishing relations between the Vatican and Israel, said he might be traveling to Rome to attend the funeral.

At St. Batholomew's Reverend Tully said there will be a special memorial prayer service this morning and probably again on the day of the funeral.

"We'll make something special of it," he said.

Staff writer Lindsay Faber and researcher Sheila McKenna contributed to this story.

# THE JEWISH ★ STAR



Photo courtesy of Pave the Way Foundation

Gary Krupp, right, thanks Pope John Paul II and an audience of Long Islanders at the Vatican in January. Krupp was knighted by the pope into the Order of St. Gregory the Great in 2000, making him a member of the House of the Holy See. Krupp was the seventh Jewish man ever to be so honored.

## *What Pope John Paul II meant to the Jewish people*

BY JESSE SHERER

On January 18 of this year, Pope John Paul II met with 150 rabbis, cantors, and other Jewish leaders who thanked him for his commitment to the Jewish people.

"No pope has done as much or cared as much about creating a brotherly relationship between

Catholics and Jews as Pope John Paul II," said Rabbi Jack Bemporad, director of the Center for Interreligious Understanding in Secaucus, NJ, who was there. "I believe Pope John Paul II will be considered a great healer in the relationship between Catholics and Jews."

Pope John Paul II, whom many have cited has

having the largest positive impact of all the popes on the Jewish people, died Saturday night, April 2, at age 84, following a lengthy illness and a 26-year papal reign.

He will be remembered for his condemnation of Communism and anti-Semitism, as well as his outreach to the Jewish community.

The audience in January, the last large scale forum before his death, was made possible by Gary Krupp, a Long Beach resident and founder of Pave the Way Foundation, as well as one of only three living Jewish Papal Knights.

"It is very sad that such an enormous leader has left us," said Krupp, who remem-

bered the simple brown shoes the pope wore and his humbleness.

Following the audience the pope gave each person a medal engraved with "Shalom" and shook hands with all 150 participants.

"The Vatican believed it was the most important

See *WHAT POPE*, Page 10

## WHAT POPE JOHN PAUL II MEANT TO THE JEWISH PEOPLE

*Continued from Page One*

event in Judeo-Catholic history," said Krupp. "No other religious group tried to reach out to say thank you. It is important to say thank you for what he has done for the Jewish people and Israel."

Karol Jozef Wojtyla was born in 1920 in the town of Wadowice, near Krakow. He grew up at a time when Poland was the heartland of European Jewry. The country's 3.5 million Jews represented 10 percent of Poland's overall population. Wadowice itself was more than 25 percent Jewish, and the future Pope had Jewish friends, neighbors and classmates.

"This man, having grown up in a community where there were Jews, and having Jewish friends," said Rabbi Sholom Stern, of Temple Beth El in Cedarhurst, "was aware of the tremendous injustice that was perpetuated against Jews by Catholics, and intended to take steps to remedy them."

Wojtyla, then the 58-year-old archbishop of Krakow, was elected to the papacy in October 1978. He became the first pope from Poland and the first non-Italian to sit on the papal throne in more than 450 years. He took the name John Paul II to honor his immediate predecessor who died after only three weeks in office.

"I think for the Jewish community he was a breath of fresh air," said Rabbi Barry Dov Schwartz, spiritual leader of Temple B'nai Sholom in Rockville Centre. "I think he had a profound desire for improving Jewish-Christian relations."

Wojtyla assumed the papacy just 13 years after the Vatican's historic Nostra Aetate declaration opened the way toward Jewish-Catholic dialogue. The declaration, issued in 1965 by the Second Vatican Council convened by Pope John XXIII, condemned anti-Semitism and for the first time officially repudiated the age-old assertion that the "perfidious Jews" were collectively responsible for the crucifixion of Jesus.

"Beginning with Pope John XXIII there was a change with his reciprocals and attitudes towards Judaism," said Rabbi Schwartz, "and I think that Pope John Paul II carried on in this tradition. His spirit in bettering Jewish-Catholic relations is unparalleled."

The pope referred to the 20th century as "the century of the Shoah," and in 1979 during his first visit back to Poland after his election he prayed at Auschwitz-Birkenau to commemorate the Jews who were killed there.

Throughout his reign he repeatedly condemned anti-Semitism as a sin against humanity. During his more than 100 world trips he sought out Jewish leaders and expressed contrition for past Christian hostilities and violence toward Jews.

One of the most important meetings



Rabbi Sholom Stern of Temple Beth El in Cedarhurst, left, with Gary Krupp, meet Pope John Paul II during the January audience.

with Jewish officials occurred in April 1986 when Pope John Paul II crossed the Tiber River and visited the Great Synagogue in Rome, becoming the first pope to visit a house of Jewish worship since Peter. He warmly embraced the Rome's chief rabbi and spoke of the "irrevocable covenant" between God and the Jews.

During the visit he spoke about the bond between Jews and Catholics: "We have a relationship that we do not have with any other religion," said Pope John Paul II. "You are our dearly beloved brothers and in a certain way it may be said that you are our elder brothers."

In 1993 he continued his outreach to the Jewish community by establishing formal diplomatic relations between Israel and the Holy See.

"The pope has both understood what Israel means to the Jewish people and thus the importance of the establishment of full relations between the Holy See and the State of Israel to which he lent his personal weight," said Rabbi David Rosen, the American Jewish Committee's international director for interreligious affairs. "It is no exaggeration to say that the successful conclusion of those negotiations were thanks to his personal involvement and even intervention."

In 2000 the Pope's outreach culminated in a historic visit to Israel. He visited Yad Vashem and the Western Wall where he bowed his head in prayer and slipped a piece of paper into the it. "We are deeply saddened by the behavior of those who in the course of history have caused these children of yours to suffer, and asking your forgiveness," the note said.

"He broke down the walls of separation between people in the same way he helped

to tear down the Iron Curtain," said Rabbi Jay Rosenbaum, of Temple Israel in Lawrence. "Through his ministry to the world he showed that what happens to one person of faith in one place, affects people of faith everywhere."

To mark the work that Pope John Paul II did for humanity, the leaders of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations — an umbrella group representing 52 national Jewish organizations — have written to the Nobel Peace Prize Committee to nominate the pope for this recognition.

"There is no one who has done more in his lifetime to earn this recognition, and although it is regrettably posthumous, it will still send an important message and recognize his lasting and remarkable contributions to international peace. We invite leaders of other faiths and organizations to join in this effort. Although he has passed, we know that his impact will continue in future years," the letter said.

As millions are expected to make a pilgrimage to see the pope in state and with plans to bury him later this week in a crypt in St. Peter's Basilica, Jewish leaders worldwide are hoping that the next pope will follow his example.

"Clearly the Jewish community hopes that the next pope will build upon the positive efforts of Pope John Paul II," said Rabbi Kenneth Hain, spiritual leader of Congregation Beth Shalom in Lawrence. "One would hope that his statements and his asking for forgiveness and pledging brotherhood to Jews, will be furthered."

(JTA contributed to this article) *Comments about this story? Email [thejewishstar@aol.com](mailto:thejewishstar@aol.com) or call (516) 632-5205.*

# The Jewish Week

SERVING THE JEWISH COMMUNITY OF GREATER NEW YORK

(04/08/2005)

## The Pope's Jewish Knight

Steve Lipman - Staff Writer

Last week, a rare manuscript of one of Maimonides' major works returned from an exhibition in Germany to its home in the Vatican Library. According to the library's procedures, two years must pass before one of its loaned artifacts is allowed outside again.



In September, the Maimonides manuscript, written by a scribe in the 15th century, will go on display in Jerusalem.

"I paved the way for that to happen," said Gary Krupp, a Jewish resident of Long Island who met Pope John Paul II four times and has a network of acquaintances in the Vatican bureaucracy but is little known in the wider Jewish community.

The Vatican Library's loan to the Israel Museum will go forward, despite the pope's passing. "Nothing is changed with his death," Krupp said.

Krupp, 57, from Long Beach, is the founder and president of the Pave the Way Foundation ([www.pavethewayfoundation.org](http://www.pavethewayfoundation.org)), an independent, interfaith organization under whose auspices he negotiated the loan of Maimonides' Mishna Torah and of three other centuries-old Jewish manuscripts.

In the three years since Krupp founded Pave the Way, the foundation has become a major conduit between the Catholic Church and the Jewish community, and Krupp, who describes himself as a Conservative Jew but not particularly observant, is arguably one of the most effective Jewish voice in high Catholic circles.

That's Commander Krupp, his title since being knighted by Pope John Paul II in 2000. Of some 2,000 people in the world invested as a Knights Commander of the Pontifical Order of St. Gregory the Great, the Catholic Church's highest honor for a layperson, he is among only seven Jews so feted. The only other ones alive now are American conductor Gilbert Levine and British philanthropist Sigmund Sternberg.

Krupp was knighted in recognition for his decade of volunteer work on behalf of Casa Sollievo Della Sofferenza, a Catholic-sponsored hospital four hours from Rome.

Krupp, who made a living in medical business development with an expertise in high-tech diagnostic equipment, was introduced to the hospital administrators by Long Island bishops of long acquaintance. He advised the hospital in obtaining state-of-the-art equipment.



# The Jewish Week

SERVING THE JEWISH COMMUNITY OF GREATER NEW YORK

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After being knighted, he left the business world to establish Pave the Way and work full time in interfaith relations. "My access was unique," he said.

Krupp gathered a board of directors and advisers that includes Christian and Muslim clergy, as well as rabbis from the major denominations of Judaism. They concentrate on political, cultural and educational activities. "Nothing having to do with theology."

Krupp calls John Paul II "the most marvelous man I have ever met." After a few trips to Israel and several to Italy, he numbers among his friends Israeli leaders and Vatican officials. "When I write a letter [to someone in the Vatican], they respond." They have to, he said. "I'm a member of the household."

"He's a wonderful man, an unofficial diplomat," said Rabbi David Rosen, the American Jewish Committee's international director of interreligious affairs, who has worked with Krupp for several years. "He has a deep commitment to promoting Jewish-Catholic relations. He's made a very important contribution."

Lacking a personal fortune or title in a major organization, Krupp has spent a decade operating off the Jewish radar screen, using his personal connections in the Catholic hierarchy to do such things as help revive the nearly dormant diplomatic negotiations between the Holy See and Israel, organize the international delegation of 160 Jewish leaders who gathered in the Vatican in January to thank Pope John Paul II for his advocacy of Jewish interests, promote Catholic pilgrimage to Israel — and to arrange the Vatican Library's loan of the Jewish manuscripts.

Pave the Way didn't send out press releases announcing these accomplishments.

"I'm not looking for notoriety," said Krupp, who works with his wife Meredith, the foundation's director, on Pave the Way projects. "I concentrate on getting a job done."

He calls the manuscript loan "an ancillary benefit," a small act that shows good will.

Krupp did not attend the funeral of John Paul II. "I was contacted by Rome -- there are no special provisions for papal knights."

But he will be in the Vatican soon, he said. "I'll probably be going back there after the election of the new pope." n

The Birmingham News

# RELIGION

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JOHN PAUL II • 1920-2005



## Loving arms encircled planet



SPECIAL

Darlene Slamen of Mountain Brook met Pope John Paul II on Jan. 18, shortly before a series of health setbacks that culminated in his death on Saturday.

*'I knew he was a very powerful man. I didn't have any way of knowing how spiritual he was.'*

Darlene Slamen of Mountain Brook visited the pope in January

By GREG GARRISON  
 News staff writer

**W**hen Darlene Slamen of Mountain Brook took part in a formal audience with Pope John II earlier this year, she didn't anticipate that she would turn out to be possibly the last person from Alabama to shake the pope's hand and speak to him.

Slamen attended the Jan. 18 Vatican ceremony in which the pope met with rabbis and cantors in a private audience organized by Gary Krupp, the Jewish founder of the Pave the Way Foundation. The 84-year-old pontiff would later encounter a series of

health setbacks that culminated in his death on Saturday. The rabbis offered the pope a blessing and the cantors sang. Krupp and the pope read statements on the relationship between Catholics and Jews. "He was in good health at the time," Slamen said. "He was hospitalized two weeks after our visit."

Slamen, a Scientologist, serves on the board of directors for Pave the Way, a New York-based interfaith charitable foundation. That resulted in her invitation to meet the pope, of whom she had virtually no impression previously.

"I knew he was a very powerful man," Slamen said. "I didn't have any way of knowing how spiritual he was."

That changed as she approached him, and spent time in the same room with him.

"I thought he was a very holy man," Slamen said. "I was very touched. You could feel a very strong spiritual presence. He looks you right in the eye when he meets you, shakes your hand. He looked into your soul."

Vatican photographers documented the meeting, one of the last formal private audiences with Pope John Paul II, and Slamen now treasures those pictures as a snapshot of history.

Beeson Divinity School Dean Timothy George has his own memento of Pope John Paul II: A letter written to

► See Connections, Page 4H



**WIKIPEDIA**  
*The Free Encyclopedia*

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## Relations between Catholicism and Judaism

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia.

**Relations between Catholicism and Judaism** concern the two thousand year history and rivalry between [Judaism](#) and [Christianity](#), in particular with the [Roman Catholic Church](#). Relations at times have been strained, but have improved notably during the pontificate of [Pope John Paul II](#).

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The online encyclopedia, Wikipedia, listed our audience as a cornerstone event of Judeo-Catholic history.



## 2005 meeting with 141 Jewish leaders

On [18 January 2005](#) a group of 141 Jewish leaders from around the world, [Rabbis](#) and [Cantors](#), met with [Pope John Paul II](#) in Clementine Hall of the Apostolic Palace, to thank the [Pontiff](#) for all he had done for the Jewish people and for the [State of Israel](#). Gary Krupp, the seventh Jewish person to be knighted into the Order of St. Gregory by this [Pope](#), offered a few words thanking the Pope for his efforts in the ongoing process of [Christian-Jewish reconciliation](#), and for his support of the [State of Israel](#).

The Pope welcomed the Jewish audience, composed of [Orthodox Judaism](#), [Conservative Judaism](#), and [Reform Judaism](#) Jewish leaders. In his remarks, the Pope noted that that year had marked the fortieth anniversary of the [Vatican's](#) landmark [Nostra Aetate](#) declaration, which rejected the charge that Jews collectively were responsible for the death of [Jesus](#). "May this be an occasion for renewed commitment to increased understanding and co-operation in the service of building a world ever more firmly based on respect for the divine image in every human being", he said. "Upon all of you, I invoke the abundant blessings of the Almighty, and in particular, the gift of peace. *Shalom Aleichem, shalom, shalom* (in [Hebrew](#): "Peace unto you. Peace. Peace")."

Those rabbis then blessed the Pope with the "Priestly Blessing", and the [Pontiff](#) greeted the crowd individually. Meanwhile thirteen [Cantors](#) ([Hazzan](#)): Avraham Amar, Ofer Barnoy, Victor I. Beck, Gadi Elon, Motti Fuchs, Lawrence Eliezer Kepecs, David Montefiore, Leslie Rimer, Yehuda Rossler, Josh Rubenstein, Steve Shor, Michael Trachtenberg, and Sol Zim, sang a Hebrew blessing to him.

The artist Cantor Lawrence Eliezer Kepecs presented [Pope John Paul II](#) with a personally designed [mezuzah](#) inscribed with the "Priestly Blessing".



Reverend Cantor Lawrence Eliezer Kepecs greets [Pope John Paul II](#) in Clementine Hall of the Apostolic Palace on Jan. 18, 2005. Gary Krupp is in the center.



Thirteen Cantors that sang for the Pope on January 18, 2005; back row from left to right: Cantors Ofer Barnoy, Lawrence Eliezer Kepecs, Victor I. Beck, David Montefiore, Josh Rubenstein, Yehuda Rossler, Motti Fuchs, Sol Zim, Gadi Elon, Steve Shor, Michael Trachtenberg, Leslie Rimer, and Avraham Amar.

No other group in the world had ever said "thank you", giving blessings to the Pope. It was the first time in history that such a large contingent of Jewish [clergymen](#) officially met with a Pope. It also marked the first time in history that Jewish Cantors sang in front of a Pope, leaving a lasting impression on the entire Judeo-Catholic community.

On [2 April 2005](#), the ADL stated that Pope John Paul II revolutionised Catholic-Jewish relations, saying that "more change for the better took place in his 27 year Papacy than in the nearly 2000 years before." (*Pope John Paul II: An Appreciation: A Visionary Remembered*)

# St. Clair Times

## ST. CLAIR RELIGION

### Alabamian gets rare introduction with late Pope John Paul II

Kellie Long  
04-13-2005



**Darlene Slamen, owner of The Dental Office in Moody, had a rare personal introduction with the late Pope John Paul II in January**

Darlene Slamen, owner of The Dental Office in Moody, had an experience Jan. 18 she will never forget. She became one of the elite few from Alabama who have had a personal introduction to the pope.

In light of the recent passing of Pope John Paul II, the visit means so much more, according to Slamen.

"The importance of meeting the pontiff was always there," she said. "Not being catholic, I didn't really know he was a holy man because sometimes power and spirituality don't go hand in hand. But when he came into the room there was a definite spiritual presence. I was touched.

"Even in his frail condition he was aware of you and acknowledged your presence."

# St. Clair Times

Slamen received the invitation to Rome through Pave the Way Foundation, a non-denominational organization with the mission to foster good relations and open communications between different religions. During their visit, Pope John Paul II awarded Pave the Way founder Gary Krupp the rank of Knight Commander of the Order of St. Gregory the Great, an honor held only by three other living Jewish people.

"Gary read a short speech to the pope thanking him for everything he has done for the Jewish people and the pope responded to him in English," Slamen said. "It was wonderful. Thirty Jewish rabbis also offered a blessing to the pope and Jewish cantors sang for him."

Slamen said she went on board with Pave the Way after Krupp explained to her that 22 of the world's conflicts have a basis in religion and that the foundation's mission was to foster good communication and help work through conflict.

"It doesn't matter what your religious convictions are. It is time to stop killing in God's name, wherever it occurs. Pave the Way Foundation has made substantial advancements in the relations between religions. That's why I'm committed to help their work."

Slamen is currently working to establish a Pave the Way chapter in the Birmingham area and invites anyone interested in the organization to visit [www.pavethewayfoundation.org](http://www.pavethewayfoundation.org) for more information. Persons interested may also contact her at (205) 967-3001.

To help carry on the same message of religious tolerance, freedom and human rights that was carried by Pope John Paul II, Slamen is hosting a meeting April 28 with local religious leaders to start the process of open communication. Krupp will also be in Birmingham for the meeting.

"This meeting is not to discuss religion," she said. "We feel like if we can be on a one-on-one basis that it will isolate terrorists and expose them for the murderous thugs they are. Pave the Way Foundation has the ability to improve conditions in our world and make it less possible for terrorists to exist. None of the world's religions condone killing in the name of religion."

"It was obvious at our meeting that Pope John Paul II was a very holy individual. As humans, we are all really seeking to survive together. We want to create a world without religious intolerance, terrorism or war, so our children can grow up safe and unafraid."



Pave the Way Foundation

Gary Krupp, president of Pave the Way Foundation, gives a yarmulke to Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger on Feb. 2 at the Vatican.

## BEHIND THE HEADLINES

### Jews welcome new pope, and hope that he builds on John Paul's legacy

By Chanan Tigay and Rachel Pomerance



NEW YORK, April 19 (JTA) — As the regal red curtains were drawn back, clearing the way for the still-unidentified new pope to emerge on the balcony of the Vatican Basilica and offer a blessing to church faithful, many Jews joined the world's 1 billion Catholics in holding their collective breath.

The Christians were excitedly anticipating their Holy Father's arrival, eager for someone to fill the gap left when John Paul II, who served as pope for more than a quarter-century, died on April 2 at 84.

Jews, too, were awaiting the new pope's arrival — and wondering what his ascendancy would mean for them. Would he promote Jewish-Catholic relations as zealously as his predecessor? Would he turn his attention instead to mending fences between Catholics and Muslims? Would he push diplomatic relations with Israel?

In short, would he be good for the Jews?

As it turns out, Jewish observers of the Vatican say, world Jewry can breathe easy knowing that German Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger was chosen as the 265th pope.

"As far as Jewish people are concerned, Cardinal Ratzinger is a friend," said Gary Krupp, president and founder of the Pave the Way Foundation, a New York-based nonprofit organization that promotes religious understanding. "He is going to be as effective, if not more, than John Paul II" in furthering Catholic-Jewish relations. "He's not going to backtrack. I think he's going to be advancing these causes even further."



Ratzinger, who took the name Benedict XVI upon his election Tuesday, has been called a hard-line conservative, a vigilant watchdog and an enforcer of strict church orthodoxy.

Ratzinger was born in Marktl am Inn, Germany, in 1927. He was ordained in 1951 and received his doctorate in theology in 1953, then taught theology and dogma at a series of German universities.

He was appointed bishop of Munich in 1977 and was promoted to cardinal by then-Pope Paul VI after just three months.

Since 1981, he has led the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, where he was responsible for enforcing church doctrine. He became known in this role for his conservative views, upsetting some Catholics with his vocal opposition to religious pluralism and liberation theology.

Ratzinger further maintains conservative views on such issues as homosexuality and the ordination of women as priests.

But he also used his position as the Vatican's chief theologian under John Paul II to play an instrumental part in his predecessor's historic rapprochement with the Jews. In 2000, under Ratzinger's editorial direction, the Vatican released "Memory and Reconciliation: The Church and the Faults of the Past," a watershed document that acknowledged church errors in its past dealings with Jews, asking "whether the Nazi persecution of the Jews was not made easier by the anti-Jewish prejudices imbedded in some Christian minds and hearts."

Ratzinger also oversaw the 2002 publication of "The Jewish People and Their Sacred Scriptures," which asserted that "the Jewish messianic wait is not in vain" and expressed regret that certain passages in the Christian Bible condemning individual Jews have been used to justify anti-Semitism.

Israeli officials and Jewish groups issued statements welcoming the selection.

"Israel is hopeful that under this new papacy, we will continue to move forward in Vatican-Israel relations and we are sure that considering the background of this new pope, he, like his predecessor, will be a strong voice against anti-Semitism in all its forms," Israeli Foreign Minister Silvan Shalom said.

Rabbi Israel Singer, chairman of the World Jewish Congress, said Ratzinger had been instrumental in improving relations between Catholics and Jews under John Paul.

"He is the architect of the policy that John Paul II fulfilled with regard to relations with the Jews. He is the architect of the ideological policy to recognize, to have full relations with Israel," Singer said. "He was the ideologist behind the last pope — the theologian and the ideologist."



Pave the Way Foundation  
Gary Krupp, president of Pave the Way Foundation, gives a yarmulke to Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger on Feb. 2 at the Vatican.





Not all Jewish leaders welcomed Ratzinger's selection, however. Some said that it was precisely his role as ideologist under John Paul that made him ill-suited to be the next pope.

Michael Lerner, editor of Tikkun magazine and rabbi of Beyt Tikkun Synagogue in San Francisco, is among the new pope's critics.

"It was with great distress that we watched as Cardinal Ratzinger led the Vatican in the past 25 years on a path that opposed providing birth control information to the poor of the world, thereby ensuring that AIDS would spread and kill millions in Africa," Lerner said.

"And we watched with even greater distress as this cardinal supported efforts to involve the church in distancing from political candidates or leaders who did not agree with the church's teachings on abortion and gay rights, prioritizing these issues over whether that candidate agreed with the church on issues of peace and social justice. As a result, Cardinal Ratzinger has led the church away from its natural alliance with Jews in fighting for peace and social justice and toward a stance which in effect allies the church with the most reactionary politicians whose policies are militaristic and offer a preferential option for the rich."

Rabbi Arthur Schneier of Manhattan's Park East Synagogue believes that while Benedict XVI will carry on the pope's legacy, he may not focus heavily on Jewish issues.

"I don't think Jewish-Catholic relations is going to be that much of a priority for him because there are other burning issues that he has to confront," such as the decreasing number of believers in Europe and the decreasing number of priests in the United States, he said. "He has to put the house in order."

Ratzinger was the odds-on favorite to become pope going into the conclave of cardinals, which began Monday. There was some speculation that the position could go to a prelate from the developing world — Africa or Latin America — where the church is seeing rapid growth.

Others predicted that the papacy could go back to an Italian: John Paul II was the first non-Italian pope in 455 years.

In the end, after white smoke poured from a chimney above the Sistine Chapel and bells tolled announcing to the world that a new pope had been chosen, the job went to Ratzinger. Because of his advancing age — the new pope turned 78 on Saturday — he is likely to be a transitional leader, serving for a relatively brief period.

Despite his stern religious bearing, those who know Ratzinger say, his intelligence, patience and personality make him good company.

"He's very, very sweet, very pleasant, very cordial and friendly," said Krupp, who met Ratzinger at his Vatican offices in early February. After Krupp accidentally missed an earlier meeting with Ratzinger, the cardinal brushed the oversight aside.



Pave the Way Foundation  
Gary Krupp, president of Pave the Way Foundation, gives a yarmulke to Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger on Feb. 2 at the Vatican.



"Don't worry about it, it was just a mistake," Krupp recalled Ratzinger saying.

As a teen, Ratzinger reportedly was a member of the Hitler Youth. At the time, boys his age — Ratzinger was 6 years old when Hitler came to power — were pressured, though not required, to join the group.

Ratzinger served in the German army during World War II, but deserted after a short period. His policeman father reportedly engaged in anti-Nazi activity.

"For the Jewish community, it is extraordinary that the pope has personally experienced the evils of Nazism and the horrors of racism and prejudice," said David Elcott, U.S. director of interreligious affairs for the American Jewish Committee. "There's no cardinal whose life has been more entwined with that of the Jewish people than that of this cardinal."

Still, German Jews expressed some concern over Ratzinger's election.

"A few people who know him say he is not bad. He has good relations with some Jewish persons," Nathan Kalmanowicz, head of religious affairs for the Central Council of Jews in Germany and a member of the Munich Jewish community, told JTA. "But the vast majority is afraid of what will happen. He is opposed to reform and not as familiar with Jewish issues" as the last pope, "and as far as we know he is not interested in promoting them — issues like the Holocaust."

Jacob Neusner, a theology professor at Bard College in upstate New York, was thrilled when he learned Ratzinger was the new pope. The two men have been corresponding since 1990, when Ratzinger responded to Neusner's fan mail.

Neusner was impressed with an article Ratzinger had written about Jesus — in particular, Ratzinger's remark that there was no such thing as an objective biography.

"I got a lovely letter back, and since then we've exchanged about one letter a year," Neusner said.

"He doesn't believe in negotiating theological truths. He thinks disagreement is healthy and normal."

Speaking to JTA from St. Peter's Square, Rabbi Jack Bemporad, who teaches theology and interreligious studies at the Pontifical University of St. Thomas Aquinas in Rome, said he was witnessing "pope fever."

Though Ratzinger is "basically against religious pluralism," Bemporad said, he believes faiths can learn from each other and come together to address social causes.

"He recognizes fully the autonomy and the integrity of each faith," Bemporad said.



Pave the Way Foundation  
Gary Krupp, president of Pave the Way Foundation, gives a yarmulke to Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger on Feb. 2 at the Vatican.

# The Jewish Week

SERVING THE JEWISH COMMUNITY OF GREATER NEW YORK

## In The Steps Of John Paul II

*Jewish leaders confident ties with Vatican will remain strong under new Pope Benedict XVI.*  
 Steve Lipman - Staff Writer

The Catholic Church will continue to improve its relationship with the Jewish community, but interfaith ties under Pope Benedict XVI will probably not be as warm or as significant as under his predecessor, John Paul II.



That is the opinion of representatives of several prominent Jewish organizations following the election Tuesday of German-born Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger as the 265th pope. The early favorite to succeed Polish native John Paul II, Benedict XVI is the second non-Italian cardinal to lead the church in four-and-a-half centuries.

Benedict XVI, 78, who served for more than two decades as prefect of the Vatican's Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, which defends Catholic dogma, earned the reputation as a theological conservative, a powerful Vatican insider known in some church circles as the "Panzer cardinal" for his uncompromising stance on such issues as "liberation theology," homosexuality, abortion and birth control.

Dealing primarily with Catholic issues, he had less direct involvement with Jews or Jewish topics than cardinals active in interreligious work, but earned praise for his dealing with Jews in Germany and at the Vatican.

"It is unprecedented that for the second time the leader of the Catholic Church is someone who personally experienced the horrors of Nazi oppression and prejudice, and has been an agent of reconciliation with the Jewish people and the State of Israel," said David Scott, the American Jewish Committee's U.S. director of interreligious affairs. "This man, for his entire ministry, has been deeply sensitive to relations with the Jewish people. He is warm and open to the Jewish community."

All the more impressive, some say, because he served in the Hitler Youth movement and as a German soldier during World War II, though he deserted and was later held in a POW camp.

Mark Weitzman, director of the Simon Wiesenthal Center's task force against hate and terrorism, said the papacy of Benedict XVI will favor "correct" relations with the Jewish community, but will relegate them to a lower priority.

"Is he going to push with the same fervor" as John Paul II for Jewish relations? Rabbi Arthur Schneier asked. "I don't think so."

Rabbi Schneier, a Holocaust survivor and president of the interfaith Appeal of Conscience Foundation, has maintained close contacts over the past few decades with high Vatican officials.

Some Jewish leaders doubted that the new pope, who has spoken of the supremacy of the Church over other Christian branches, would visit a synagogue, as Pope John Paul II did in Rome. They compared this to the refusal by some Orthodox rabbis to visit churches.

But the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations issued a warm statement congratulating the new pope and noting that in his opening *missa* at the Vatican, he "played an important role in promoting Catholic-Jewish relations and in the Vatican's recognition of the State of Israel." The statement also credited Benedict XVI for confronting the sheath and acknowledging "the legitimacy of the Jewish wait for the messiah" in Vatican doctrine.

Benedict XVI will be "very progressive," said Gary Krupp, the founder and president of the Pave the Way Foundation, an independent interfaith organization that sponsored a January meeting at the Vatican, where an international delegation of 160 Jewish leaders thanked John Paul II for his advocacy of Jewish interests.

Benedict XVI "was very interested in our audience," said Krupp, who was knighted by John Paul II in 2000.

The new pope's background as a member of the Nazi Youth organization and the German army during World War II drew attention in media profiles in recent weeks, but the Jewish spokesperson said Benedict XVI has shown no sympathy to Nazi teachings.

"It was the standard in the Hitler era that every teen was a member" of the Nazi Youth, often pressured into joining the organization, said Rabbi Schneier. "If anything, he will go out of his way to show that he is different from the [German] past."

"I would certainly give him the benefit of the doubt," Rabbi Schneier said. "I'm not at all nervous."

Abraham Foxman, national director of the Anti-Defamation League, said in a prepared statement, "Though as a teenager he was a member of the Hitler Youth, all his life Cardinal Ratzinger has atoned for the fact. In our years of working on improving Catholic-Jewish ties, ADL has had opportunities to work with Cardinal Ratzinger."

"Having lived through World War II, Cardinal Ratzinger has great sensitivity to Jewish history and the Holocaust. He has shown this sensitivity countless times, in meetings with Jewish leadership and in important statements condemning anti-Semitism and expressing profound sorrow for the Holocaust."

But at least one Jewish scholar offered a cautionary note about the new pope, not because of the cleric's wartime history but because of his ideological beliefs.

Jerome Chanes, who teaches Jewish history and sociology at Stern and Barnard colleges, described Benedict XVI as "an ideological hardliner" and attributed "troubling moments" during Pope John Paul II's papacy -- such as the pope's meeting with Austrian President Kurt Waldheim after his Nazi past had been revealed -- to the influence of Cardinal Ratzinger.

"The ambivalent aspects" of Pope John Paul II's tenure, in terms of Vatican-Jewish relations, including "the absolution of Austrian and German churchmen for what they did during the war, had [Cardinal] Ratzinger's fingerprints," Chanes said.

Ratzinger, the son of a Bavarian policeman who quietly opposed the Nazis, at 14 was forced to join the Hitler Youth, according to a biographical background released by the Vatican, but never attended any meetings. According to Vatican records, he was later drafted into the German army at 16, did not fire a shot in uniform, deserted his unit, was captured by the U.S. Army and held as a prisoner of war.

If anything, said Rabbi Schneier, the new pope's early experience with the Nazi regime "is going to make him more cognizant of Jewish concerns."

"If there had been any bias or prejudice [expressed], John Paul would not have gotten engaged that closely" with Ratzinger, the rabbi said. "The higher you go" in the Vatican hierarchy, "the more visible you are" and the more known are possibly damaging facts of a clergyman's background.

Rabbi Schneier called Benedict XVI "an intellectual... a deep thinker," who will lead "an era of continuity."

As a cardinal, Benedict XVI served as an adviser at the Second Vatican Council in 1962-65, which issued the *Nostra Aetate* declaration that redefined the Church's relationship with the Jewish community, absolving Jews from collective responsibility for the death of Jesus.

John Paul II, who lived under Nazi occupation and lost many of his childhood Jewish friends in the Holocaust, carried out the policies of Vatican II with such gestures as establishing diplomatic ties with Israel, the Rome synagogue visit, and apologizing for Catholics' role in fomenting anti-Semitism and turning a blind eye to the Holocaust.

Benedict XVI will also "follow the guidelines of *Nostra Aetate*," Rabbi Schneier said. "There is a personal commitment to continue [John Paul II's] legacy."

Rabbi Israel Singer, chairman of the World Jewish Congress, called Benedict XVI "the architect of the policy that John Paul II fulfilled with regard to relations with the Jews. He is the architect of the ideological policy to have full relations with Israel."

In 2002, Cardinal Ratzinger authorized the publication of a Vatican report that stated "the Jewish messianic wait is not in vain," and expressed regret that certain passages in the New Testament that condemn individual Jews had been used to justify anti-Semitism.

Speaking of the Holocaust, he said, "It cannot be denied that a certain insufficient resistance by Christians to this atrocity is explained by the anti-Judaism present in the soul of more than a few Christians." n

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# Jewish leaders optimistic on new pope

**BY ANN GIVENS**  
STAFF WRITER

As a 14-year-old teenager in Germany in 1941, Joseph Ratzinger was forced for a short time to join Adolph Hitler's Nazi youth movement.

But hours after Ratzinger was elected pope yesterday, Jewish leaders said they were hopeful that dark chapter in his past would make him better able to forge stronger bonds between the two religions.

"His Nazi teenage past didn't tarnish his ability to be a cardinal; just the opposite," said Abraham Foxman, a Holocaust survivor who is national director of the Anti-Defamation League. "One needs to measure him not from what he did from age 14 to 17, but from what he's done for the last 50 to 60 years."

Pope John Paul II was widely praised for making great strides in healing old wounds between Catholics and Jews. Ratzinger, who will be called Pope Bene-



**Gary Krupp, who with his wife met Cardinal Ratzinger in February, said the new pope will improve relations with Israel.**

dict XVI, worked closely with his predecessor in that effort, many Jewish leaders said.

Ratzinger was part of the Nazi youth movement for a short time before he began

studying for the priesthood, he said in his memoirs. Two years later, he was drafted into a Nazi anti-aircraft unit as a helper. Enrolled as a soldier at 18, in the last months of the war, he

barely finished basic training, he has said.

Rabbi Israel Singer, chairman of the World Jewish Congress, said he met with Ratzinger when he was a cardinal, and was heartened by his outlook. Ratzinger told him he believes anti-Semitism is a sin, and expressed regret that certain passages in the Bible had been used to justify the persecution of Jews.

"We are buoyed by his election," said Singer, of Lawrence. "He believes in the same kind of mutual respect that we do."

Gary Krupp, of Long Beach, president of Pave the Way Foundation, a Manhattan-based nonprofit that promotes religious understanding, met Ratzinger in February. Krupp said Ratzinger will be the kind of leader who will help finalize full diplomatic relations between the Vatican and Israel — a move he said is the most important next step in improving relations between the two.

"Because of his history, it's

going to make him that much more sensitive," said Krupp, who was knighted by Pope John Paul II in 2000 (one of three living Jews to get such an honor). "He grew up in that environment, and he saw what happened."

Jane Keibel, 81, of Kew Gardens, who fled Germany on May 13, 1939 for France, said that although she has some questions about Ratzinger, she has high hopes for his tenure.

"I sort of had funny feelings about it, being that he's of German descent," she said. "But I reasoned that they elected him because he was a confidant of John Paul II."

Keibel said she expected the cardinals made the right choice in selecting a conservative in the mold of Pope John Paul II. She said the late pope "was a person who wanted everyone to be at peace," and she expects Ratzinger to continue that legacy.

Staff writer Luis Perez contributed to this story.

www.newsday.com

NEWSDAY, WEDNESDAY, APRIL 20, 2005

Posted on Wed, Apr. 27, 2005

## Summit on race comes to a close

By Andre Shannon  
DEMOCRAT WRITER

More than 500 people gathered at the Tallahassee Civic Center on Tuesday, the final day of the mayor's 2005 Race Relations Summit, to discuss the role diversity plays in unity and to hear different perspectives on an abundance of racial issues.

"Sometimes these topics are so hard to discuss," said City Manager Anita Favors. "And this provides a forum for people to raise issues and gain a better understanding."

"One Race, One People, One Peace" was the theme of the two-day event, which focused on ethnicity, diversity and religion. Speakers at Tuesday's luncheon included Favors, Commissioner Andrew Gillum, Leon County Schools Superintendent Bill Montford and keynote speakers Rabbi Jack Bemporad and Gary Krupp. At the conclusion of the luncheon, audience members were also able to express their opinions at a variety of workshops.

Gillum opened the luncheon with an analogy to describe the diversity of the audience in attendance.

"We're not a melting pot," he said. "I like to think of us as a big salad bowl with tomatoes, cucumbers and lettuce. Each one of us offers a different element of appreciation to that bowl."

Gillum encouraged the crowd to return to work, the community and to friendships with a different attitude. His message of unity and embracing other's differences resonated throughout the day.

Krupp, founder of the Pave the Way Foundation, spoke of the importance religion plays in unifying the nation. His foundation's philosophy, "Embrace the Similarities - Savor the Differences," was the focal point of his speech. He left the audience with the message that the voices of all faiths should be unified.

Bemporad, director of the Center for Interreligious Understanding, also spoke of the role religion plays in fostering better race relations. His efforts to bring people of all faiths together have spanned the world and afforded him the opportunity to discuss Christian-Jewish relations with the late Pope John Paul II.

"Religion has tremendous power; they influence billions of people," he said. "It can either do it in a way of helping or it can do it in a way of hurting."

"If what they do is educate that all human beings have a certain intrinsic dignity, that they're important and that they have an inner life that needs to be respected, then they can do a lot of good."

Bemporad also discussed the role new Pope Benedict XVI plays in continuing the effort to mend ties between Catholics and other religions.

"I think he has a somewhat harder problem because he comes out of the pontifical commission for defending the faith," he said. "He has the problem of having to take what he did as a policeman and put it down and then move ahead as pope where he has to be much more universal."

The summit concluded with five workshops. The workshops covered slavery, discrimination in communities, the history of law enforcement and African-Americans and interracial relationships. Bemporad and Krupp fielded questions in their workshop from their earlier speeches.

Sharon Ofuani, coordinator of the event, said this year's summit was a definite success.

"There's no ands, ifs or buts, this is a good thing for Tallahassee," she said. "People have received it well; people want it and I think they will continue to support it."



## High hopes for new pope

By Jesse Serwer

April 28, 2005

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### **While he might not have been a household name until he was elected pope last week, the former Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger is no stranger to some local residents.**

My brother was ordained a deacon at St. Peter's Basilica in 1999, and Cardinal Ratzinger celebrated the ceremony,<sup>2</sup> Jeanne Mulry of Arlington Avenue recalled of her brief encounter six years ago with the man who is now Pope Benedict XVI. <sup>3</sup>When Cardinal Ratzinger processed down the aisle after the ceremony, he broke off from the procession to embrace and bless my young daughter, Rosemary.<sup>2</sup>

The Most Rev. William Murphy, bishop of the Archdiocese of Rockville Centre, was equally enthusiastic about the German-born Ratzinger's election. <sup>3</sup>He is Pope John Paul II's last gift to us,<sup>2</sup> Murphy said at a press conference on April 19, hours after the conclave of cardinals emerged from the Vatican with Ratzinger as their choice. <sup>3</sup>He is an extraordinary gifted and holy man, and I think he is going to have the best pontificate possible.<sup>2</sup>

Dozens of parishioners and other well-wishers joined the bishop as he led a Mass for the new pope at St. Agnes Cathedral the following morning. <sup>3</sup>It will be a change after 25 years, but I think he will make a great pope,<sup>2</sup> said Marjorie Bartels of Rockville Centre, one of approximately 100 at the Wednesday-morning Mass.

The first German pope since the 11th century, Ratzinger, who was previously the dean of the College of Cardinals and the head of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, has been both criticized and praised for his conservative adherence to Catholic doctrine, particularly on such issues as abortion, birth control and women in the priesthood. An outspoken critic of radical feminism and homosexuality, he has been criticized by human rights and other groups for failing to aggressively address incidences of pedophilia in the priesthood.

Outside St. Agnes, however, there was nothing but good will for the new pontiff. Patricia Phelan, also of Rockville Centre, called the choice of Ratzinger a <sup>3</sup>wonderful selection.<sup>2</sup>

I thought it was a great choice,<sup>2</sup> Phelan said after the Mass. <sup>3</sup>He is a follower of John Paul.<sup>2</sup>

Mulry also said she has high hopes and confidence in Benedict XVI because she saw during her encounter with him many of the same qualities she saw in his predecessor. <sup>3</sup>Many people will wonder whether he will have the same *œ*people's touch<sup>1</sup> that Pope John Paul II did, but I was able to see that same spirit of joy and love when he greeted and blessed my Rosemary,<sup>2</sup> she said.

Former Rockville Centre and current Long Beach resident Gary Krupp, founder of the interfaith activist group Pave The Way Foundation, met with Ratzinger at the Vatican just under three months ago. <sup>3</sup>He was very gentle and gracious, and he was interested in the intellect behind many of the gestures that our organization has made,<sup>2</sup> said Krupp, who met frequently with Pope John Paul II in the last few years before his death and is one of only seven Jews ever to receive the papal honor of Knight Commander in the Order of St. Gregory the Great.

While he wasn't in Rome for Benedict's installation last Sunday, Krupp is confident that, based on his meeting with the then cardinal in February, he and the Pave The Way Foundation will continue to have an open invitation to the Vatican. <sup>3</sup>The cardinal's secretary told me he was interested in the work that [Pave The Way] does, and that he would like to see me when I was in Rome,<sup>2</sup> recalled Krupp, who in January headed the largest delegation of Jewish leaders to ever receive an audience at the Vatican. <sup>3</sup>By accident, he scheduled an appointment for me during a week I was in Israel, and I got a call that Cardinal Ratzinger was waiting for me while I was there. I was very upset < this was the second-most-important man in the Vatican, and now he's the pope. Can you imagine standing him up?<sup>2</sup> The future pontiff gladly rescheduled, and the two men had a <sup>3</sup>warm and gratifying meeting<sup>2</sup> a week later.

Krupp said he is actually encouraged by the 78-year-old Ratzinger's experiences as a youth in Nazi Germany. <sup>3</sup>He told everyone that he was drafted into Hitler Youth as a young boy, but upon discovering their motives he resigned, and also that he was drafted into the army and escaped, as did his father,<sup>2</sup> Krupp said. <sup>3</sup>He was hunted down because he would not fight. That history of being involved with the Nazi Party and discovering their evils makes him a far greater advocate to the Jewish people than had he not gone through that experience. Just like how John Paul witnessed the Nazi occupation in Poland, it adds a dimension of understanding to [Benedict].<sup>2</sup>

Krupp will return to Rome in May to meet with several high-level ministers regarding the ongoing effort to establish diplomatic relations between the Vatican and Israel. <sup>3</sup>I hope to be able to meet with [Ratzinger] again now that he is pope,<sup>2</sup> he said.

# RABBIS BLESS POPE IN THE VATICAN

*An eyewitness account*

*By Harvey Passes, DDS*



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



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

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



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

The marble floors of the palace stretch to highly polished ancient wood and marble walls, which climb at least 40 feet. About halfway up, these walls are adorned with the most incredible frescoes created some 500 years ago, perhaps by the likes of Michelangelo, Raphael, or other legendary artist. The sheer size of the artistry boggles the mind. I was seated in the front row with my childhood friend, Gary Krupp. I never would have imagined that such an event would take place with my participation. My friend was making good on a dream — his dream of peace on earth and goodwill to all men. This is a story that has been 800 years in the making. It would read like a novel except that it is true. It all happened.

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

Sometime later, Gary found himself at a benefit din-

ner where some rabbis were discussing the desire of Jewish scholars to see the Maimonides papers. These papers reflect the writings of Maimonides, a Jewish philosopher, rabbi, and physician who lived during the 12th century. These documents have been in the custody of the Vatican library for centuries, and Jewish scholars have been denied access to them. During this benefit dinner, one of the rabbis wondered if they would ever be able to see them. Someone told them to speak to Gary. The rabbis looked at this person wondering if this was a joke or if he was serious. They approached Gary and he said he would look into it. They did not know that Gary had been made a member of the papal household. Weeks later, Gary called the rabbis and stated that the Vatican had agreed to their momentous request. A trip to Rome allowed the eyes of these Jewish scholars to view these sacred manuscripts from the ancient sage. The Vatican greeted this august assembly with much warmth and generosity. Upon returning home, many celebratory events were held to honor Gary's accomplishment. Then I got the phone call.

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



## RABBIS BLESS POPE IN VATICAN



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

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

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

During a Board of Directors meeting, Gary let it be

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

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

## RABBIS BLESS POPE IN VATICAN

*“Your Holiness:*

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

*“Dear Friends,*

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

# The Roslyn News

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## 'Surreal' Papal Visit for Roslyn Cantor

**From the Vatican to the Front Page**

**By Joe Scotchie**

"[It was] a very special and very moving trip."

So said Cantor Ofer Barnoy of Temple Beth Sholom, describing his visit to the Vatican last January, where he joined a delegation of American citizens for a private audience with Pope John Paul II. Barnoy recalled his visit in a talk at last Tuesday's R.E.A.C.H. meeting at the Sid Jacobson JCC.

The pope's death last month attracted the largest funeral in history, with Italian authorities forced to shut down entrance to Vatican City in order to control the millions of pilgrims who had descended upon Rome.

Before the pope's death, Barnoy had his own brief, but personal audience with Pope John Paul II. The trip was sponsored by a group called Pave the Way Foundation, one founded by Gary Krupp, the American liaison to the Vatican and one dedicated to promote positive relationships between Christians and Jews.

Barnoy admitted that at first, he didn't understand the significance of such a trip. But meeting with Pope John Paul II only months before his eventual death, plus the history of Rome itself made it an unforgettable time for the Roslyn Heights-based cantor.

Gary Krupp, as Barnoy said, has been the American liaison since the mid-1980s. During that period, he developed a good relationship with the pope, helping the Vatican work out details concerning relationships between that tiny nation and Israel, along with relationships with American and world Jewry in general.

Barnoy also recalled Pope John Paul II's lifelong friendships with Jews, including those from his boyhood in rural Poland up to his final will, where he left greetings for the chief Rabbi of Rome.

The trip itself included both American Jews and Christians. In all, about 30 cantors, 70 rabbis, plus a delegation of nuns and priests and other American Christians involved with the Foundation were part of the contingent.

Right away, Barnoy said he noticed the similarities in architecture between Rome and Jerusalem, namely the narrow roads and the shape of the buildings.

Barnoy also described the visit to the Sistine Chapel, home to the world famous painting by Michelangelo. He said he was "stricken by the beautiful colors" and also by the way the famed artist depicted the "history of Judeo-Christianity" with murals telling the story of both Moses and Jesus and highlights from the Old and New Testaments. The Sistine Chapel, as Barnoy related, is also where the conclave of the College of Cardinals is held, the most recent of which elected then-Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger as the successor to Pope John Paul II.

# The Roslyn News

## A Delayed Beginning

On the second day of the trip, the delegation had its meeting with the pope.

Scheduled for 11 a.m., the meeting didn't take place until 12:30 p.m. It seemed there was an international crisis that the pope had to attend to. That morning, at 9 a.m. Rome time, a terrorist had abducted an Italian journalist working in China. The pope and his right hand man, then-Cardinal Ratzinger, spent the morning negotiating for the release of the Italian hostage. With that taken care of, the pope was able to meet with the Americans. "He was a busy guy, right up until the end," Barnoy recalled. "And a powerful man, too."

The word that Barnoy kept using to describe the actual meeting in the Vatican "surreal." That feeling comes from not only meeting the pope, but, as Barnoy noted, from standing in the footsteps of all of the world's statesmen who had greeted numerous popes from throughout the centuries.

"It's surreal, it's like you're not there," Barnoy said. "It's like you're watching yourself in a movie. Afterwards, to reflect [on the meeting,] is very powerful."

During their one-hour visit, Krupp gave a speech praising Pope John Paul II for "defending the Jews" as both a priest and a pope and for making reconciliation a cornerstone of his papacy. The speech also noted a papal visit to a synagogue and the establishment of relations between the Vatican and Israel in 1992.

Barnoy himself had all of "10 seconds" with the pope. He recalled another visitor handed the pope a beautiful sculpture and the emotions released by that meeting.

Owing to his advancing condition, Pope John Paul II was only able to make a short speech. But the meeting was memorable just the same, and so were the events for the remainder of the trip.

Barnoy and his companions didn't know it at the time, but they became instant celebrities. That afternoon, a group in the contingent shared a cab back to their hotel. The taxi driver knew who his riders were. It turned out that one of Rome's afternoon dailies had a photo of the contingent meeting with the pope on their front page.

On the evening of the visit, the cantors, Barnoy included, gave a concert for 1,000 people at Rome's Central Synagogue. The building is ancient, so it was lacking in indoor heating. At first, the January weather and the lack of amenities made for cold conditions. But the concert and the atmosphere of the crowd changed all that. "Nothing could have been warmer," Barnoy said, recalling the special evening.

For the rest of the trip, the contingent, as with most tourists, took in the sites. For this, they had their own guide, a man that Barnoy described as only "Rabbi Jerome" or "Rabbi Jerry," a man who had been living in Rome for several years, researching a history of Jews in the Eternal City.

Again, Barnoy emphasized the links between Rome and Jerusalem. Jews who were captured by the Romans after the latter destroyed the ancient Temple were forced into labor camps where they helped to construct the Coliseum and other Roman buildings. After living in exile in Rome for centuries, many of the descendents of those same Jews returned to Israel following that nation's founding in the late 1940s. "Every Jew who wants to learn about Jewish history should visit Rome," Barnoy said.



מוזיאון ישראל  
ירושלים

תמוז-אב-אלול, תשס"ה  
אוגוסט-ספטמבר  
2005



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מתוך התערוכה בראשית: הסיפור האמיתי



The Israel Museum  
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Figurine of Yarmoukian goddess  
Sha'ar Hagolan, Jordan Valley  
Neolithic period, 6th millennium BCE  
Photo: Archaeological Expedition of  
Sha'ar Hagolan / David Harris  
From the exhibition *In the Beginning*

תערוכות חדשות

Beauty and Sanctity | The Israel Museum at 40 | 2005  
סי קרדמן | חמוטלן ישראל 40:2005 | תשס"ה



**28.9**  
**הנרייט לירלינג: מאר כתיב**  
הנרייט לירלינג היא אחת מהנשים המובילות ביותר בתחום האמנות והעיצוב בישראל. היא עובדת עבור מותגים בינלאומיים כמו אדידס, נייקי, ופרידו. בתערוכה יוצגו יצירותיה האחרונות, המגדירות את עבודתה כעוצמתית וקונסטרוקטיבית. התערוכה תתקיים במוזיאון ישראל, אולם הרבקה.

New Exhibitions



**From 11.8**  
**Francis Aijls: The Green Line**  
Billy Rose Pavilion  
This year Francis Aijls came to Jerusalem under the auspices of the Museum's Lindy and Ed Bergman Visiting Artists Program to give new meaning to the political/poetic act of walking, which he has performed many times in different contexts and locations. During several trips to Jerusalem, Aijls carried a leaking can of green paint along the border that Moshe Dayan marked on a map of the city in 1948. The film of this act, together with Aijls's interviews with Israelis and Palestinians, will be screened in the exhibition.

**From 16.9**  
**Design for Thought: Contemporary**  
Ayala Zacks Abramov Pavilion  
Today London – perhaps even more than cities like Milan and New York – is a hotbed of young, creative design. This exhibition highlights the growing call for a critical approach to design practice, demonstrated in different ways in two adjoining sections: "Found/Made/Thought: The Work of Industrial Facility," presenting the output of the London-based studio founded by industrial designer Sam Hecht and architect Kim Coltin; and "PopHour: Critical Designs Selected by Anthony Dunne and Fiona Raby," featuring works by the latest generation of London-trained designers. The display ranges from products created within the constraints of commercial considerations to design ideas that represent a radical departure from existing practice, suggesting a future in which consumers will demand something more substantial than style and will seek out products that address genuine fears and needs.

New Exhibitions



Beauty and Sanctity | The Israel Museum at 40 | 2005  
סי קרדמן | חמוטלן ישראל 40:2005 | תשס"ה

**Wedding scene**  
Illustration in *Archaic Ritual*  
by Jacob ben Asher,  
Mantua, 1455  
Vatican City, Biblioteca  
Apostolica Vaticana,  
Rosa, 555



**From 28.9**  
**Rome to Jerusalem: Four Jewish Masterpieces from the Vatican Library**  
Sally Bentinck  
Four of the most important illuminated Hebrew manuscripts in the collection of the Biblioteca Apostolica Vaticana are exhibited for the first time in Israel, as part of the series of Timeless Masterpieces on loan from sister institutions in honor of the Israel Museum's 40th Anniversary.  
A magnificently illustrated 15th-century manuscript of Moses Maimonides' *Mishneh Torah* testifies to the reverence of later generations for this 12th-century thinker and his codification of Jewish law. A contemporaneous manuscript of Jacob ben Asher's famous medieval legal text, the *Arba'ah Turim*, also features lavish illustrations in Renaissance style. The realistic depictions in these two 15th-century North Italian manuscripts shed light on Jewish customs at the time – from rabbinic courts to wedding ceremonies and holiday celebrations. A complete Hebrew Bible codex and a book of Psalms, both produced in Rome in the 13th century, are among the earliest such manuscripts in existence. They are decorated with exquisite, colorful floral and zoomorphic motifs illuminated in gold.

תערוכות נמשכות

**בראשית: הסיפור האמיתי**  
החללית המיתולוגית  
אוצר המוזיאון  
התערוכה תתקיים במוזיאון ישראל, אולם הרבקה.

**דמויות: על לוי מוסי**  
המוזיאון  
התערוכה תתקיים במוזיאון ישראל, אולם הרבקה.

# Rome to Jerusalem

## Merryl and James Tisch, New York

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**Rome to Jerusalem**

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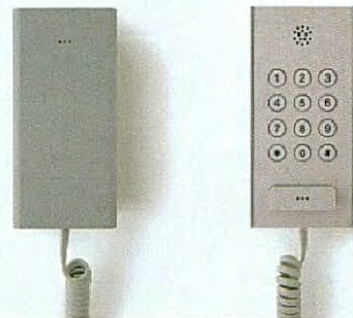
מ"11.8

בית בלי רוז

**פרנסים אלים: "הקו הירוק"**

בביקורו האחרונים בישראל יצר האמן פרנסים אלים מיצג – הוא הלך לאורך הגבול של וירושלים, כפי ששורטט על-ידי משה דיין ב־1948, ובידיו דלי דולף של צבע ירוק. מיצג זה – סיור רגלי כאקט פואטי/פוליטי, כמותו ביצע אלים פעמים רבות בעבר בכל מיני מקומות – תועד בסרט שיוקרן בתערוכה. ראינות שהאמן ערך בהקשר זה עם אישים שונים, ישראלים ופלשתינאים, יהיו פס-הקול של הסרט. התערוכה מוצגת במזיאון במסגרת תכנית קרן לינוי ואד ברגמן לאמנים-אורחים.

טלפון שני  
סטודיו 'אינדסטריאל פסליטי'  
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מ"16.9

**חומר למחשבה:**

**עיצוב תוצר עכשווי מבריטניה**

לונדון נחשבת היום כור היתוך למעצבים צעירים, אפילו יותר ממילנו וניו-יורק.

התערוכה מסבה את תשומת-הלב לקריאה ההולכת וגוברת לגישה ביקורתית יותר בתחום העיצוב, וזו באה לידי ביטוי בדרכים

שונות בשני חלקי התערוכה: "מציאה/עשייה/חשיבה: עבודת הסטודיו 'אינדסטריאל פסליטי'", חלק המייצג את עבודת המעצב התעשייתי סם הכט והאדריכלית קים קולין; והחלק האחר – "פופ-נאר: עבודת עיצוב ביקורתית – בחירתם של אנתוני דאן ופיונה רייבי". המוצגים נעים ממוצרים שהופקו בתחומים הקיימים של המסחר והעסקים ועד רעיונות המייצגים התרחקות קיצונית מהעיצוב הקיים ואולי מבשרים על העתיד שבו צרכנים ימאסו בעיצוב לשמו וידרשו משהו יותר התואם את צורכיהם ואת הפחדים האמיתיים שלהם.



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**From:** Russell Berrie Foundation, in Teaneck, N.J., and Fritz and Adelaide Kauffmann Foundation, in Cresskill, N.J.

**Amount:** \$100,000 from each organization for unrestricted support

**Background:** The Pave the Way Foundation was started in 2002 to promote tolerance and sponsor “gestures of good will” between different faiths. For instance, the group has arranged for the Vatican to lend its manuscripts by Moses Maimonides, the 12th-century rabbi and philosopher, for a display at the Israel Museum, in Jerusalem, beginning this month.

# Concerts in Italy and New York



Left- PTWF sponsored a multitalented event to produce a DVD to raise money for the Hospital of St. Padre Pio in Italy. Below PTWF sponsored a concert with the Diocese of Rockville Centre celebrating the Papacy of Pope John Paul II.

## Program

*The presentation of this work is dedicated to the memory of  
Pope John Paul II  
and his committed outreach to the  
Interfaith and Ecumenical Community*

**Call to Prayer**  
Eric Hamza Byes  
Lisa Hest


**Welcome**  
Bishop William Murphy

**Introduction**  
Sister Sheila Browne

**Fauré's Requiem**  
Long Island Philharmonic  
and Chorus

**Thank You**  
Bishop William Murphy


*Please join us for light refreshments in the  
Parish Center after the concert.*




*With the world religions we  
share a common respect of  
and obedience to conscience,  
which teaches all of us to  
seek the truth, to love and  
serve all individuals and  
people, and therefore to  
make peace among  
individuals and among  
nations.*

Pope John Paul II:  
Assisi: World Day of Prayer  
for Peace  
October 27, 1986

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### PAVE the WAY FOUNDATION



**Pave the Way Foundation, Inc.** is dedicated to promoting peace by embracing the similarities common to the world's religions and encourages understanding, through cultural, technological, and intellectual exchanges. By funding specific projects, the foundation hopes to pave the way towards further cooperation and mutual acceptance, and in turn, embrace our similarities and savor our differences. The end result are gestures of good will, which promote peace, understanding and mutual respect.

---

Now in its twenty-sixth season, the Long Island Philharmonic was founded in 1979 by the late Harry Chapin. In recognition of its artistic achievements, the State of New York has designated the Philharmonic as a "Primary Arts Organization." It is the only professional symphony orchestra on Long Island and is the principal orchestra of the Tilles Center for the Performing Arts on the C.W. Post campus of Long Island University in Nassau County serving a population of 1.4 million. The Philharmonic also performs on Long Island at the Staller Center at SUNY Stony Brook, as well as Heckscher Park in Huntington, the Brookhaven Amphitheater in Farmingville, Eisenhower Park in East Meadow and Great Neck's Steppingstone Park. The Philharmonic's activities include a classical series, a New Years Eve concert, youth concerts, and free summer parks concerts.



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## High hopes for new pope

By Jesse Serwer

April 28, 2005

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**While he might not have been a household name until he was elected pope last week, the former Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger is no stranger to some local residents.**

<sup>3</sup>My brother was ordained a deacon at St. Peter's Basilica in 1999, and Cardinal Ratzinger celebrated the ceremony,<sup>2</sup> Jeanne Mulry of Arlington Avenue recalled of her brief encounter six years ago with the man who is now Pope Benedict XVI. <sup>3</sup>When Cardinal Ratzinger processed down the aisle after the ceremony, he broke off from the procession to embrace and bless my young daughter, Rosemary.<sup>2</sup>

The Most Rev. William

Murphy, bishop of the Archdiocese of Rockville Centre, was equally enthusiastic about the German-born Ratzinger's election. <sup>3</sup>He is Pope John Paul II's last gift to us,<sup>2</sup> Murphy said at a press conference on April 19, hours after the conclave of cardinals emerged from the Vatican with Ratzinger as their choice. <sup>3</sup>He is an extraordinary gifted and holy man, and I think he is going to have the best pontificate possible.<sup>2</sup>

Dozens of parishioners and other well-wishers joined the bishop as he led a Mass for the new pope at St. Agnes Cathedral the following morning. <sup>3</sup>It will be a change after 25 years, but I think he will make a great pope,<sup>2</sup> said Marjorie Bartels of Rockville Centre, one of approximately 100 at the Wednesday-morning Mass.

The first German pope since the 11th century, Ratzinger, who was previously the dean of the College of Cardinals and the head of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, has been both criticized and praised for his conservative adherence to Catholic doctrine, particularly on such issues as abortion, birth control and women in the priesthood. An outspoken critic of radical feminism and homosexuality, he has been criticized by human rights and other groups for failing to aggressively address incidences of pedophilia in the priesthood.

Outside St. Agnes, however, there was nothing but good will for the new pontiff. Patricia Phelan, also of Rockville Centre, called the choice of Ratzinger a <sup>3</sup>wonderful selection.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>3</sup>I thought it was a great choice,<sup>2</sup> Phelan said after the Mass. <sup>3</sup>He is a follower of John Paul.<sup>2</sup>

Mulry also said she has high hopes and confidence in Benedict XVI because she saw during her encounter with him many of the same qualities she saw in his

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predecessor. <sup>3</sup>Many people will wonder whether he will have the same <sup>1</sup>people's touch that Pope John Paul II did, but I was able to see that same spirit of joy and love when he greeted and blessed my Rosemary,<sup>2</sup> she said.

Former Rockville Centre and current Long Beach resident Gary Krupp, founder of the interfaith activist group Pave The Way Foundation, met with Ratzinger at the Vatican just under three months ago. <sup>3</sup>He was very gentle and gracious, and he was interested in the intellect behind many of the gestures that our organization has made,<sup>2</sup> said Krupp, who met frequently with Pope John Paul II in the last few years before his death and is one of only seven Jews ever to receive the papal honor of Knight Commander in the Order of St. Gregory the Great.

While he wasn't in Rome for Benedict's installation last Sunday, Krupp is confident that, based on his meeting with the then cardinal in February, he and the Pave The Way Foundation will continue to have an open invitation to the Vatican. <sup>3</sup>The cardinal's secretary told me he was interested in the work that [Pave The Way] does, and that he would like to see me when I was in Rome,<sup>2</sup> recalled Krupp, who in January headed the largest delegation of Jewish leaders to ever receive an audience at the Vatican. <sup>3</sup>By accident, he scheduled an appointment for me during a week I was in Israel, and I got a call that Cardinal Ratzinger was waiting for me while I was there. I was very upset <sup>1</sup>this was the second-most-important man in the Vatican, and now he's the pope. Can you imagine standing him up?<sup>2</sup> The future pontiff gladly rescheduled, and the two men had a <sup>3</sup>warm and gratifying meeting<sup>2</sup> a week later.

Krupp said he is actually encouraged by the 78-year-old Ratzinger's experiences as a youth in Nazi Germany. <sup>3</sup>He told everyone that he was drafted into Hitler Youth as a young boy, but upon discovering their motives he resigned, and also that he was drafted into the army and escaped, as did his father,<sup>2</sup> Krupp said. <sup>3</sup>He was hunted down because he would not fight. That history of being involved with the Nazi Party and discovering their evils makes him a far greater advocate to the Jewish people than had he not gone through that experience. Just like how John Paul witnessed the Nazi occupation in Poland, it adds a dimension of understanding to [Benedict].<sup>2</sup>

Krupp will return to Rome in May to meet with several high-level ministers regarding the ongoing effort to establish diplomatic relations between the Vatican and Israel. <sup>3</sup>I hope to be able to meet with [Ratzinger] again now that he is pope,<sup>2</sup> he said.

Comments about this story? JSerwer@liherald.com or (516) 569-4000 ext. 221.

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# Paving the Way Between Religions

*Long Beach Resident First Jew To Receive Vatican Peace Award*

BY PAUL SHAPIRO

The Pave the Way Foundation, a worldwide non-sectarian organization dedicated to achieving world peace through historic gestures of good will, initiated and led the largest group of Jewish leaders in history to the Vatican to meet privately with Pope John Paul II. on January 18, 2005. This gathering happened to be the last major audience granted by the pope before he became severely ill. At the meeting, the pope greeted those present with the words "I welcome with affection the members of Pave the Way Foundation and I thank Mr. Krupp for the kind words he has expressed to me on your behalf."

This was not the first time that Long Beach resident Gary L. Krupp, founder of the Pave the Way Foundation of New York City, received respect from the pope. In July of 2000, John Paul II. approved Krupp's investment into the order of Knight Commander of the Pontifical Order of St. Gregory the Great, making him the seventh Jewish man in history to receive a papal knighthood of the Vatican City State. The pope recognized his unique position of influence along with a responsibility to do something beneficial about relations between the Jewish and Catholic religions.

More recently, Krupp was awarded the Servitor Pacis (Servant of Peace) Award by the Vatican's ambassador to the



Gary Krupp and Jerzy Kluger, both of Pave the Way, welcome Pope Benedict XVI. and Cardinal Stanislaw Dziwisz to the childhood home of Pope John Paul II. in Wadowice, Poland during Pope Benedict's historic visit to Poland.

United Nations and the president of the Path to Peace Foundation. He is the first Jewish man to ever of been awarded such an honor.

The Servitor Pacis Award is given to those who devote their lives to the greater good in finding solutions to achieve peace. Krupp was recognized for his diligent work to help bridge the gap between the world's great religions through cultural, technological and intellectual exchanges.

"They recognized that the work we are doing is as important as it is," Krupp told *The Jewish Star*. "It's a sacred trust. It is sustaining what I've been doing because it is acknowledged by the Vatican's ambassador to the United Nations.

This work we are doing it is trying to change relationships and curb bigotry by using education. We are educating by doing these projects and shedding old stereotypes."

Krupp feels that this award "strengthens my drive to bring the world's religions together to agree that religious intolerance has no place in our world, and that we would do better to focus on what unites us and learn about our fellow man's religious beliefs."

Pave the Way also gave a worldwide Jewish gift to the Catholics to thank Pope John Paul II. for all he did for the Jewish people, the State of Israel and his reconciliatory outreach to all of the world's religions. The foundation hon-

ored the late pontiff by giving a small sculpture of a monument to be built in Krakow, Poland depicting Pope John Paul II. placing a prayer in Jerusalem's Western Wall. The monument will be in commemoration of the pope's lifetime commitment to religious reconciliation.

Krupp led the delegation of Jewish leaders to honor Pope John Paul II. with this gift, delivered to Vatican representative Stanislaus Cardinal Dziwisz in Wadowice, Poland in May. Stanislaus Cardinal Dziwisz served as secretary to Pope John Paul II. for over 40 years.

The full-size monument will be sculpted by Jerusalem artist Sam Philipe, with the Western Wall portion comprised of Jerusalem stone, symbolically bringing Jerusalem to Poland. It will be erected in Poland, the homeland of the late pope and is supposed to serve as a connection between Catholics and Jews.

Krupp and Pave the Way decided to give the gift because of the symbolism of it. "This monument, which will stand over 15-feet tall and the pope will stand over 10-feet, is a continuous reminder to the Polish people of what the Jews meant to him. They will see this incredible monument with stone from Jerusalem as a constant reminder of this," he said.

Krupp feels that this gesture furthers the Pave the Way Foundation's mission to "essentially bridge the gaps between each of the major religions."



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## The Only Solution to Terrorism

Gary L. Krupp KCSG 19 Aug 2006 01:39 GMT

Religious extremism is the underlying cause of terrorism. The only solution for this problem is for the religions themselves to recognize their responsibility for the zealots of their own creation. They must speak out against violence and deaths perpetrated in the name of their religion and shun any persons who pervert the name of their religion to support violent and destructive goals.

There are people in the world, right now, who believe it is their religious duty to annihilate millions of innocent people and take their own lives in the process. They expect to be blessed and rewarded for these murderous and suicidal acts. How did the universal religious message of love, compassion and hope, common to all religions, become perverted to promote murder and suicide? Moreover, how can religion, which forbids murder and suicide, be used as justification for killing millions in cold blood?

Unless something is done, these terrorists will eventually gain access to weapons of mass destruction, placing millions of lives at risk. Governments are taking extraordinary actions to try and prevent terrorist attacks. Billions are spent on defense and Homeland Security, and yet not a penny is spent to address the cause of almost every conflict on earth – religious extremism. Terrorism looms like a black cloud on us every single day. The extremist, who exists in every religion, is the tail that wags the dog. When a Muslim kills himself and others in a café, or a Jew assassinates the Prime Minister, or a Christian bombs an abortion clinic, killing doctors and nurses, it's the same thing – a perversion of the word of all of the religions. When one of these events occurs, the truly pious typically remain silent, while the name of their religion is sullied and degraded by these misguided acts.

The solution to terrorism, religious extremists and world conflicts is in our hands today. Governments cannot do it alone; they need the religious of the world to be active collaborators to eliminate this blight. It is time that we call upon the leaders of the world's religions to become loud and continuous allies in the battle against those who have risen up from within their own ranks to wage war on humanity, not leaving it up to governments alone to respond to the disastrous effects. Religious leaders must loudly condemn these violations of religious doctrine to their own members, to members of other religions, and to the secular public. It must be clearly known and understood that persons who have used the holy name of religion for violence and death are universally condemned by the religions whose name they have sullied

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and mocked. The Internet and email are powerful communication tools and should be used along with our traditional print media, radio and television, as well as billboards and leaflets.

It is the duty of the secular and the non-believing among us to use their influence and power in numbers to influence the religious leaders to openly condemn acts of violence. Though this conflict is rooted in religious peoples, the secular also have a role in preventing further bloodshed. Ultimately, all will suffer from a worldwide conflict which all had the power to prevent.

It is not always easy to speak out. The fear of offending others or being misunderstood and misquoted in the media is great. The truly faithful leaders must not allow their fear of offending others to stand in the way of promoting the true universal religious message, which protects life and forbids murder and suicide. To be effective, this message must reach those within the religion and outside it, thus forging a unity among their own members, along with other religiously inspired persons and members of secular society, with the result that the zealots are cut off as the cancer that they are.

If government has a role, it is investigation and enforcement of existing laws. Terrorist operations are funded through fraudulent fundraising and organized crime, such as the drug trade. Governments can investigate the funding sources of terrorists and stop the fraudulent activity. Tragically, some of the funding for these destructive acts has come from well-intentioned persons who have given to various charities. Where laws are broken, the government has a role to track down and punish the offenders.

The ultimate cure, however, must come from religious authorities who loudly correct the deliberate misquotes and interpretation of the holy books and prophetic language which the extremists have defiled in order to achieve their evil agendas. Many religious leaders are quick to speak out to condemn or commend political entities and the actions of sovereign nations, but are remarkably remain silent when a blatant offense against the universal message of religion is committed. Political commentary and rhetoric by the leaders in our houses of worship must include the condemnation of evil acts. The misguided who are fooled into following false prophets can be reached with the truth, but will only accept that truth when it comes from their religious brethren, not from governments. Throughout history, religiously motivated violence has been tolerated by far too many of us, leading to far too many tragedies. For the first time in history, a new strategy that will work is feasible: Rally the forces of good, religious and secular alike, to come together to stop the violence created by rogue individuals who manipulate others into violence, while falsely using the name of religion simply to advance their own personal agendas.

✉ e-mail:: [Pave\\_PR@letterboxes.org](mailto:Pave_PR@letterboxes.org) 🏠 homepage:: <http://www.ptwf.org>   
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Mr. Krupp has really hit the nail on the head. I for one am very unhappy with the government taking my freedoms away to make me "safe". I'll put up with it for now because the danger is real. However, the solution Mr. Krupp promotes is the only way that terrorism can be handled completely and permanently. Man is not naturally violent. And our religions do not create violence either. Unfortunately it is possible for a few evildoers to victimize many good people and turn their healthy religious desires into destruction. Thank you Mr. Krupp for getting this information out there!

## Condemning Religious Extremism

Rev. Peter M. J. Stravinskis, Ph. D., S.T.D., Editor, The 19.Aug.2006 14:02

Mr. Krupp's appeal for religious leadership to take seriously their full responsibility as leaders in condemning the misuse of religious language and symbols to promote hatred, violence and murder cannot be ignored -- except at our own peril.

Over forty years ago, Pope Paul VI stood before the United Nations General Assembly and issued the stirring appeal: "No more war! War never again!" In 1979, Pope John Paul II stood before the very same body and reiterated those very words. But who has listened? In point of fact, we are more deeply mired in slaughters today than we were then -- and most if not all of them -- connected to religious propaganda masquerading as devotion to God.

Those who have authority within the religions of the world likewise have a grave responsibility, namely, to present a voice which always and unequivocally reminds the world of the sacredness of every human life, even that of one's enemies. Silence is not an option for, as the adage reminds us, "silence gives consent."

## Mr. Krupp's Words of Wisdom

Mary Collins 19.Aug.2006 17:26

The statement Mr. Krupp gave in his article mentioning the " Universal religious message of love, compassion, and hope" that all religions have had is indeed a salient point. That these age old and sacred principles have gotten perverted into killing and suicide is, of course obvious.

Murder in the name of religion, suicide done from some "religious" tenant is so completely insane.

Religious leaders of all religions must, as Mr. Krupp says, be courageous and must speak out and do all they can to stop the degrading of the concepts and ideals of love, compassion and hope. Religion gets a bad name with criminals acting the way that the terrorists are doing; and mildly put, it is blasphemy regarding all religions.

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Our society cannot survive with the destruction of religion, as well as destruction of people killed by terrorists.

We all must help.

Mary Collins

## Clear and Present Danger

Aleksandar Simic 20.Aug.2006 14:05

Mr. Krupp is just summing up what is more then evident for all those that are not active or passive accomplices to a collective suicide. The number of passive ones is immense, and the only thing that can help us avoid the near end is having more people that think and act as Gery Krupp does. The peacemakers of the world should focus on "converting" the passive ones to the concerned ones, and they must be helped by religious and secular leaders of all denominations. Gary Krupp does not speak as a Jew, and I think he wouldn't be speaking as a Muslim or a Christian if he was one of these two. He speaks as a man who is terribly worried about the future and everything he cares for. I think we all should be.

## Clear and Present Danger

Aleksandar Simic 20.Aug.2006 14:39

Mr. Krupp is just summing up what is more then evident for all those that are not active or passive accomplices to a collective suicide. The number of passive ones is immense, and the only thing that can help us avoid the near end is having more people that think and act as Gery Krupp does. The peacemakers of the world should focus on "converting" the passive ones to the concerned ones, and they must be helped by religious and secular leaders of all denominations. Gary Krupp does not speak as a Jew, and I think he wouldn't be speaking as a Muslim or a Christian if he was one of these two. He speaks as a man who is terribly worried about the future and everything he cares for. I think we all should be.

## Reprint this article

Jerzy Kluger 21.Aug.2006 07:34

All three monoteistic religions forbid any killing and so much more that of any innocent victim. This should be repeatedly taught by religious teachers and Mr. Krupp's article should be reprinted everywhere.

## Search for humanity

B. J. Solberg, PhD 21.Aug.2006 20:44

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Mr. Krupp's article clearly and accurately identifies a major contributing factor to the rise of extremism. If the righteous, regardless of faith speak up in a common voice, change can and will occur. As people accept responsibility to speak out against terror and embrace their obligation to serve as living examples of the principles common to all religion, kindness and compassion will prevail. Mr. Krupp has issued a challenge to us all to act for the sake of our humanity. I hope that the gauntlet will be taken up and serve as an enduring lesson for how best to serve each other and honor Gods creation.



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## Pope John Paul II & the Jewish People



Pope John Paul II at the Western Wall in Jerusalem. March 2000.

**NEW YORK.-** Dr. Jerzy Kluger, the Jewish boy who grew up with Pope John Paul II, traveled to New York to initiate the opening of an historic exhibit: Pope John Paul II & the Jewish People- A Blessing to One Another. Dr. Kluger, member of the board of Pave the Way Foundation, the exhibit sponsor, attend this opening, along with other distinguished guests, on September 6th at the Museum of Jewish Heritage at Battery Park. The exhibit will be at the museum until February 23rd, 2007.

Pave the Way Foundation brought this exhibit to the Museum in the furtherance of its mission to remove obstacles between the faiths by educating the everyday person and through its historic gestures of good will. This exhibit is a loving example of the bridge building and reconciliation of this great Pope. The exhibit has also been shown in Cincinnati, Ohio, at Xavier University and at the Pope John Paul II Cultural Center in Washington, DC. "At a time when religious intolerance is the cause of almost every conflict on earth today, the world needs this message and a concrete example of how we should treat one another," said Elliot Hershberg, Chairman of Pave the Way Foundation. A Blessing to One Another, Pope John Paul and the Jewish People was created and produced by Xavier University (Cincinnati), Hillel Jewish Student Center (Cincinnati), and the Shtetl Foundation in New York

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"We are thrilled to have been able to sponsor this exhibit," said Gary Krupp, President of Pave the Way Foundation. Along with our Board members from Italy Dr. Jerzy Kluger, Dr. Rolando Clementoni attended the opening. Dr. Clementoni is a senior Papal Chamberlain in service to the Vatican as a Gentleman of His Holiness, since 1963 when he was appointed for life by Pope John XIII. George Pataki Governor of the State of New York, Archbishop Celestino Migliore, Apostolic Nuncio and Permanent Observer to the United Nations and Bishop William Murphy, Bishop of the Diocese of Rockville Centre also attended the gala opening.

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September 12, 2006

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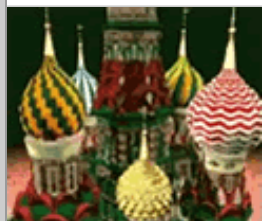
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## Gary L. Krupp to be Awarded the Servant of Peace Award at the United Nations

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

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

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

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

About Pave the Way Foundation:

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

About The Path to Peace Foundation:

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

For more information, contact:

Linda Simpson

Pave the Way Foundation


Tel.: 212-629-0046



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## La Iglesia hoy | sección

### Entregados en la ONU los reconocimientos de la fundación «Sendero para la Paz»

NUEVA YORK, miércoles, 14 junio 2006 (ZENIT.org-El Observador).- La misión de la Santa Sede en las Naciones Unidas consiste en la promoción de la paz y de la justicia, a la luz de la Doctrina Social, afirmó el cardenal Renato Raffaele Martino, presidente del Pontificio Consejo para la Justicia y la Paz, en la ceremonia de entrega de los reconocimientos de la Fundación «Path to Peace» (Sendero para la Paz).

La institución tiene por objetivo apoyar la Misión Permanente de la Santa Sede ante la Organización de las Naciones Unidas (ONU), suscitando la ayuda y la comprensión entre los pueblos y personas.

El mismo nombre se da al premio que, en la edición de este año, ha recibido la Gran Duquesa María Teresa de Luxemburgo, en particular por su promoción de la paz a través del microcrédito.

En esta ocasión, la Fundación asignó además el reconocimiento «Servitor pacis» («Servidor de la paz») a tres personas: Jesús Colina, director de Zenit; Gary L. Krupp, fundador de la Fundación «Pave the Way» para el diálogo entre judíos y cristianos; y al embajador Dino Samaja, presidente del Consejo de Dirección de FARMASA, quien, como Caballero de Malta, se ha destacado por importantes obras humanitarias en América Latina.

Los galardonados recibieron el reconocimiento de manos del arzobispo Celestino Migliore, presidente de la Fundación «Path to Peace», nuncio apostólico, observador permanente de la Santa Sede ante las Naciones Unidas.

El cardenal Martino reveló que él mismo había sido testigo de la obra de ayuda que la Gran Duquesa María Teresa de Luxemburgo, así como su esposo, el Príncipe Enrique, realizan en varios campos. En particular, mencionó su compromiso en los campos de refugiados de Camboya y Tailandia.









En una cena de gala celebrada en la terraza principal de la sede de la ONU en Nueva York, el cardenal Martino alentó a su sucesor en la Misión Permanente de la Santa Sede ante este organismo multilateral, el arzobispo Migliore, a continuar por el camino de la promoción del entendimiento y de la contribución de la Iglesia católica en este foro multilateral.

Durante la recepción, que convocó a los miembros de la Fundación «Path to Peace», invitados especiales y cuerpo diplomático acreditado ante la ONU, el cardenal Edward Egan, arzobispo de Nueva York, reconoció la intensa labor diplomática y humanitaria de la Santa Sede, y el decidido trabajo en el interior de la ONU que realizó el cardenal Martino y que ahora continúa el arzobispo Celestino Migliore.

La Fundación «Path to Peace» ha premiado, desde 1993, a personalidades como el rey Balduino de Bélgica; Corazón C. Aquino, ex presidenta de Filipinas; Lech Walesa, ex presidente de Polonia; Kofi Annan, secretario general de las Naciones Unidas, o al cardenal Angelo Sodano, secretario de Estado del Vaticano.

Desde 1995 premia con el «Servitor Pacis» a personas destacadas en la expansión del pensamiento de la paz y el entendimiento entre los pueblos y las religiones de todo el mundo.



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## Pope John Paul II's Closest Friend Attends a Museum Opening in New York

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September 09, 2006

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“

At a time when religious intolerance is the cause of almost every conflict on earth today, the world needs this message and a concrete example of how we should treat one another

”

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- Dr. Jerzy Kluger, the Jewish boy who grew up with Pope John Paul II, traveled to New York to initiate the opening of an historic exhibit: Pope John Paul II & the Jewish People- A Blessing to One Another. Dr. Kluger, member of the board of Pave the Way Foundation, the exhibit sponsor, attend this opening, along

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Pave the Way Foundation brought this exhibit to the Museum in the furtherance of its mission to remove obstacles between the faiths by educating the everyday person and through its historic gestures of good will. This exhibit is a loving example of the bridge building and reconciliation of this great Pope. The exhibit has also been shown in Cincinnati, Ohio, at Xavier University and at the Pope John Paul II Cultural Center in Washington, DC. "At a time when religious intolerance is the cause of almost every conflict on earth today, the world needs this message and a concrete example of how we should treat one another," said Elliot Hershberg, Chairman of Pave the Way Foundation. A Blessing to One Another, Pope John Paul and the Jewish People was created and produced by Xavier University (Cincinnati), Hillel Jewish Student Center (Cincinnati), and the Shtetl Foundation in New York

"We are thrilled to have been able to sponsor this exhibit," said Gary Krupp, President of Pave the Way Foundation. Along with our Board members from Italy Dr. Jerzy Kluger, Dr. Rolando Clementoni attended the opening. Dr. Clementoni is a senior Papal Chamberlain in service to the Vatican as a Gentleman of His Holiness, since 1963 when he was appointed for life by Pope John XIII. George Pataki Governor of the State of New York, Archbishop Celestino Migliore, Apostolic Nuncio and Permanent Observer to the United Nations and Bishop William Murphy, Bishop of the Diocese of Rockville Centre also attended the gala opening.

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**PAVE THE WAY FOUNDATION**

Gary Krupp

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Terrorism looms like a black cloud on us every single day. The extremist, who exists in every religion, is the tail that wags the dog. When a Muslim kills himself and others in a café, or a Jew assassinates the Prime Minister, or a Christian bombs an abortion clinic, killing doctors and nurses, it's the same thing – a perversion of the word of all of the religions. When one of these events occurs, the truly pious typically remain silent, while the name of their religion is sullied and degraded by these misguided acts.

The solution to terrorism, religious extremists and world conflicts is in our hands today. Governments cannot do it alone; they need the religious of the world to be active collaborators to eliminate this blight. It is time that we call upon the leaders of the world's religions to become loud and continuous allies in the battle against those who have risen up from within their own ranks to wage war on humanity, not leaving it up to governments alone to respond to the disastrous effects. Religious leaders must loudly condemn these violations of religious doctrine to their own members, to members of other religions, and to the secular public. It must be clearly known and understood that persons who have used the holy name of religion for violence and death are universally condemned by the religions whose name they have sullied and mocked. The Internet and email are powerful communication tools and should be used along with our traditional print media, radio and television, as well as billboards and leaflets.

It is the duty of the secular and the non-believing among us to use their influence and power in numbers to influence the religious leaders to openly condemn acts of violence. Though this conflict is rooted in religious peoples, the secular also have a role in preventing further bloodshed. Ultimately, all will suffer from a worldwide conflict which all had the power to prevent.

It is not always easy to speak out. The fear of offending others or being misunderstood and misquoted in the media is great. The truly faithful leaders must not allow their fear of offending others to stand in the way of promoting the true universal religious message, which protects life and forbids murder and suicide. To be effective, this message must reach those within the religion and outside it, thus forging a unity among their own members, along with other religiously inspired persons and members of secular society, with the result that the zealots are cut off as the cancer that they are.

If government has a role, it is investigation and enforcement of existing laws. Terrorist operations are funded through fraudulent fundraising and organized crime, such as the drug trade. Governments can investigate the funding sources of terrorists and stop the fraudulent activity. Tragically, some of the funding for these destructive acts has come from well-intentioned persons who have given to various charities. Where laws are broken, the government has a role to track down and punish the offenders.

The ultimate cure, however, must come from religious authorities who loudly correct the deliberate misquotes and interpretation of the holy books and prophetic language which the extremists have defiled in order to achieve their evil agendas. Many religious leaders are quick to speak out to condemn or commend political entities and the actions of sovereign nations, but are remarkably remain silent when a blatant offense against the universal message of religion is committed. Political commentary and rhetoric by the leaders in our houses of worship must include the condemnation of evil acts.

The misguided who are fooled into following false prophets can be reached with the truth, but will only accept that truth when it comes from their religious brethren, not from governments. Throughout history, religiously motivated violence has been tolerated by far too many of us, leading to far too many tragedies. For the first time in history, a new strategy that will work is feasible: Rally the forces of good, religious and secular alike, to come together to stop the violence created by rogue individuals who manipulate others into violence, while falsely using the name of religion simply to advance their own personal agendas. [Comment on this Article at our Forum](#)

AUTHOR:

Gary L. Krupp KCSG

## CONTACT INFO:

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## AUTHOR BIO:

Gary L. Krupp KCSG, founder and president of Pave the Way Foundation, is the only Jewish man in history to be invested a Papal knight by the Catholic Church and to be inducted into the Order of St. John by the Episcopal Church. In 2000, Pope John Paul II invested Mr. Krupp as a Knight Commander of the Pontifical Order of St. Gregory the Great. In 2002, Mr. Krupp received the Jewish National Funds Tree of Life Award. In 2005, he was inducted into the Anglican order of St. John as an Officer Brother, by order of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. In 2006, he received the Servitor Pacis Award from the Path to Peace Foundation.

Mr. Krupp and his wife Meredith founded the Pave the Way Foundation in 2003. The organization is committed to ending religious hatred and intolerance by removing the tool of “religion” from those who will use it for malevolent purposes. Pave the Way Foundation promotes historic gestures of good will between religious groups to increase understanding and tolerance.

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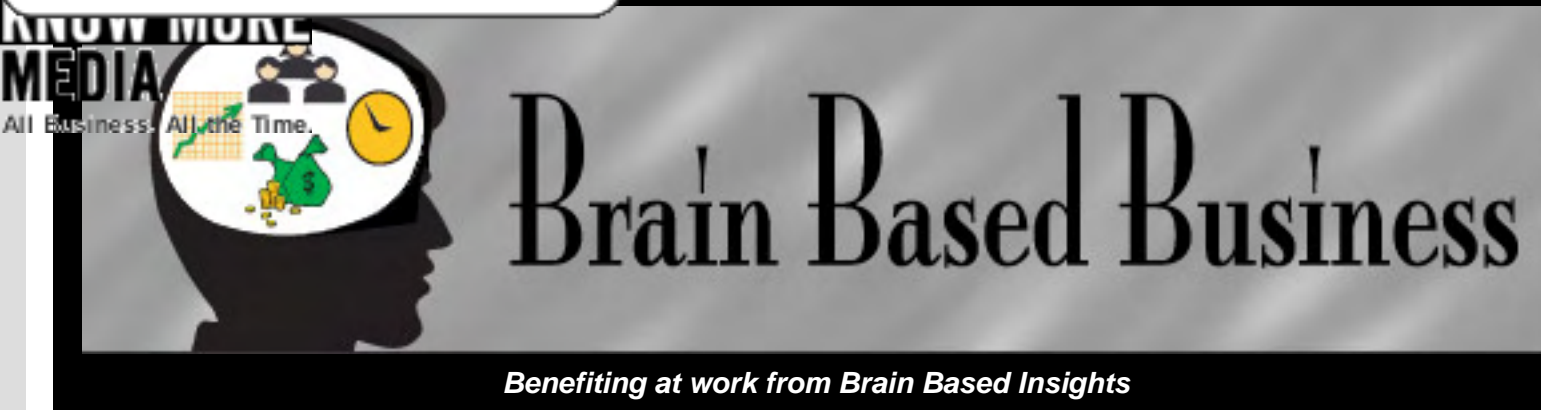
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**OCT 3** **Pave the Way Foundation Honors the Vatican Library**

New York, NY (PRWEB) October 3, 2006 -- Pave the Way Foundation, a worldwide non-sectarian organization dedicated to achieving world peace through historic gestures of good will, has presented a symbolic gift to the Vatican Library. The gift, a statue depicting Pope John Paul II in his gesture of placing a prayer in the Western Wall in Jerusalem on March 26, 2000, was presented to Fr. Raffaele Farina SBD, Prefect of the Vatican Library, and Dr. Ambrogio Piazzoni, Vice Prefect.

In recent years, the Vatican Library has performed several international gestures of goodwill through its loans and outreach to all of the religions. These gestures are important steps to achieve world peace, providing communication between religions, which increases understanding and fellowship between the diverse peoples of Earth. Working with PTWF, a significant gesture occurred on September 27, 2005 when the Vatican Library loaned priceless Hebrew manuscripts to The Israel Museum in Jerusalem for their 40th anniversary celebration. These included a magnificently illustrated 15th-century manuscript of the Mishneh Torah, the text which was written in the 12th century by the Rambam (Maimonides); a copy of the Arba'ah Turim, Rabbi Jacob ben Asher's renowned medieval text of Jewish law; a complete Hebrew Bible codex and a book of Psalms, both produced in Rome in the 13th century and greatly prized by Jewish scholars since that time. This was the first ever loan from the Vatican library to the State of Israel.

Illustrating the significance of this gesture, James S. Snyder, Director of the Israel Museum, stated "Crowning our 40th Anniversary, this special presentation of rare illuminated manuscripts has religious, as well as cultural and diplomatic, significance, and it therefore holds special meaning for our Museum in this celebratory year. We are grateful to the Vatican Library for the loan of these truly unique treasures, which is emblematic of the strengthening cultural ties between the Vatican and the State of Israel."

Additionally, the Vatican Library has always permitted scholars of every religion access to their vast collection and, recently, in cooperation with Pave the Way Foundation, has embarked upon a massive project to digitize their manuscript collection. This will ensure that the priceless documents can never be lost to future generations and it may one day be possible for anyone to view the library's collection on the Internet.

"With these gestures of good will, the Vatican Library trustees and staff have truly embodied the words of Pope John Paul II in his March 26th 2000 letter, "We wish to commit ourselves to genuine brotherhood with the people of the Covenant." said, Gary Krupp, President of PTWF.

The statue gift was created by renowned Israeli sculptor Sam Philipe and member of the board of PTWF, made of sterling silver and Jerusalem stone. His unique sculptures have been repeatedly commissioned by Israeli leaders to be presented to world leaders and dignitaries, including Pope John Paul II, President Bill Clinton, First Lady Hillary Clinton, King Hussein of Jordan, and the late Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin. Sam Philipe is convinced that art builds bridges between nations and between religions. He says "Instead of making war, and exchanging bullets and bombs, we should be giving each other art. It opens doors and builds bridges. Art fosters understanding, and this helps us talk sensibly and positively with each other". SAM also added that "this is the basis of the work of PTWF."

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November 12, 2006

Terrorism - The Untapped Solution.

## The Untapped Solution to Terrorism

By Gary L. Krupp KCSG

***Religious extremism is the underlying cause of terrorism.  
The only solution for this problem is for the religions themselves to recognize their responsibility for the zealots of their own creation. They must speak out against violence and deaths perpetrated in the name of their religion and shun any persons who pervert the name of their religion to support violent and destructive goals.***

There are people in the world, right now, who believe it is their religious duty to annihilate millions of innocent people and take their own lives in the process. They expect to be blessed and rewarded for these murderous and suicidal acts. How did the universal religious message of love, compassion and hope, common to all religions, become perverted to promote murder and suicide? Moreover, how can religion, which forbids murder and suicide, be used as justification for killing millions in cold blood?

Unless something is done, these terrorists will eventually gain access to weapons of mass destruction, placing millions of lives at risk. Governments are taking extraordinary actions to try and prevent terrorist attacks. Billions are spent on defense and Homeland Security, and yet not a penny is spent to address the cause of almost every conflict on earth – religious extremism.

Terrorism looms like a black cloud on us every single day. The extremist, who exists in every religion, is the tail that wags the dog. When a Muslim kills himself and others in a café, or a Jew assassinates the Prime Minister, or a Christian bombs an abortion clinic, killing doctors and nurses, it's the same thing – a perversion of the word of all of the religions. When one of these events occurs, the truly pious typically remain silent, while the name of their religion is sullied and degraded by these misguided acts.

The solution to terrorism, religious extremists and world conflicts is in our hands today. Governments cannot do it alone; they need the religious of the world to be active collaborators to eliminate this blight. It is time that we call upon

the leaders of the world's religions to become loud and continuous allies in the battle against those who have risen up from within their own ranks to wage war on humanity, not leaving it up to governments alone to respond to the disastrous effects. Religious leaders must loudly condemn these violations of religious doctrine to their own members, to members of other religions, and to the secular public. It must be clearly known and understood that persons who have used the holy name of religion for violence and death are universally condemned by the religions whose name they have sullied and mocked. The Internet and email are powerful communication tools and should be used along with our traditional print media, radio and television, as well as billboards and leaflets.

It is the duty of the secular and the non-believing among us to use their influence and power in numbers to influence the religious leaders to openly condemn acts of violence. Though this conflict is rooted in religious peoples, the secular also have a role in preventing further bloodshed. Ultimately, all will suffer from a worldwide conflict which all had the power to prevent.

It is not always easy to speak out. The fear of offending others or being misunderstood and misquoted in the media is great. The truly faithful leaders must not allow their fear of offending others to stand in the way of promoting the true universal religious message, which protects life and forbids murder and suicide. To be effective, this message must reach those within the religion and outside it, thus forging a unity among their own members, along with other religiously inspired persons and members of secular society, with the result that the zealots are cut off as the cancer that they are.

If government has a role, it is investigation and enforcement of existing laws. Terrorist operations are funded through fraudulent fundraising and organized crime, such as the drug trade. Governments can investigate the funding sources of terrorists and stop the fraudulent activity. Tragically, some of the funding for these destructive acts has come from well-intentioned persons who have given to various charities. Where laws are broken, the government has a role to track down and punish the offenders.

The ultimate cure, however, must come from religious authorities who loudly correct the deliberate misquotes and interpretation of the holy books and prophetic language which the extremists have defiled in order to achieve their evil agendas. Many religious leaders are quick to speak out to condemn or commend political entities and the actions of sovereign nations, but are remarkably remain silent when a blatant offense against the universal message of religion is committed. Political commentary and rhetoric by the leaders in our houses of worship must include the condemnation of evil acts.

The misguided who are fooled into following false prophets can be reached with the truth, but will only accept that truth when it comes from their religious brethren, not from governments. Throughout history, religiously motivated violence has been tolerated by far too many of us, leading to far too many tragedies. For the first time in history, a new strategy that will work is feasible: Rally the forces of good, religious and secular alike, to come together to stop the violence created by rogue individuals who manipulate others into violence, while falsely using the name of religion simply to advance their own personal agendas.

*Gary L. Krupp KCSG, founder and president of Pave the Way Foundation, is the only Jewish man in history to be invested a Papal knight by the Catholic Church and to be inducted into the Order of St. John by the Episcopal Church. In 2000, Pope John Paul II invested Mr. Krupp as a Knight Commander of the Pontifical Order of St. Gregory the Great. In 2002, Mr. Krupp received the Jewish National Funds Tree of Life Award. In 2005, he was inducted into the Anglican order of St. John as an Officer Brother, by order of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. In 2006, he received the Servitor Pacis Award from the Path to Peace Foundation.*

*Mr. Krupp and his wife Meredith founded the Pave the Way Foundation in 2003. The organization is committed to ending religious hatred and intolerance by removing the tool of "religion" from those who will use it for malevolent purposes. Pave the Way Foundation promotes historic gestures of good will between religious groups to increase understanding and tolerance. You may contact him at [pavetheway@optonline.net](mailto:pavetheway@optonline.net)*

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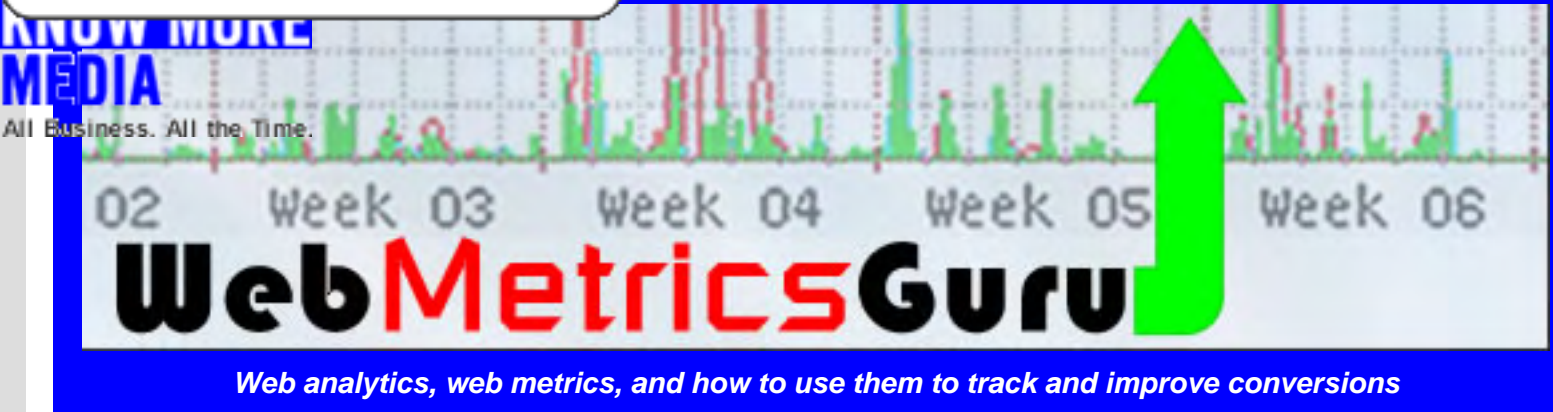
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NOV 14 **Pave the Way Foundation Urges Israeli Government to Affirm New Greek Orthodox Church Leader**

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New York, NY (PRWEB) November 14, 2006 -- Gary L, Krupp, Founder and President of Pave the Way Foundation, a worldwide non-sectarian organization dedicated to achieving world peace by enhancing relations between the religions through historic gestures of good will, has issued a letter to H.E. Ehud Olmert, Prime Minister of the State of Israel urging him to "move the government of Israel to quickly affirm the election of Theophilus III as the next Greek Orthodox Patriarch of Jerusalem."

His Beatitude Patriarch Theophilus III of Jerusalem was elected unanimously as the 141st primate of the Orthodox Church of Jerusalem on August 22, 2005 and officially enthroned as Patriarch of Jerusalem and All Palestine on November 22, 2005. Nearly one year later, he remains unable to discharge his duties and begin

his tenure.

The affirmation process for the Patriarch requires the approval of the Jordanians, the Palestinians and the Israelis. Theophilus III has been legally elected by the Greek Church. He has been affirmed by both the Palestinians and by the Jordanians. The Israeli government has not yet provided affirmation. Moreover, the Israeli government has been keeping the former Patriarch under continuous police protection in the official residence of the Patriarchate. The new Patriarch has been denied access to official business records, assets and his official residency. This action has caused undue friction between religious groups. Further complicating matters and stressing the Israeli government's resources, a court case to challenge this delay has been filed in the Israeli high court.

"It is the right of any religious group to elect its leadership," states Gary L. Krupp, Founder and President of Pave the Way Foundation. "We feel that the Greek Church has made its decision to elect Theophilus III as their new Patriarch. In the interest of cordial, improved relations between the religions in the region, and the essence of the mission of Pave the Way Foundation, we urge the Israeli government to quickly approve the affirmation of Theophilus III putting aside all known and any unknown agendas."

About Pave the Way Foundation

Pave the Way Foundation is dedicated to achieving peace by bridging "the intellectual gap" in tolerance and understanding, by enhancing relations between religions through cultural, technological and intellectual gestures.

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###

# Religious unity main topic for civic group

## Org. welcomes Jew knighted by Pope

By PAUL WEIN

Gary Krupp, the seventh Jew in history to be knighted by the Pope, was the guest speaker at the Five Towns Community Chest meeting, held on December 12 at the Hewlett Woodmere Public Library.

Krupp, who lives in Long Beach, dedicates his life to uniting religions and helping people of all faiths work together for a common goal. His organization, called Pave The Way Foundation, is committed to bridging the gap between religions through cultural, technological, and intellectual exchanges resulting in gestures of good will. And when he spoke to the audience on Dec. 12, that message was very clear.

"My goal is to address and impact the cause of every conflict on Earth," said Krupp. "We're trying to wake up everyday people to speak out. This is in the hands of everybody."

Frequently, Krupp travels around the world to spread his message of religious unity, and is currently working with the Vatican to gain permission to reproduce the Hebrew manuscripts they have to make them available for Jewish learning. "What we're doing is historic," he said. "I had asked the Vatican to open their libraries for Jewish students and they did. That is a first step to greatly enhancing the special relationship between Catholics and Jews throughout the world."

Many who came to hear Krupp speak



**FROM LEFT TO RIGHT** - Outgoing 5TCC Chairman Ed Cooper, Gary Krupp and incoming Chairman Craig Spatz

were excited to hear what he had to say. "I invited him to speak because of his passion and commitment," said Craig Spatz, president of Five Towns Community Chest. "This is his cause. He has given everything up to help people help each other." Spatz said that he admires Krupp's dedication. "Nothing has stopped him," he said. "His leadership is something I want to emulate."

Ed Cooper, the outgoing chairman of

Five Towns Community Chest, says that Krupp's message is very much like what Five Towns Community Chest represents. "We hope that this will be a way to send our message, by presenting the public a distinguished knighted persona who conveys an enlightened message regarding the spirit of cooperation among various religions."

"He's an extraordinary man," said Judge Samuel Levine. "It's so important to know of

his special relationship with Pope John Paul II and the important people that were associated with him, like the current Pope Benedict XVI. He is doing great work."

Krupp says that in the coming year, he plans to work closely with many religious organizations in the Five Towns. "I'll go to every denomination to talk about what is going on," he said. "In order to get the message out, you have to go to the people."



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## THE SERVITOR PACIS AWARD RECIPIENTS

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### 2006 - Gary Krupp

Gary L. Krupp, a native New Yorker, resides in Long Beach, NY, with his wife Meredith. They have two sons, Jarrett and Brett.

- [About Us](#)

Mr. Krupp founded and was the managing General Partner South Shore Imaging Associates (SSIA) and other businesses in the medical field. He helped develop the first multi-modality imaging center on the South Shore of Long Island. In 1990, Mr. Krupp built Williamsbridge Imaging Associates, a single MRI facility in the Bronx, NY. Mr. Krupp was the owner/operator of a 14-station kidney dialysis center in upstate New York that he built in 1992. He also managed the family commercial second mortgage business.

- [Newsletters](#)

Gary Krupp has worked extensively for the Caritas Foundation, to benefit abused and homeless children throughout the nation and sits on the board of directors of the New York State Trooper Foundation, benefiting the NYS Police. He is the Vice-Chairman of the Coalition to Save Belleayre Mountain. Mr. Krupp sits on the board of the Long Island Forum for Technology.

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Mr. Krupp has been recognized for work he has done over the past 20 years to benefit the Casa Sollievo della Sofferenza, a 1,500 bed health care facility in Italy founded by Saint Pio of Pietrelcina.

On July 29, 2000, Mr. Krupp was honored by Pope John Paul II, and was invested as a Knight Commander of the Pontifical Equestrian Order of St. Gregory the Great. Gary is only the seventh Jewish man to be so honored.

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On September 12, 2002, Mr. Krupp received the Centennial Tree of Life Award from the Jewish National Fund for his work with the State of Israel, the Jewish people and the Catholic Church. Most recently, on July 23, 2005, Mr. Krupp was approved by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II to be invested into the Anglican Order of St. John.

- [Current Events](#)

Gary Krupp founded the Pave the Way Foundation in 2003, to help bridge the gap between religions through cultural, technological and intellectual exchanges. Most notably, Mr. Krupp initiated the largest Jewish audience in history to meet with the late Pope John Paul II to thank him for all he had done for the Jewish people and Israel.

In recognition of his indefatigable commitment to promote peace and harmony among people of various faith traditions, the Path to Peace Foundation is pleased to bestow upon Gary L. Krupp the title Servitor Pacis, "Servant of Peace."

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## **Worldwide Jewish Gift Honoring Pope JP II to be Given in Poland in Presence of Pope B16**

[Yahoo News](#) ^ | May 17, 2006

Posted on **05/17/2006 6:57:25 PM PDT** by [NYer](#)

New York, NY(PRWEB) May 16, 2006 -- Pave the Way Foundation, a worldwide non-Sectarian organization dedicated to promoting world peace through historic gestures of good will, has been invited by Cardinal Stanislaus Dziwisz, the Archbishop Of Krakow, to lead a delegation of Jewish leaders to Wadowice, Poland to join Pope Benedict XVI when he dedicates on May27th the town square in memory of Pope John Paul II in his native Wadowice.

The Pave the Way delegation will recognize the late Pope's efforts to reconcile relations with all religions of the world. During the ceremony in front of thousands of spectators, the international media and government officials, Pave the Way will present to Pope Benedict and His Eminence Cardinal Stanislaus Dziwisz, replicas of a monument being commissioned by Pave the Way and being built to depict Pope John Paul's historic visit to Israel when he placed a prayer in the Holy Western Wall in Jerusalem.

Jerusalem Sculptor Sam Philipe is to build the full-scale monument, which will stand over 15 feet tall, and will serve as a beacon of fraternal love and mutual respect among Catholics and Jews. It will stand in the hometown of Pope John Paul and will be built in Jerusalem. The monument will be sculpted out of sand stone, symbolically bring part of Jerusalem to Poland.

Pave the Way will be represented at the presentation by President and founders Gary and Meredith Krupp of Long Beach, NY. The Krupp's will be accompanied by a contingent of Jewish leaders from around the world. Mr. Krupp will read his statement in English, while Pope John Paul's oldest Jewish friend Jerzy Kluger will read the statement in Polish.

Mr. Krupp said, “The gift is to be a heartfelt gesture from the Jewish people to their Christian brothers and sisters around the world to serve as a permanent reminder of the historic achievements of Pope John Paul II in his efforts to reconcile relations amongst all the world’s religions.”

“We recognize that throughout his pontificate and prior to that as Bishop and Cardinal Archbishop of Krakow, Karol Wojtyla changed the emotions of the Polish people towards Judaism and tolerance to others,” he pointed out, adding “This new age of tolerance and understanding is largely due to the work of Pope John Paul and will be enthusiastically continued by his secretary of over 40 years, the current Archbishop of Krakow, Cardinal Archbishop Stanislaus Dziwisz.

This gesture furthers Pave the Way’s mission to bridge the gap between people of all religions through cultural, technological and intellectual exchanges. Pave the Way promotes peace by focusing on what united people of various faiths, while encouraging mutual learning and understanding. On January 18, 2005, Pave the Way Foundation led the largest group of Jewish leaders in history to the Vatican to thank Pope John Paul II. Sadly, this was Pope John Paul’s last major audience before he became ill. This is one example of how the organization looks to pave the way towards global cooperation, mutual respect and education.

Pave the Way 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 will be abolished by the faithful embracing their similarities and savoring their differences.

Gary L. Krupp, KCSG (Knight Commander of the Pontifical Order of St. Gregory the Great) is only the seventh Jewish man in history to receive a papal knighthood. Pope John Paul II approved his investment into the order in July 2000. Recognizing his unique position of influence along with a responsibility to do something beneficial about relations between the religions, he and his wife Meredith formed the Pave the Way Foundation.

Coincidentally, Mr. Krupp is receiving three significant international awards in June upon his return from the mission to Poland. Archbishop Celestino Migliore, Vatican’s Ambassador to the United Nations and Cardinal Renato Martino, President of the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace will bestow the Path to Peace Foundation’s Servitor Pacis (Servant of Peace) award to Mr. Krupp at the United Nations on June 13th. Mr. Krupp will receive the Benemerenti Medal of good works from the Sacred Constantinian Order of St. George from Cardinal Theodore McCarrick at the Cathedral of St. Matthew in Washington and he will receive the first ever Ambassador to Peace Award from the New Seminary at St. John the Devine Cathedral in New York. The New Seminary is a multi-religious NGO at the United Nations. More information on the Pave the Way Foundation can be found at [www.ptwf.org](http://www.ptwf.org).

Contact:

Danielle DeVoren  
KCSA Worldwide

# Catholic Neocon Observer

A clinical observation of the spread of the neoconservative virus within the Catholic print and electronic  
media

Monday, May 22, 2006

## Monuments to Bad Taste: Poland in the News



We read, along with everybody else in the Catholic blogosphere, John Allen's, the *National Catholic Reporter* resident Vatican correspondent, Friday eletter, *The Word from Rome*, for its insightful reporting. While the

*Reporter* has long been the locus for American leftist dissent in the Catholic Church, Allen's reporting is usually pretty straight, even if National Public Radio uses him as their go-to-guy for interviews about what's happening at the Vatican. Anyway last week's Word from Rome largely dealt with Benedict XVI's upcoming visit to Poland and had some interesting stories like this one:

“During Benedict's May 27 stop in Wadowice [the birthplace of John Paul II], an American Jew named Gary Krupp will present Benedict XVI with plans for a towering bronze and stone statue intended to memorialize John Paul's historic outreach to Judaism.

“Krupp told NCR that he views the statue as "a gift from the worldwide Jewish

community in commemoration for all Pope John Paul II has done in worldwide religious reconciliation."

"Krupp is a medical supplies professional who was named a Knight of St. Gregory by John Paul II in 2000 ... [his] "Pave the Way" Foundation has long been among the leading forces promoting Jewish-Christian understanding; ...The statue, intended to eventually stand more than 10 feet tall, shows John Paul II at the Western Wall in Jerusalem during his 2000 visit, placing a note in the wall apologizing for Christian anti-Semitism. The likeness of the pope will be cast in bronze, while the wall will be built from stone from the actual Western Wall in Jerusalem. The statue is to be designed by prominent Israeli sculptor Sam Philipe, who also designed the last gift presented to John Paul II by Israel's two chief rabbis...."

This of course was preceded by stories about [the German pope, who was drafted into a Wehrmacht auxiliary unit during WWII](#), his predecessor, the Polish bishops and Poland confronting its history of anti-Semitism, for those among us for whom the calendar hasn't gotten beyond 1942. Mr. Allen did mention the 1965 Christian reconciliation between the Polish and German bishops over mutual forgiveness over the Nazi atrocities in Poland and the fact that [millions of Germans were expelled from their lands, east of the Oder-Niesse line in Silesia, East Prussia and Pomerania](#) in the years immediately after V-E day when the territory was incorporated at Stalin's direction and consented to by Churchill and FDR at [Yalta](#) in a new Poland pushed westward. [Approximately three million were killed by the victorious Red Army](#)



## Business News

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### Pave the Way Foundation Commends the True Leaders of Islam for Letter of Outreach to Christians

New York 10/16/2007 01:39 PM GMT (TransWorldNews)

Pave the Way Foundation (PTWF), a New York based non-sectarian organization, whose mission is to bring about peace through positive Interreligious gestures and to educate the everyday person, praises the efforts of the 138 Muslim religious leaders who have called upon the Christian world to join with them in their common message of peace.

These Islamic leaders, representing numerous countries and diverse groups within the Islamic faith, presented a "letter of the common word" to representatives of the Christian world. This document is a positive statement that peace between the faiths is achievable if the members of the world's two largest faiths can recognize the commonality of their message. This embodies Pave the Way Foundation's message: "Embrace the Similarities; Savor the Differences". The letter also contains a serious message, pointing out that cooperation is vital for the survival of all, in light of the fact that weapons of mass destruction may be available to those who will kill innocents in the name of religion.

"The use of religion, any religion, as an excuse to maim, torture and kill is an abuse of that religion, in total disregard of the true message of the Bible or the Qu'ran, and it is important that we recognize the true leaders who do not condone this abuse," said Gary L Krupp, President of the Pave the Way Foundation. "PTWF calls upon the international media not to ignore this important letter but rather to assume the responsibility that comes with freedom of press, delivering the truth about the noble efforts of these true Islamic leaders. When Osama Bin Laden delivers a message of hate and death, it's front page news. The public has a right to know about the efforts of true Islamic leaders to end the bloodshed and murder falsely perpetrated in the name of religion.

PTWF further calls upon the signatories of this letter to take their message to the next level. We implore them to declare a fatwa (Islamic religious decree) stating that the killing of innocents is illegal according to the Qu'ran and that anyone committing such heinous acts or who teaches killing and violence in the name of Islam is to be branded as a traitor to the teachings of Islam. The Qu'ran clearly forbids suicide and the killing of innocents. These false prophets, using the name of Islam to promote hate, violence and murder can only be discredited by the true Muslim leaders, not by government.

It is imperative that the true followers of Islam come to recognize how these false religious leaders, who preach the killing of the innocents around the world, have soiled the image of Islam and defiled it worse than any cartoons ever could.

Cardinal Jean-Louis Tauran, President of the Pontifical Council for Inter-Religious Dialogue, commented on this document by saying "It is a very interesting letter" and further that it is "a new document because it comes from both Sunni Muslims and Shi'a Muslims." He also referred to it as "a non-polemical (non-argumentative) document with numerous quotes from both the Old Testament and the New Testament."

Dr. Rowan Williams, The Archbishop of Canterbury commented, "Finding common ground between Muslims and Christians is not simply a matter for polite ecumenical dialogue between selected religious leaders... If Muslims and Christians are not at peace, the world cannot be at peace."

PTWF believes that we must encourage all positive efforts to eliminate international terrorism, violence and destruction in the name of religion; these actions may very well save humanity from destruction. We also believe that the media has a responsibility to give a voice to those who are courageously taking action to promote peace and establish cooperation between the world's religious groups.

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www.ptwf.org

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

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

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

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

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

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

### About Pave the Way Foundation:

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

### About The Path to Peace Foundation:

Due to the need for expanded humanitarian and conciliatory activities, which go beyond the strictly diplomatic parameters of the Holy See Mission to the United Nations, the Apostolic Nuncio and Permanent



Observer of the Holy See to the United Nations established the Path to Peace Foundation in 1991. The Foundation directs its activities primarily to the international stage of the United Nations. Its principal purpose is the spreading of the message of peace by which the Catholic Church, through the words and activities of the Pope and of the Holy See, strives to "guide our steps into the path of peace" (Luke 1:79)

For more information, contact:

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###

### **Contact Information**

**Gary Krupp**

PAVE THE WAY FOUNDATION

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## La Iglesia hoy | sección

### Entregados en la ONU los reconocimientos de la fundación «Sendero para la Paz»

NUEVA YORK, miércoles, 14 junio 2006 (ZENIT.org-El Observador).- La misión de la Santa Sede en las Naciones Unidas consiste en la promoción de la paz y de la justicia, a la luz de la Doctrina Social, afirmó el cardenal Renato Raffaele Martino, presidente del Pontificio Consejo para la Justicia y la Paz, en la ceremonia de entrega de los reconocimientos de la Fundación «Path to Peace» (Sendero para la Paz).

La institución tiene por objetivo apoyar la Misión Permanente de la Santa Sede ante la Organización de las Naciones Unidas (ONU), suscitando la ayuda y la comprensión entre los pueblos y personas.

El mismo nombre se da al premio que, en la edición de este año, ha recibido la Gran Duquesa María Teresa de Luxemburgo, en particular por su promoción de la paz a través del microcrédito.

En esta ocasión, la Fundación asignó además el reconocimiento «Servitor pacis» («Servidor de la paz») a tres personas: Jesús Colina, director de Zenit; Gary L. Krupp, fundador de la Fundación «Pave the Way» para el diálogo entre judíos y cristianos; y al embajador Dino Samaja, presidente del Consejo de Dirección de FARMASA, quien, como Caballero de Malta, se ha destacado por importantes obras humanitarias en América Latina.

Los galardonados recibieron el reconocimiento de manos del arzobispo Celestino Migliore, presidente de la Fundación «Path to Peace», nuncio apostólico, observador permanente de la Santa Sede ante las Naciones Unidas.

El cardenal Martino reveló que él mismo había sido testigo de la obra de ayuda que la Gran Duquesa María Teresa de Luxemburgo, así como su esposo, el Príncipe Enrique, realizan en varios campos. En particular, mencionó su compromiso en los campos de refugiados de Camboya y Tailandia.









En una cena de gala celebrada en la terraza principal de la sede de la ONU en Nueva York, el cardenal Martino alentó a su sucesor en la Misión Permanente de la Santa Sede ante este organismo multilateral, el arzobispo Migliore, a continuar por el camino de la promoción del entendimiento y de la contribución de la Iglesia católica en este foro multilateral.

Durante la recepción, que convocó a los miembros de la Fundación «Path to Peace», invitados especiales y cuerpo diplomático acreditado ante la ONU, el cardenal Edward Egan, arzobispo de Nueva York, reconoció la intensa labor diplomática y humanitaria de la Santa Sede, y el decidido trabajo en el interior de la ONU que realizó el cardenal Martino y que ahora continúa el arzobispo Celestino Migliore.

La Fundación «Path to Peace» ha premiado, desde 1993, a personalidades como el rey Balduino de Bélgica; Corazón C. Aquino, ex presidenta de Filipinas; Lech Walesa, ex presidente de Polonia; Kofi Annan, secretario general de las Naciones Unidas, o al cardenal Angelo Sodano, secretario de Estado del Vaticano.

Desde 1995 premia con el «Servitor Pacis» a personas destacadas en la expansión del pensamiento de la paz y el entendimiento entre los pueblos y las religiones de todo el mundo.



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News

## DECEMBER 2006



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### CCJU HONORS LEADERS AT NOSTRA AETATE

In celebration of its 14<sup>th</sup> year of working to promote inter-religious dialogue and understanding, Sacred Heart University's Center for Christian-Jewish Understanding (CCJU) honored Archbishop Pietro Sambì and Mr. Gary Krupp at its annual *Nostra Aetate* Awards Ceremony and dinner. The event took place on Wednesday, December 6<sup>th</sup>, at the Park Avenue Synagogue in New York.

*Nostra Aetate* is the 1965 Vatican II document that overturned centuries of hostility in the Catholic Church's relationship with Judaism and signaled a new era of dialogue and mutual understanding between Christians, Jews and all peoples of good will. Founded in 1992, CCJU provides forums for research and dialogue that can advance the principles of *Nostra Aetate*. The *Nostra Aetate* Award recognizes world leaders who embody the spirit and support the practices of sincere inter-religious encounters that can foster religious harmony and world peace.

Archbishop Sambì is widely regarded as one of the Vatican's most able leaders and diplomats. He was appointed in December 2005, by Pope Benedict XVI, as the Apostolic Nuncio (ambassador) to the United States, with concurrent responsibilities as Permanent Observer to the Organization of American States. As the Vatican ambassador to the U.S., he represents the pope to church leaders and government officials in the U.S.

Archbishop Sambì's appointment to the U.S. followed 36 years of Vatican diplomatic service, including posts in Cameroon, Jerusalem, Cuba, Algeria, Nicaragua, Belgium, India, Burundi, Indonesia, Israel and Cyprus. The Archbishop's tenure in Israel earned him a reputation among Jews, Christians and Muslims as a courageous and uncompromising voice for peace in the region. He personally



*Dr. Anthony J. Cernera, president of Sacred Heart University, presents the Nostra Aetate award to Mr. Gary Krupp, founder of the Pave the Way Foundation, at the Center for Christian-Jewish Understanding's annual Nostra Aetate event in New York City.*



negotiated an agreement between Palestinian militants and Israeli forces when the Basilica of the Nativity in Bethlehem had become the site of a standoff. He also worked to promote Jerusalem as a place that would safeguard the freedom of religion for all in Israel and worked to end the spread of anti-Semitic propaganda in Palestinian school textbooks.

"His work as a peacemaker for the three Abrahamic faiths has strengthened efforts by people of good will to secure safe and equitable coexistence for future generations," stated Rabbi Joseph H. Ehrenkranz, executive director of CCJU.

*Dr. Anthony J. Cernera, president of Sacred Heart University, presents the Nostra Aetate award to Archbishop Pietro Sambini, Apostolic Nuncio to the U.S. and Permanent Observer to the Organization of American States, at the Center for Christian-Jewish Understanding's annual Nostra Aetate event in New York City.*

Gary Krupp is a leader in the business of developing medical facilities whose dedicated humanitarian efforts include 18 years of gratis consulting that resulted in \$15 million worth of medical equipment donated to a hospital in Rome. In the year 2000, in recognition of his efforts on behalf of the Roman hospital, he was appointed a Knight of the Pontifical Equestrian Order of St. Gregory the Great, the highest honor bestowed by the Catholic Church to a layperson. Mr. Krupp was only the seventh Jewish man in history to receive this honor. That same year, he and his wife Meredith started the Pave the Way Foundation. Pave the Way advances the active reconciliation and mutual respect between Jews and Christians through meaningful symbolic gestures that uphold the dignity of all human life and cultures.

Among Pave the Way's main goals is fostering a strong partnership between the Holy See and the State of Israel. When negotiations relating to the Fundamental Agreement of 1993 became stalled and Israel withdrew from the negotiations, Mr. Krupp took on the role as a lead mediator and reached out to Israeli diplomats, Jewish philanthropic organizations and influential Jewish leaders to draw Israel back to the negotiation table. In 2002, Pave the Way undertook the Maimonides Project, an innovative cultural exchange that brought Jewish scholars to the Vatican Library to view the manuscripts of the revered medieval Rabbi and philosopher and was followed by a loan of the manuscripts to the Israeli Museum for the first time in history.

In November 2006, Pave the Way completed its most recent project in the acquisition of the earliest known manuscripts of the Gospels of St. John and St. Luke for permanent loan at the Vatican Library.

"The work that Gary and his wife, Meredith, accomplish through the Pave the Way Foundation, is inspirational and is a shining example of hope for a peaceful reconciliation between the children of Abraham and all religions of the world," said Rabbi Ehrenkranz.

Suzanne Newmark, president of Newmark Associates, Inc., in Whippany, New Jersey, CCJU Board member and chair of the 2006 CCJU *Nostra Aetate* Awards Ceremony, acted as emcee. The invocation was offered by Archbishop Celestino Migliore, Apostolic Nuncio and Permanent Observer of the Holy See to the United Nations. In his introduction of the award recipients, Dr. Anthony J. Cernera, president of Sacred Heart University, recalled the example of Pope John Paul II in his mission to move inter-religious dialogue to the front and center of Catholic life. "At the Pope's funeral in 2005," reflected Dr. Cernera, "the presence of Christian, Jewish and Muslim leaders gave visible expression to the unity-in-diversity that inter-religious dialogue seeks to share and deepen."



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**European News**

**Head of Interfaith Group Denounces Remarks**

Sunday, July 31, 2005 9:27:49 PM



ROME (AP) - The head of an interfaith group active in improving Catholic-Jewish relations said Sunday he wrote to Pope Benedict XVI to distance himself from Israeli remarks that fueled a dispute with the Vatican over papal pronouncements on terrorism.

Gary Krupp, president of the New York-based Pave the Way Foundation, said he had asked the pope to grant him and other Jewish leaders an audience to tell Benedict "that we do believe that the pope is enormously supportive of the Jewish people and the state of Israel."

The dispute erupted on July 25, when Israel summoned the Vatican envoy to complain that Benedict had deliberately excluded a July 12 suicide bombing in the Israeli city of Netanya when he listed countries recently hit by terrorist attacks. The pope included Egypt, Britain, Turkey and Iraq.

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## ZENIT - The World Seen From Rome

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**Code: ZE07012429**

**Date: 2007-01-24**

### **Ancient Papyrus Donated to the Vatican**

#### **Contains Parts of the Gospels of Luke and John**

VATICAN CITY, JAN. 24, 2007 ([Zenit.org](http://www.zenit.org)).- Benedict XVI received as a gift to the Holy See one of the most ancient manuscripts of the Gospels, an artifact that demonstrates Scripture's historical actuality.

The Pope was given the 14-15 Bodmer Papyrus (P75), dated between A.D. 175 and 225, on Monday by Frank Hanna and his family, of the United States.

"The papyrus contains about half of each of the Gospels of Luke and John. It was written in Egypt and perhaps used as a liturgical book," explained Cardinal Jean-Louis Tauran, archivist and librarian of the Holy Roman Church, during the audience.

The manuscript previously belonged to the library of the Bodmer Foundation in Cologne, Switzerland, and is now in the Vatican Apostolic Library.

"The Pope's library possesses the most ancient testimony of the Gospel of Luke and among the most ancient of the Gospel of John," added the cardinal.

The Bodmer Papyrus contains 144 pages and is the oldest manuscript that contains the text of the two Gospels in one papyrus.

#### The Lord's Prayer

L'Osservatore Romano commented that "almost certainly it was destined for a small community, a Greek-speaking Egyptian 'parish' that, as is habitual in all Christian liturgies, read the Gospel during the Eucharistic celebration."

The oldest transcription of the Our Father, as recounted by Luke, is found in this papyrus.

Participants in the meeting explained that experts see the joining of Luke and John in one papyrus as a demonstration that for the first Christians communities, the Gospels formed a unity.

The document agrees with the Codex Vaticanus, a fourth-century edition of the Bible. The Bodmer Papyrus demonstrates, therefore, that the oldest versions of the New Testament that are preserved in their totality correspond with the Gospels that already circulated among the Christian communities centuries earlier.

Cardinal Tarcisio Bertone, Vatican secretary of state, Bishop Raffaele Farina, prefect of the



Nella Biblioteca Privata del Palazzo Apostolico

## Benedetto XVI riceve in dono un antichissimo manoscritto con il testo dei Vangeli di Luca e di Giovanni

Benedetto XVI ha ricevuto in udienza il Cardinale Jean-Louis Tauran, Archivista e Bibliotecario di Santa Romana Chiesa, insieme con il Vescovo Raffaele Farina, Prefetto della Biblioteca Apostolica Vaticana, e Seguito, che gli hanno presentato il Papiro Bodmer 14-15, offerto alla Biblioteca Apostolica Vaticana il 22 novembre 2006. Si tratta di un antichissimo manoscritto, copiato agli inizi del III secolo, che contiene il testo dei Vangeli di Luca e di Giovanni. Il manoscritto, precedentemente appartenuto alla Fondazione Bodmer di Colonia, nei pressi di Ginevra, è uno dei più importanti testimoni del testo del Nuovo Testamento, di immenso valore critico e storico. All'udienza erano presenti il Cardinale Tarcisio Bertone, Segretario di Stato, il dott. Carlo Ambrogio Maria Piazzoni, Vice Prefetto della Biblioteca Apostolica Vaticana, il donatore Frank Hanna ed altre persone che hanno consentito l'arrivo del Papiro alla Biblioteca Vaticana. In apertura di udienza il Cardinale Tauran ha rivolto al Santo Padre queste parole di saluto e di presentazione del manoscritto: *Most Holy Father, This past November 22, your Library was enriched by a most precious papyrus, the Bodmer Papyrus XIV-XV, which can be dated to the beginning of the third century. Your Holiness will be able to appreciate the two leaves that we brought with us this morning for this purpose. The Papyrus contains about half of each of the Gospels of Luke and John. It was written in Egypt and perhaps used as a liturgical book. Thus, besides the two letters of Saint Peter from the same Bodmer Collection, with this new precious papyrus, the Library of the Pope possesses the most ancient witness of the Gospel of Luke and among the*



*most ancient of the Gospel of John. This exceptional acquisition is due to all the friends who are in front of Your Holiness this morning, in particular a well-deserving American Catholic family, whose generosity was decisive in the success of the undertaking. The Prefect of the Vatican Library, Bishop Raffaele Farina, and I wish also to express publicly our profound recognition to Cardinal Secretary of State, Tarcisio Bertone, whose availability and understanding have helped to smooth out many difficulties. Finally, a word of commendation goes also to the personnel of the Vatican Library, who spared neither time nor effort. But in order for our joy to be complete, there is only one thing lacking: that Your Holiness come in person to the Library, to meditate, if I may say so, in front of that which can be considered*

*a true relic, given that «the Church has always venerated the Divine Scriptures just as she venerates the Body of the Lord», as we read in the Dogmatic Constitution Dei Verbum of the Second Vatican Council (no. 21). In joyful expectation of your visit, we dare to ask Your Holiness for the Apostolic Blessing on all of us.*

Benedetto XVI, in lingua inglese, ha risposto alle parole del Cardinale ringraziando lui e il donatore per il significativo dono. Un esperto ha spiegato al Santo Padre il contenuto di alcuni fogli. A Benedetto XVI è stata consegnata, a ricordo della visita, anche una statuina in argento che ricorda la sosta di preghiera di Giovanni Paolo II davanti al Muro Occidentale di Gerusalemme durante il pellegrinaggio giubilare in Terra Santa. A tutti i partecipanti il Papa ha donato medaglie del Pontificato.

[Jean-Baptiste Echivard: Introduction à la philosophe : St Thomas commente Aristote](#)

[« Le Grand Silence .... par Marie-Françoise Béal critique littéraire | Accueil](#)

**01 février 2007**

## **Ancient Papyrus Donated to the Vatican**

### **Ancient Papyrus Donated to the Vatican**

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The document agrees with the Codex Vaticanus, a fourth-century edition of the Bible. The Bodmer

**Friday, January 26, 2007**

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## **Bodmer Gospels Given to Vatican**

There was controversy when the Bodmer Foundation [wanted to sell](#) two of the oldest extant gospels.

The good news is that an American bought them, and donated them to the Vatican.

### [Ancient Papyrus Donated to the Vatican](#)

### [Contains Parts of the Gospels of Luke and John](#)

VATICAN CITY, JAN. 24, 2007 (Zenit.org).- Benedict XVI received as a gift to the Holy See one of the most ancient manuscripts of the Gospels, an artifact that demonstrates Scripture's historical actuality.

The Pope was given the 14-15 Bodmer Papyrus (P75), dated between A.D. 175 and 225, on Monday by Frank Hanna and his family, of the United States.

"The papyrus contains about half of each of the Gospels of Luke and John. It was written in Egypt and perhaps used as a liturgical book," explained Cardinal Jean-Louis Tauran, archivist and librarian of the Holy Roman Church, during the audience.

The manuscript previously belonged to the library of the Bodmer Foundation in Cologny, Switzerland, and is now in the Vatican Apostolic Library.

"The Pope's library possesses the most ancient testimony of the Gospel of Luke and among the most ancient of the Gospel of John," added the cardinal.

The Bodmer Papyrus contains 144 pages and is the oldest manuscript that contains the text of the two Gospels in one papyrus.

## The Lord's Prayer

L'Osservatore Romano commented that "almost certainly it was destined for a small community, a Greek-speaking Egyptian 'parish' that, as is habitual in all Christian liturgies, read the Gospel during the Eucharistic celebration."

The oldest transcription of the Our Father, as recounted by Luke, is found in this papyrus.

Participants in the meeting explained that experts see the joining of Luke and John in one papyrus as a demonstration that for the first Christians communities, the Gospels formed a unity.

The document agrees with the Codex Vaticanus, a fourth-century edition of the Bible. The Bodmer Papyrus demonstrates, therefore, that the oldest versions of the New Testament that are preserved in their totality correspond with the Gospels that already circulated among the Christian communities centuries earlier.

Cardinal Tarcisio Bertone, Vatican secretary of state, Bishop Raffaele Farina, prefect of the Vatican Library, and Gary Krupp, founder of the Pave the Way Foundation, which worked to bring about this gift, were present when the papyrus was donated to the Vatican.

By Dorothy King at [3:17 PM](#) Themes: [Christianity](#), [papyri](#), [Vatican](#) \_\_

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# Una storia lunga diciotto secoli: il Papiro Bodmer 14-15 (P<sup>75</sup>) arriva alla Biblioteca Apostolica Vaticana

**Due date.**  
30 aprile 1451: il Papa Nicolò V istituisce con breve una biblioteca «pro communione dicentium virorum commoda» (per facilitare le ricerche degli studiosi). Nasce così l'attuale Biblioteca Apostolica Vaticana.

22 novembre 2006: il Papiro Bodmer 14-15, donato a Sua Santità Benedetto XVI dalla generosità della Nelly and Frank Hanna Family Foundation e della Solidarity Association (U.S.A.), nonché del *Mater Verbi/Hanna Papyrus Trust*, viene depositato nella Biblioteca Apostolica Vaticana.  
Durante i cinque secoli e mezzo che separano queste due date, pur attraverso varie vicissitudini, come le peripezie provocate dal lacedaemonico in occasione del sacco di Roma (1527) o dal trasferimento dei manoscritti a Parigi in età napoleonica, la Biblioteca Apostolica Vaticana è rimasta fedele al mandato ricevuto di arricchire, custodire e preservare con ogni cura «i tesori culturali ad essa affidati e di metterli a disposizione di studiosi qualificati».

Nel frattempo, il migliaio di manoscritti iniziali è diventato, in termini numerici, 150.000, a essi si affiancano 300.000 tra monete e medaglie, oltre centomila stampe e una importante collezione di stampati antichi. Tra i manoscritti inaugurati delle culture attualmente depositate nella Biblioteca Vaticana si possono menzionare, nel versante classico, il *palimpsesto del De Respublica* di Cicerone (Vat. lat. 5275), il *Vergilio* vaticano (Vat. lat. 3225), il *Vergilio romano* (Vat. lat. 3867), il *Terenzio vaticano* (Vat. lat. 3868), manoscritti importanti di Platone (Vat. lat. di Platone gr. 1112 e di *de Tolemaeo* (Vat. gr. 1291), per non parlare del preziosissimo frammento palimpsesto di Menandro scoperto da pochi anni nel Vat. lat. 3855. Fra i manoscritti biblici si annoverano il più antico testamento noto delle due lettere di S. Pietro (Papiro Bodmer 5), il cosiddetto «codice» delle due epistole di S. Paolo (Vat. gr. 1209) e il «codice» *Claramontense* (Vat. lat. 7221) o anche uno dei più antichi manoscritti palimpsesti di S. Giustino (Vat. gr. 2907). Tra le scritture inferiori del Vat. gr. 2014 e del Vat. gr. 2306 sono stati identificati frammenti di un antico manoscritto dei Vangeli, del V secolo, di uno Strabone del IV secolo e della più antica raccolta giudeica greca (VI-VII secolo). Celebri per le loro minuziose note il «*Menologio di Basilio*» (Vat. gr. 1015), la «*Bibbia armena*» (Vat. lat. 2), la «*Bibbia di Bebello*» (Vat. lat. 613), due manoscritti datati, il «*Dante Ubbinate*» (Vat. lat. 2053) e porzioni della *Divina Commedia* illustrata da Botticelli (Reg. lat. 1946), e il *Omelia di Giacomo Monaco* (Vatic gr. 182). Senza dimenticare poi il più antico manoscritto liturgico greco, il cosiddetto «*Evangelio Barberini*» (Vat. lat. 386), l'antica testazione superlativa della liturgia «parrocchiale» romana, il *Sacramentario giesiano* (Vat. lat. 316), uno dei più antichi manoscritti cartacei da *Dottrina* del *Papirone* del Vat. gr. 2201, o il misterioso *Rotolo di Giuda* (Pal. gr. 473), a cui si affiancano, ad esempio, il Vat. lat. 3716, il *proverbiale* dallo scriba di Cassiodoro (VI secolo) o uno dei pochi frammenti superlativi della *Stesicrate*, cioè la tradizione agiografica di un commento greco a Giovanni (Vat. lat. 2736).

Ebbene, a questa lista, che dovrebbe concludersi con un lunghissimo eccetera (1), si è aggiunto da poco un racconto degli avvenimenti successivi tra di noi, come se il baratro trascorso collettivo che fu nostro testimone fin da Petri fino a Paolo (Lc. 1, 1-2). Nascono così, negli ultimi anni del primo secolo, i Vangeli (i quattro Vangeli canonici, beninteso, ma anche altri testi analoghi, di cui sussistono soltanto frammenti).

La tradizione antica e la critica moderna sono unite in un punto: i quattro Vangeli canonici sono stati composti in luoghi e circostanze diverse e sono stati riuniti in un unico corpus in qualche momento del II secolo. Le prime avvisaglie di ciò che poi sarebbe diventato il Nuovo Testamento sono invece antiche: negli anni tra il 95 e il 98, la Chiesa di Roma inviò alla Chiesa di Corinto una lettera, nota come la *Prima lettera di Clemente*, in cui si accenna alle lettere di san Paolo ai Corinzi in una maniera che ribadisce il loro valore normativo e pubblico, il pubblico così che venivano letti nelle assemblee liturgiche. Successivamente, verso la metà del II secolo, san Giustino martire precisa che durante la *Celebrazione Eucaristica* si leggevano le memorie degli apostoli e gli scritti dei profeti (I *Apologia* 67, 3). Il termine «canonico», a prima vista eremitico, si chiarisce analizzando le opere di san Giustino, che li utilizza in un senso per introdurre nuovi tratti del Vangelo o da traduzioni evangeliche. Poiché in uno scritto come l'*Apologia*, indirizzato a un pubblico pagano, la parola «Vangelo», vale a dire «Buona Novella», sarebbe stata semplicemente incomprensibile, san Giustino aveva preferito spiegare su una designazione ben attestata nella tradizione classica.

Pochi anni dopo, prima della fine del II secolo, sant'Ireneo Vescovo di Lione e martire afferma in un celebre passo che «Poiché il mondo ha quattro regioni e quattro sono i venti principali (...) il Verbo eterno di ogni cosa (...) rivelò agli uomini, e fu dato un Vangelo quadruplice, ma unito da un unico Spirito (...) quello secondo Giovanni (...), quello secondo Luca (...), quello secondo Matteo (...), quello secondo Marco (...)». Quadruplici e il Vangelo, e le anche *Fazione del Signore*. Per questa ragione sono state date quattro alleanze generali al genere umano («*Contro le eretiche III*», 8). In poche parole,

il Papiro Bodmer XIV-XV, arrivato nella Biblioteca Apostolica Vaticana il 22 novembre 2006, è stato recentemente acquistato e, nel corso dell'Udienza del 22 gennaio, ufficialmente presentato e donato al Santo Padre dal Sig. Frank J. Hanna III.  
Frank J. Hanna III risiede con la sua famiglia ad Atlanta, U.S.A.; è operatore finanziario e si occupa prevalentemente di servizi o gestione di informazioni economiche.

Da più di vent'anni ha operato in campo educativo, contribuendo alla fondazione di tre nuove scuole cattoliche ad Atlanta, compresa la «Solidarity School» per gli immigrati di lingua spagnola. In particolare è impegnato nel servizio ai poveri, ai bambini, alla Chiesa e nella pubblicazione e diffusione di ricerche che possano migliorare e rendere più efficace un tale servizio. Con frequenza tiene conferenze su problemi di fede, nel convincimento che anche chi si occupa di affari non può prescindere da un credo religioso.  
Sua moglie Sally Rodgers condivide con il marito l'impegno educativo, partecipando a varie attività presso la «Holy Spirit Preparatory School» e la «Solidarity School». La sua preparazione accademica l'ha spinta a promuovere, sempre in funzione educativa, iniziative culturali che fanno riferimento a varie istituzioni, come l'«Atlanta History Center», il «High Museum of Art» e l'«Atlanta Symphony Committee».

Frank e Sally Hanna sono naturalmente presenti e attivi, insieme alla figlia Elizabeth, soprattutto nella loro parrocchia, la «Holy Spirit Catholic Church» di Atlanta.

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## Il «corpus» dei Vangeli

Il passo di sant'Ireneo cita sulla forma concreta sotto la quale si presentava questo corpus dei quattro Vangeli. Su questo punto, la testimonianza del Papiro Bodmer 14-15, scritto nei primi anni del III secolo, è fondamentale: si tratta del più antico manoscritto che contiene due Vangeli e questo fatto indica, come si vedrà, che ormai i quattro Vangeli circolavano insieme.  
Quest'ultima affermazione diventa convincente soltanto se si coniene un solo adattare, verso il primo secolo, negli ambienti greci-romani, i testi originali, venivano trascritti esclusivamente su rotoli di papiro, mentre gli inflessi (contati, appunto, riciclati...) si trasformavano su altri tipi di supporti, come tavolette di cera o frammenti di ceramica (ostraca). Durante il primo secolo di C. diventano comuni i «distrucati», composti di fogli srotolati, piegati e uniti insieme da una cartuccia o da uno spago. Questi manufatti, di origine pagana, vengono molto presto adottati dai cristiani, come si apprende da un frammento di un'epistola di san Paolo a Timoteo di non dimenticare il quaderno, cioè degli appunti (2 *Tim* 4, 13). Questo modo formato, in un unico quaderno, aveva enormi vantaggi rispetto al rotolo tradizionale: reagiva capocità unita a minore ingombro e a costi più contenuti, e, nel contempo, agevolava la consultazione e la lettura in un luogo determinato, tutti fattori importanti per la lettura pubblica durante le celebrazioni liturgiche.

Il Papiro Bodmer 14-15, formato in origine da 36 fogli sovrapposti per un totale di 144 pagine, e il più antico rotolo che contiene insieme il testo di due Vangeli, quello di Luca e quello di Giovanni. Ma perché, e si potrà chiedere, non il contenuto tutti e quattro? Il testo di P<sup>75</sup> ha una particolarità: una nuova tecnica che, pur avendo una capacità praticamente doppia rispetto al rotolo classico di un papiro, costituiva ancora una struttura fragile che tendeva inevitabilmente a spezzarsi lungo la piega, soprattutto se il manoscritto era di fogli utilizzati sopra la cinquantina. Un codice di questo tipo poteva, cioè, contenere poco più di due Vangeli. Ma poiché tutte le liste dei Vangeli cominciano da Matteo (Lc. 2296), e il codice Sinaitico di Mosca, si può sospettare che insieme al papiro superlativo, sia stato confezionato anche un altro rotolo, ormai del tutto perduto, che riportava gli altri due Vangeli canonici, quello di Matteo e quello di Marco.

Un manoscritto liturgico  
Perché è stato coniato il Papiro Bodmer 14-15? La fattura modesta del codice, evidenzia, dalla scoperta di questo tipo di manoscritti, un uso sprecato spazio che dimostrava i margini, molto contenuti, e la mancanza di decorazioni, ben si concilia con un uso pratico. Il manoscritto era quasi sicuramente destinato a una piccola comunità, una «parrocchia» egizia di lingua greca che, come è abituale in tutte le liturgie

cristiane, leggeva il Vangelo durante la *Celebrazione Eucaristica*.

Ma, ben presto, questo uso fu limitato per distinguere la fragile struttura dal papiro, che ha cominciato, forse nel giro di un secolo, a perdere fogli, per lo più che attualmente contiene circa la metà del testo dei due Vangeli. Così si poteva fare allora con un manoscritto diventato dal tutto inutilizzabile, ma che conteneva il testo sacro per eccellenza, i Vangeli? Conspicua, verso il fine dell'antichità del codice, qualcuno ha preso una decisione estrema: dare una modesta leghatura che è stata rafforzata formandosi un «cartongio» cono rosti del primo e degli ultimi fogli superlativi. In queste condizioni, inutilizzabile come libro, ma, come dimostrano esempi analoghi, probabilmente venivano usati tal quale, il papiro è stato conservato, forse a partire dal V secolo, nella biblioteca di un monastero pacomiano del Medio Egitto.

Poi tardi, di fronte a un pericolo indenne, probabilmente l'invasione araba dell'Egitto, è stato nascosto attorno all'anno 700 in un luogo che fu tenuto segreto fino al secolo del Nilo e lì ha atteso pazientemente, assieme a una quarantina di altri volumi greci e copti, cofanetti opere sacre e profane e papiri documentari, al essere scoperto attorno al 1892 dagli abitanti di un villaggio vicino.

## Il viaggio verso Ginevra

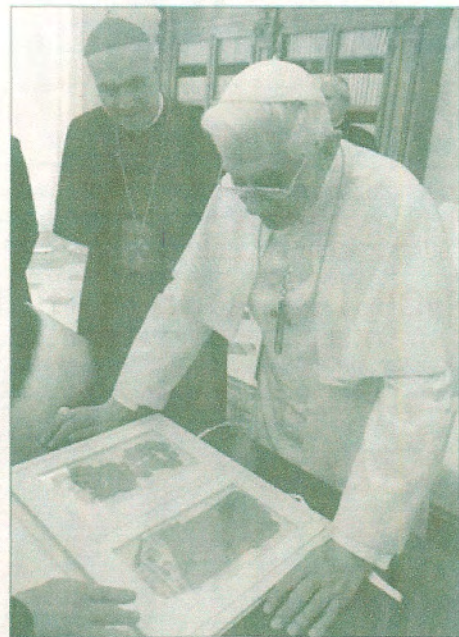
Attraverso un itinerario labirintico, ma di cui è stato possibile ricostruire le principali tappe, i manoscritti sono stati esportati dall'Egitto negli anni 1935-36. In occasione sono stati acquistati da un certo studioso di lingua greca, di nome B. P. Ma, e di lui, si tratta di un uomo di cui la parte del leone Thoma Vangeli e le raccolte dello svizzero Martin Bodmer, la cui biblioteca si trova a Coligny, nella Svizzera francese, e dell'olandese Sir Alfred Chester Beatty, fondatore dell'omonima biblioteca a Dublino. Altri volumi sono attualmente dispersi in varie raccolte di collezionisti e private. L'attribuzione della scoperta, avvenuta negli ultimi anni '50, provoca una certa sensazione negli ambienti specialistici, in quanto riguarda dal fatto che nei precedenti decenni, la ricerca egiziana aveva riservato altri due gruppi consistenti di manoscritti vinculati con il cristianesimo: nel 1930 erano stati scoperti a Medinet Habu alcuni codici copti prodotti dai manichei e nel 1948 era stata ritrovata la biblioteca giudeica di Nag Hammadi, un gruppo di manoscritti copti, di cui il più importante è il *Vangelo di Tommaso*, un'opera definita «trifalange» come «il quinto Vangelo» dai mezzi di comunicazione dell'epoca.

## Una svolta nella storia del testo dei Vangeli

Dietro iniziativa della Fondazione Bodmer, la trascrizione del testo del Papiro Bodmer 14-15 è stata pubblicata insieme a un fascicolo nel 1961. Secondo quanto ha scritto il Prof. G. Zuntz, il papiro ha ricevuto una sigla ufficiale nella lista dei testimoni greci del Nuovo Testamento e negli anni '70, le opinioni critiche dei Vangeli si fondavano in larga misura su due manoscritti greci scritti in una minuscola nel IV secolo: il cosiddetto «codice B», custodito dalla Biblioteca Vaticana (Vat. lat. 3296), e il codice Sinaitico di Mosca (British Library, Add. 4722, codice «S»), proveniente dal Monastero di Santa Caterina, ormai del tutto perduto, che riportava gli altri due Vangeli canonici, quello di Matteo e quello di Marco.

Un'analisi spassionata del testo di P<sup>75</sup> ha però dimostrato che conformare la sua importanza fondamentale per la storia del testo dei Vangeli. E qui è necessaria una precisazione: questo manoscritto non è un solo rotolo, ma un fascicolo di 36 fogli sovrapposti, di cui il primo è un foglio di papiro, il resto è un manoscritto in carta. Prima della scoperta dei papiri neo-testamentari, che nel 2006 sono ormai diventati 118, le opinioni critiche dei Vangeli si fondavano in larga misura su due manoscritti greci scritti in una minuscola nel IV secolo: il cosiddetto «codice B», custodito dalla Biblioteca Vaticana (Vat. lat. 3296), e il codice Sinaitico di Mosca (British Library, Add. 4722, codice «S»), proveniente dal Monastero di Santa Caterina, ormai del tutto perduto, che riportava gli altri due Vangeli canonici, quello di Matteo e quello di Marco.

Perché è stato coniato il Papiro Bodmer 14-15? La fattura modesta del codice, evidenzia, dalla scoperta di questo tipo di manoscritti, un uso sprecato spazio che dimostrava i margini, molto contenuti, e la mancanza di decorazioni, ben si concilia con un uso pratico. Il manoscritto era quasi sicuramente destinato a una piccola comunità, una «parrocchia» egizia di lingua greca che, come è abituale in tutte le liturgie



Il Santo Padre con accanto il Segretario di Stato esamina un foglio e alcuni frammenti del Papiro

## Un testimone egiziano

Ma è proprio sicuro che P<sup>75</sup> sia stato prodotto in Egitto? La risposta è certamente affermativa. Sebbene conosciuti in parte il testo dei grandi manoscritti post-romani del IV secolo, P<sup>75</sup> presenta alcune piccole varianti che lo appartengono indubbiamente alla tradizione egiziana, rappresentata dalle tradizioni copte. Ad esempio, nella parabola del ricco e di Lazzaro (Lc. 16, 19-31) l'unico testimone greco che indica che il ricco si chiamava Ananias in Gt. 10, 7, invece di scrivere, «lo sono la parca delle pecore», il papiro riporta la variante «lo sono il pastore». Entrambe le lezioni sono quasi esclusive della tradizione copta.

Questo fatto consente di precisare qualche particolare della confezione di P<sup>75</sup>, e, al tempo stesso, di intravedere all'urto della legge che lo separano dagli originali dei due Vangeli. Attualmente, il papiro viene fatto risalire al primo quarto del II secolo; questa datazione è affidata ad argomenti di paleografia che, dotate cioè della scrittura impaginata dalla scrittura professionistica che l'ha segnata. Tuttavia, come spesso succede in casi analoghi, si tratta soltanto di una congettura, che attende di essere confermata dalla scoperta di rotoli simili, poiché la già menzionata tecnica codicologica del quaderno unico in Egitto è stata usata per manoscritti post-romani fino alla fine del IV secolo, e che la data più probabile di alcuni dei manoscritti di Nag Hammadi.

Ma cosa si oppone a proporre una data più alta e collocare il papiro nel pieno II secolo, come è stato proposto talvolta? La storia stessa del testo dei due Vangeli rappresenta probabilmente un ostacolo insuperabile. Come si è già detto, il papiro presenta delle varianti che indicano che è stato trascritto da un modello egiziano. Questo secondo codice, a sua volta, deve essere stato copiato

da un più antico manoscritto dei due Vangeli che non aveva ancora quelle varianti caratteristiche. Ma, a sua volta, questo terzo codice, probabilmente copiato fuori dall'Egitto, dipendeva non dagli originali perduti dei due Vangeli, bensì da una raccolta dei quattro Vangeli canonici, che deve essere formata non prima della metà del II secolo (presumibilmente si tratta dello stesso modello dal quale dipendeva, attraverso un'altra fonte, i già menzionati manoscritti copti), come quella in cui P<sup>75</sup> è stato utilizzato da una società cristiana cristiana.

## Il mistero dei frammenti nuovi

La ricerca su un manoscritto antico non può mai dirsi conclusa. Costantemente emergono fatti nuovi che confermano o smentiscono le ipotesi degli studiosi. Ma nel caso di P<sup>75</sup> è successo un fatto che non è casuale o sfuggito all'occhio. Il volume prodotto nel 1961 sotto gli auspici della Fondazione Bodmer si poteva intendere che tutti i frammenti del papiro fossero stati pubblicati nel fascicolo e trascritti.

Quando però il manoscritto è stato consegnato alla Biblioteca Vaticana, è emerso immediatamente, da una sommara ricognizione, che la situazione attuale del papiro non è identica a quella descritta dai fascicoli: alcuni frammenti del foglio estremo sono stati recuperati da un restano parziale del cartongio assieme dopo la pubblicazione del 1961 e una trentina di frammenti sconosciuti, come identificati, mentre alcuni frammenti nuovi, di cui alcuni non piccolissimi, risultano non identificati.

Ricerche successive hanno dimostrato che almeno un frammento non riprodotto nel fascicolo era già noto attorno al 1971. Certamente P<sup>75</sup>, che era ripreso nella *Reserva* del Deposito dei manoscritti della Biblioteca Vaticana assieme a un suo compagno di vicinissimi, il Papiro Bodmer 8 (P<sup>76</sup>), cioè il più antico testimone delle Lettere di San Pietro, e al più antico testimone della tradizione copta dei Profeti minori, un altro rotolo che probabilmente è stato ritrovato nelle stesse circostanze (Vat. Vat. copt. 9), non ha ancora svelato tutti i suoi segreti.

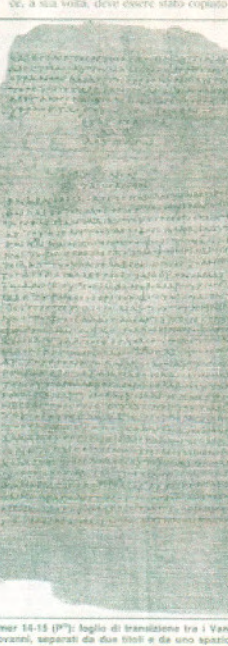


SEVER J. VOUCU

1) A dire il vero, la Biblioteca Vaticana ha anche una discreta fiana dovuta a manoscritti che non possiede e non sono mai esistiti. Tra le richieste di informazioni si trovano domande sui decreti del Santo Romano Relativo al processo di Gesù di Gerusalemme, di cui si tratta di rincontri medievali donati da un apostrofo antico, gli anni Plauti o ad Nicomachion, una sorta di silber dell'Addala che lo scrittore statunitense H.P. Lovecraft aveva indicato come la presunta fonte dei suoi racconti «gotici». Adirittura l'attore di un accordo moderno sostiene di averlo trascritto da un manoscritto sepolto in un luogo sconosciuto, non mai posseduto dalla Biblioteca.



Papiro Bodmer 14-15 (P<sup>75</sup>): foglio contenente un passo del Vangelo di Luca. La freccia indica un frammento finora sconosciuto



Papiro Bodmer 14-15 (P<sup>75</sup>): foglio di transizione tra i Vangeli di Luca e di Giovanni, separati da due titoli e da uno spazio bianco



## HISTORY BECOMES REALITY

## Bodmer Papyrus 14-15 arrives at the Vatican

Sever Juan Voicu

*Scriptor Graecus, Vatican Apostolic Library*

Two dates: on 30 April 1451, Pope Nicholas V established with a Brief a library "*pro communi doctorum virorum commodo*" (to facilitate the research of scholars). Thus, today's Vatican Apostolic Library came into being.

On 22 November 2006 the *Bodmer Papyrus 14-15*, generously donated to His Holiness Benedict XVI by the *Sally and Frank Hanna Family Foundation* and the *Solidarity Association (U.S.A.)*, and the *Mater Verbi/Hanna Papyrus Trust*, was deposited in the Vatican Apostolic Library.

During the five and a half centuries between these two dates, despite various adversities, such as the losses occasioned by the Lansquenets during the Sack of Rome (1527) and the transfer of manuscripts to Paris in the Napoleonic period, the Vatican Apostolic Library was faithful to the mandate it had received to enrich, safeguard and preserve with the proper care the cultural treasures entrusted to it and to make them available to qualified scholars.

In the meantime, the 1,000 early manuscripts have become 150,000. There are also 300,000 coins and medals, as well as 100,000 prints and an important collection of ancient engravings.

Today, the momentous cultural items that are kept in the Vatican Library include, in the classical sector, the palimpsest of Cicero's *De Republica* (*Vat. lat. 5757*), the Vatican Virgil (*Vat. lat. 3225*), the Roman Virgil (*Vat. lat. 3867*), the Vatican Terence (*Vat. lat. 3868*), important manuscripts of Plato (*Vat. gr. 1*) and Pindar (*Vat. gr. 1312*).

**The Bodmer Papyrus XIV-XV, which had been purchased for the Vatican Apostolic Library recently, was officially presented and donated to the Holy Father by Mr Frank J. Hanna III, on 22 January.**

**Frank J. Hanna III, who lives with his family in Atlanta, U.S.A., is a financial advisor whose work involves the services and management of financial information.**

**For more than 20 years he has worked in the education sector, contributing to the foundation of three new Catholic schools in Atlanta, including the "Solidarity School" for Spanish-speaking immigrants. He is particularly involved in service to the poor, to children, to the Church and to the publication and dissemination of research that can improve this service and make it more effective. He frequently lectures on matters of faith, in the conviction that even those concerned with business cannot do without a religious belief.**

**Sally Rodgers, his wife, shares her husband's commitment to education and takes part in various activities at the "Holy Spirit Preparatory School" and the "Solidarity School". Her academic training and interest in education prompted her to promote cultural initiatives in connection with various institutions such as the "Atlanta History Center", the "High Museum of Art" and the "Atlanta Symphony Committee".**

**Frank and Sally Hanna, together with their daughter Elisabeth, play an active part in their Atlanta Parish of the "Holy Spirit Catholic Church".**

Among the biblical manuscripts are listed the oldest known example of St Peter's two Letters (*Papyrus Bodmer 8*), the so-called "Codex B", one of the two surviving fourth-century Bibles (*Vat. gr. 1209*), the "Codex Claromontanus" (*Vat. lat. 7223*) and one of the oldest known Palaeo-Slav manuscripts (*Vat. gr. 2502*). Fragments of an ancient Gospel manuscript (fifth century), of a manuscript of Strabo (fourth century) and of the oldest Greek juridical collection (sixth to seventh century) have been identified between the lower lines of writing in *Vat. gr. 2061A* and *Vat. gr. 2306*.

Famous for their miniatures are the "Menologion of Basil" (*Vat. gr. 1613*), the "Urbinate Bible" (*Urb. lat. 1-2*), the "Belbello Bible". (*Barb. lat. 613*). two

the papyrus, it might be useful to mention the historical context in which it was produced.

Shortly after the middle of the first century, as the first disciples of Jesus were departing this life, the need "to compile a narrative of the things which have been accomplished among us, just as they were delivered to us by those who from the beginning were eyewitnesses" (Lk 1:1-2), was making itself felt in Christian communities.

Consequently, in the last years of the first century, the Gospels came into being (the four canonical Gospels, of course, but also other similar texts of which only fragments have survived).

The ancient tradition and modern criticism agree unanimously on one point: the four canonical Gospels were com-

fall back on a designation widely attested to in the classical tradition.

A few years later, before the end of the second century, St Irenaeus, Bishop of Lyons and a martyr, said in a famous passage: "Since there are four zones of the world in which we live, and four principal winds... the Word, the Artificer of all things... who was manifested to men, has given us the Gospel under four aspects, but bound together by one Spirit... the Gospel according to John... that according to Luke... that according to Matthew... that according to Mark... The Gospel is quadriform, as is also the course followed by the Lord. For this reason were four principal covenants given to the human race..." (cf. *Adversus Haereses*, Book III, Chap. 11, 8).

In short, the Bishop of Lyons held that there were four canonical Gospels and that there could be no fewer and no more.

## The 'corpus' of the Gospels

The passage from St Irenaeus makes no mention of the actual form in which this canon of the four Gospels was presented. On this point, the testimony of the *Bodmer Papyrus 14-15*, written in the first years of the third century, is fundamental: it is the oldest manuscript extant that contains two Gospels; this implies that after this period, as will be seen, the four Gospels were circulated together.

This affirmation becomes understandable only if one takes a step back in time to the classical world. In Greek and Roman milieus, formal texts were exclusively transmitted on papyrus scrolls whereas informal texts (accounts, notes, receipts...) were transcribed on other types of support such

1291), not to mention the extremely precious fragment of a palimpsest of Menander, discovered a few years ago in *Vat. sir. 623*.

Dante" (*Urb. lat. 365*) and parts of the Divine Comedy illustrated by Botticelli (*Reg. lat. 1896*), as well as the Homilies of Giacomo Monaco (*Vatic. gr. 1162*).

Nor should we forget the oldest Greek liturgical manuscript, the so-called "Barberini Euchologion" (*Barb. gr. 336*), the only surviving example of Roman "parish" liturgy, the Gelasian Sacramentary (*Reg. lat. 316*), one of the most ancient paper manuscripts (the *Doctrina Patrum* of *Vat. gr. 2200*), the mysterious *Joshua Roll* (*Pal. gr. 431*), alongside, for example, *Vat. lat. 5704*, which comes from the *scriptorium* of Cassiodorus (sixth century), and one of the few surviving fragments of the *Skeireins*, that is, the Gothic translation of a Greek commentary on John (*Vat. lat. 5704*).

Well, to this list that should have ended with an extremely long etcetera, there is a most valuable recent addition. This treasure is the *Bodmer Papyrus 14-15* which contains the Gospels of Luke and John and is the subject of a fascinating event.

### Antecedents

To understand the exceptional nature of

stances" gathered in a single *corpus* at some point in the second century. The first glimmerings of what was later to become the New Testament are very old.

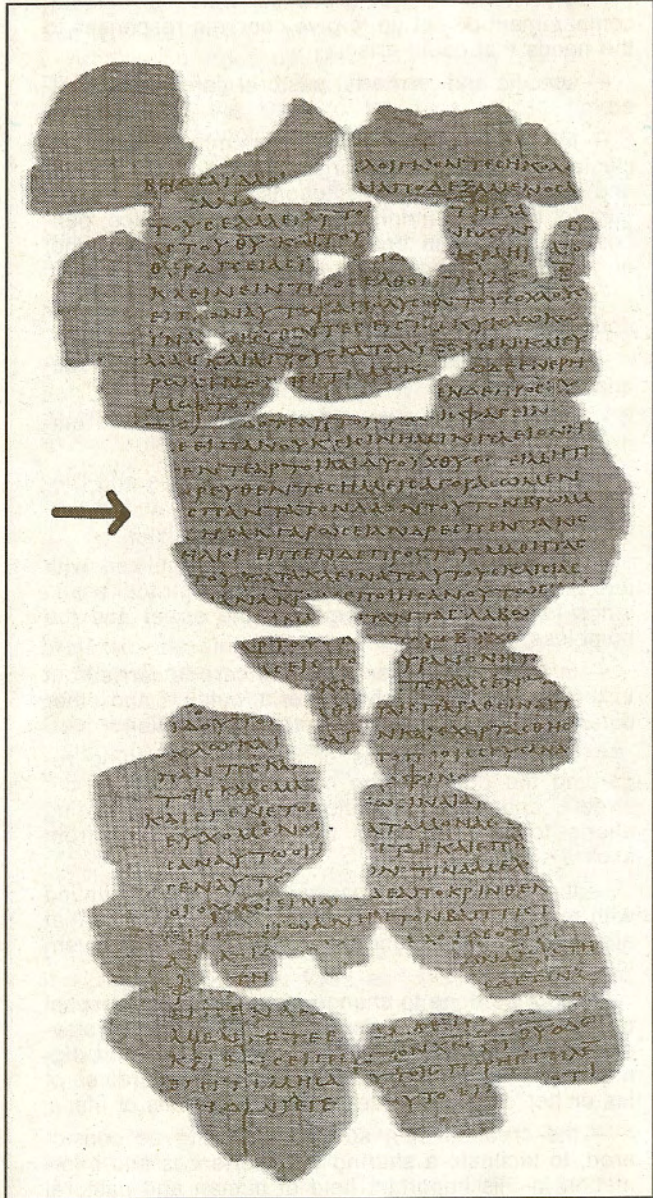
In the years between 95 and 98, the Church of Rome sent a letter to the Church of Corinth, known as the *First Letter of Clement*. It refers to St Paul's Letters to the Corinthians, in a way that asserted their normative and public value, thereby implying that they were read at liturgical assemblies.

Subsequently, toward the middle of the second century, St Justin Martyr explained that "the memoirs of the Apostles and the writings of the Prophets" were read (*1 Apologia*, 67, 3) at Eucharistic celebrations.

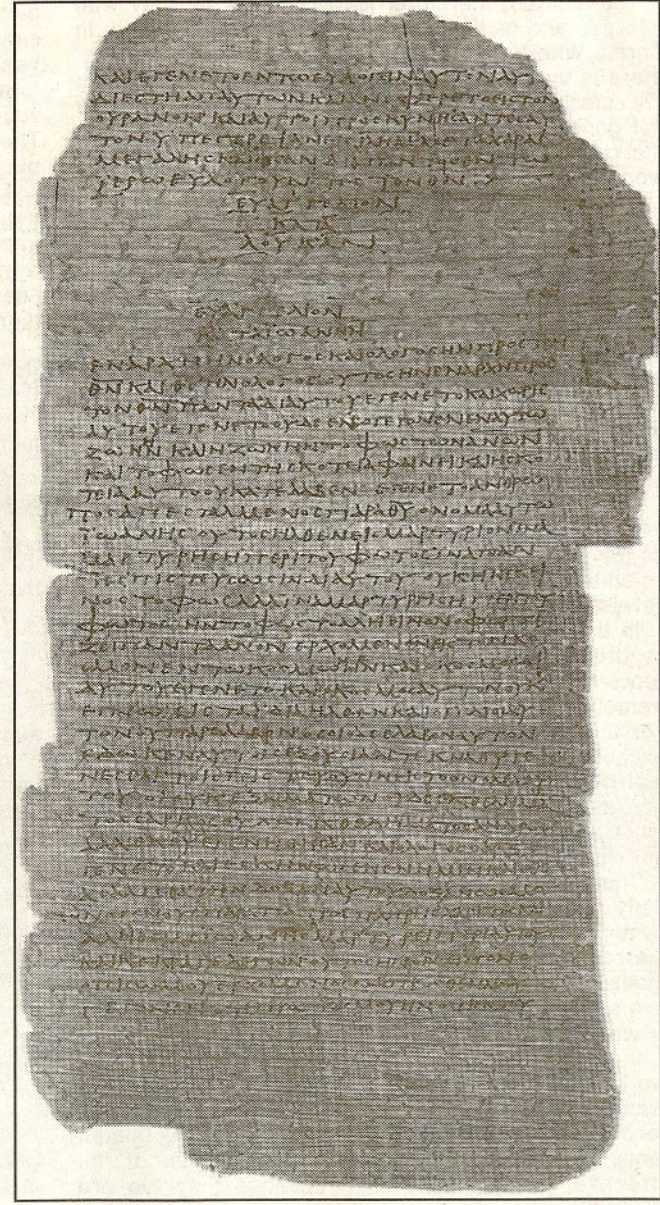
The term "memoirs", at first sight enigmatic, becomes clear on an analysis of the works of St Justin who generally uses it to introduce passages from the Gospels or from evangelical traditions.

Since in a writing such as the *Apologia*, addressed to a pagan public, the word "Gospel" meaning "Good News" would have been simply incomprehensible, St Justin preferred to

In the first century A.D., "notepads" made of superimposed sheets folded and sewn together or tied with a piece



**Bodmer Papyrus 14-15:** a passage from the Gospel of Luke. The arrow indicates a previously unknown fragment.



**Bodmer Papyrus 14-15:** transition leaf between the Gospels of Luke and John, divided by two titles and a blank space.

*The "Bodmer Papyrus... written in the first years of the third century, is fundamental: it is the oldest manuscript extant that contains two Gospels".*



The Holy Father examines one of the leaves of the *Bodmer Papyrus* 14-15

### The journey to Geneva

These manuscripts were exported from Egypt in 1955-56 in the course of a labyrinthine journey whose main stages it has been possible to reconstruct. In the West, they were acquired by a certain number of public and private collections. The lion's share went to the collections of Martin Bodmer, a Swiss, whose library is located at Cologne,

in the same *scriptorium* at Caesarea in Palestine, was the result of a "revision" made at the beginning of the fourth century. However, P<sup>75</sup> ruled out this hypothesis, showing that the same type of text had already reached Egypt by the beginning of the third century.

Confirmation of the trustworthiness of the important fourth-century manuscripts is reflected in that of the critical modern editions. This implies that the

*In "about the year 700 it was hidden on a hill where it would be safe from the flooding of the Nile and there... it patiently awaited its discovery in 1952".*

As has already been said, the papyrus shows variants which suggest that it was transcribed from an Egyptian model. This second codex must in turn have been copied from an older manuscript of the two Gospels which did not yet contain those characteristic variants. In turn, however, this third codex, probably made outside Egypt, did not depend on the lost originals of the two Gospels but on a collection of the four canonical Gospels which could not have been made before the first half of the second century (it was quite probably the same model on which, through different channels, the above-mentioned manuscripts of the fourth century depended).

Even if one admits that these were later copies, very close in time (and the information we have on the expansion of Christians in Egypt would not contradict this), it is difficult to hypothesize that it took less than 50 years for the Greek text of the Gospels to reach an outlying locality as that in which P<sup>75</sup> was used by an unknown Christian community.

### The mystery of the new fragments

Research on an ancient manuscript can never be considered final. New facts continually emerge that confirm or rule out the hypotheses of experts. However, in the case of P<sup>75</sup>, an event occurred that it would not be an exaggeration to call astonishing.

of string became common. These articles of pagan origin were very soon used by Christians, as can be learned from a famous Deutero-Pauline passage in which Timothy is asked not to forget "the parchments", that is, the notes (II Tm 4:13).

This new format, a single notebook, had enormous advantages in comparison with the traditional scroll: it provided much more space and less bulk as well as more contained costs. At the same time, it facilitated the consultation and reading of a specific passage, all of which were significant factors for public reading at important liturgical celebrations.

The *Bodmer Papyrus* 14-15, that originally consisted of 36 double leaves placed one on top of the other to make a total of 144 pages, is the oldest find that contains the text of two Gospels together, the Gospels of Luke and John. But why, one might ask, did it not contain all four Gospels?

This can be explained by the limitations of the new technique which although it provided almost twice as much room as the classical papyrus scroll, was still a fragile structure that inevitably tended to split along the fold, especially if the number of double pages exceeded 50. Thus, a codex of this kind could contain only a little more than two Gospels.

However, since all the lists of the Gospels begin with that of Matthew, one

might presume that together with the surviving papyrus another volume was also made, now completely lost, which contained the two missing Gospels, that of Matthew and that of Mark.

## A liturgical manuscript

Why was the *Bodmer Papyrus 14-15* copied? The modest way in which the codex was produced, apparent in the concern not to waste space that is demonstrated by the very narrow margins and lack of decoration, corresponds well with its practical use. The papyrus was almost certainly destined for a small community, an Egyptian Greek-speaking "parish", which, as is customary in all Christian liturgies, read the Gospel during the Eucharistic Celebration.

However, the manuscript's frequent use soon ended by damaging the frail structure of the papyrus which began to lose its pages, perhaps within a century, to the point that today it contains about half the text of the two Gospels.

What could be done with a manuscript that had become completely unusable but contained the sacred text par excellence, the Gospels? In all likelihood, someone aware of the age of the codex took a definitive decision: to reinforce it with a modest binding forming a "cartonnage" with the remains of the first and last surviving leaves. In these conditions, unusable as a book but as similar examples show, probably venerated as a relic, the papyrus was kept, perhaps from the fifth century, in the library of a Pachomian monastery in Middle Egypt.

Later, threatened by some unidentified danger, probably the Arab invasion of Egypt, in about the year 700 it was hidden on a hill where it would be safe from the flooding of the Nile and there, together with about 40 other Greek and Coptic works, containing sacred and profane texts and documentary papyri, it patiently awaited its discovery in 1952 by the inhabitants of a neighbouring village.

near Geneva, and to the Irishman, Sir Alfred Chester Beatty, founder of the library of that name in Dublin. Other works were dispersed and are currently preserved in various public and private collections.

The announcement of the discovery, in the late 1950s, caused a certain sensation in specialist circles, somewhat dampened by the fact that in previous decades the sands of Egypt had already yielded two other substantial collections of manuscripts connected with ancient Christianity. In 1930, several Coptic codices produced by the Manichaeans were found at Medinet Habu and in 1948, the Gnostic library of Nag Hammadi were rediscovered. This consisted of a collection of Coptic manuscripts among which was the Gospel of Thomas, peremptorily described as "the fifth Gospel" by the media of the time.

## A turning point in the history of the Gospel texts

At the initiative of the Bodmer Foundation, the transcription of the text of the *Bodmer Papyrus 14-15* was published together with a facsimile in 1961. In accordance with a practice that became common in the past century, the papyrus received an official seal in the list of Greek examples of the New Testament and in specialized circles is currently known as P<sup>75</sup>.

The impartial analysis of P<sup>75</sup> only confirmed its fundamental importance for the history of the Gospel texts. And here it is necessary to go back further. Before the discovery of the New Testament papyri, which in 2006 totalled 118, critical editions of the Gospels were largely based on two fourth century Greek manuscripts written in capital letters: the "codex B", kept in the Vatican Library (*Vat. gr. 1209*), and the Sinai Codex (British Library, *Ad. dit. 43725*, "Codex  $\aleph$ "), which came from St Catherine's Monastery and is preserved almost in its entirety in the British Library, in London.

It was long thought that the text of these two related manuscripts, copied

New Testament text, had come down to our day in extremely acceptable conditions, incomparably better than those of any other non-biblical text of antiquity.

## An Egyptian testimony

But is it really certain that P<sup>75</sup> was made in Egypt? The answer is certainly in the affirmative. Although generally speaking it confirms the text of the great Palestinian manuscripts of the fourth century, P<sup>75</sup> presents several small variants that demonstrate without any doubt its kinship with the Egyptian tradition, represented by the Coptic translations.

For example, in the Parable of the Rich Man and Lazarus (Lk 16:19-31), it is the only Greek example which indicates that the rich man was called *N(in)ive*; in Jn 10:7, instead of reading: "I am the door of the sheep", the papyrus has the variant: "I am the shepherd". Both readings are virtually exclusive to the Coptic tradition.

This fact makes it possible to know some details concerning the making of P<sup>75</sup> and, at the same time, to glimpse some of the stages that separate it from the originals of the two Gospels.

The papyrus is generally considered to date back to the first quarter of the third century; this dating relies on palaeographic arguments, that is, deduced from the type of character used by the professional scribe who copied it. Yet, as often happens in similar cases, this is only one conjecture. It awaits confirmation by the discovery of similar finds because the codicological technique of the notepad unique to Egypt was used for poor manuscripts at least until as late as the end of the fourth century, which is the most probable date of some of the Nag Hammadi manuscripts.

But what hinders the proposal of an earlier date, thereby dating the papyrus to the middle of the second century as has sometimes been suggested? The history of the text of the two Gospels is itself probably an insurmountable obstacle.

The book produced in 1961 under the auspices of the Bodmer Foundation gave the impression that all the fragments of the papyrus had been published in the facsimile and transcribed.

However, when the manuscript was delivered to the Vatican Library, it was evident straightaway from a cursory examination that the actual situation of the papyrus was not identical to that described by the facsimile: certain fragments of the outer leaves had been recuperated by a partial restoration of the "cartonnage" that took place after its publication in 1961 and about 30 fragments of lesser importance await identification, whereas certain new fragments, some of which are far from tiny, turn out not to be documented.

Subsequent research has shown that at least one fragment that is not reproduced in the facsimile was already known in about 1974.

Certainly P<sup>75</sup>, which is now kept in the Reserve of the Manuscript Deposit of the Vatican Library together with its companion in vicissitudes, the *Bodmer Papyrus 8* (P<sup>72</sup>), which is the oldest example of the Letters of St Peter, and the oldest example of the Coptic translation of the minor Prophets, another find that was probably discovered on the same occasion (*Pap. Vat. copto 9*), has not yet revealed all its secrets.

## NOTES

<sup>1</sup> For the record, the Vatican Library has acquired a certain reputation for manuscripts it does *not* possess or that have never existed. Among the requests for information are questions about the decrees of the Roman Senate concerning the trial of Jesus (in fact these are Medieval remakes taken from an ancient apocryphal text, the *Acta Pilati*), or the *Necronomicon*, a sort of "book of the next world" that the American writer H.P. Lovecraft mentioned as the presumed source of his "Gothic" novels. The author of one modern apocryphal work even maintains that he "transcribed" it from a "Nestorian manuscript" that the Library has never possessed.

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### [Luke It Up in the Vatican Library](#)

Thursday January 25th 2007, 8:40 pm

Filed under: [Site News](#)

[Back in October](#) I was astonished to see the Bodmer Papyrus go on the auction block. I was surprised again, and pleased, to see it donated to the Vatican. Here's [Zenit](#) on the donation:

Benedict XVI received as a gift to the Holy See one of the most ancient manuscripts of the Gospels, an artifact that demonstrates Scripture's historical actuality.

The Pope was given the 14-15 Bodmer Papyrus (P75), dated between A.D. 175 and 225, on Monday by Frank Hanna and his family, of the United States.

“The papyrus contains about half of each of the Gospels of Luke and John. It was written in Egypt and perhaps used as a liturgical book,” explained Cardinal Jean-Louis Tauran, archivist and librarian of the Holy Roman Church, during the audience.

The manuscript previously belonged to the library of the Bodmer Foundation in Cologne, Switzerland, and is now in the Vatican Apostolic Library.

“The Pope's library possesses the most ancient testimony of the Gospel of Luke and among the most ancient of the Gospel of John,” added the cardinal.

The Bodmer Papyrus contains 144 pages and is the oldest manuscript that contains the text of the two Gospels in one papyrus.

#### The Lord's Prayer

L'Osservatore Romano commented that “almost certainly it was destined for a small community, a Greek-speaking Egyptian ‘parish’ that, as is habitual in all Christian liturgies, read the Gospel during the Eucharistic celebration.”

The oldest transcription of the Our Father, as recounted by Luke, is found in this papyrus.

Participants in the meeting explained that experts see the joining of Luke and John in one papyrus as a demonstration that for the first Christians communities, the Gospels formed a unity.

The document agrees with the Codex Vaticanus, a fourth-century edition of the Bible. The

Bodmer Papyrus demonstrates, therefore, that the oldest versions of the New Testament that are preserved in their totality correspond with the Gospels that already circulated among the Christian communities centuries earlier.

Cardinal Tarcisio Bertone, Vatican secretary of state, Bishop Raffaele Farina, prefect of the Vatican Library, and Gary Krupp, founder of the Pave the Way Foundation, which worked to bring about this gift, were present when the papyrus was donated to the Vatican.

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## BREAKING NEWS

### Pope knights Jewish man

The head of Pave the Way, a non-sectarian group in New York, became the first Jewish man to be knighted by two popes.

Gary Krupp was promoted to the highest Pontifical Order of St. Gregory the Great, receiving the Silver Star in a Jan. 15 ceremony in Rome, after Pave the Way presented important Christian documents to the Vatican Library. Krupp "has encouraged, promoted and achieved high levels of cultural cooperation between Catholic and Jewish institutions," said Father David Jaeger, the Vatican's representative to Israel.

Pave the Way says religion should not be a tool for violence, but can help bridge cultural gaps between Israel and the Vatican and between Jews and Christians through education, tolerance and goodwill. Krupp "has never lost his optimism, never allowed anyone else to lose their optimism, and we need that in the world at this time," Jaeger said.



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# Neighbors

## IN THE NEWS

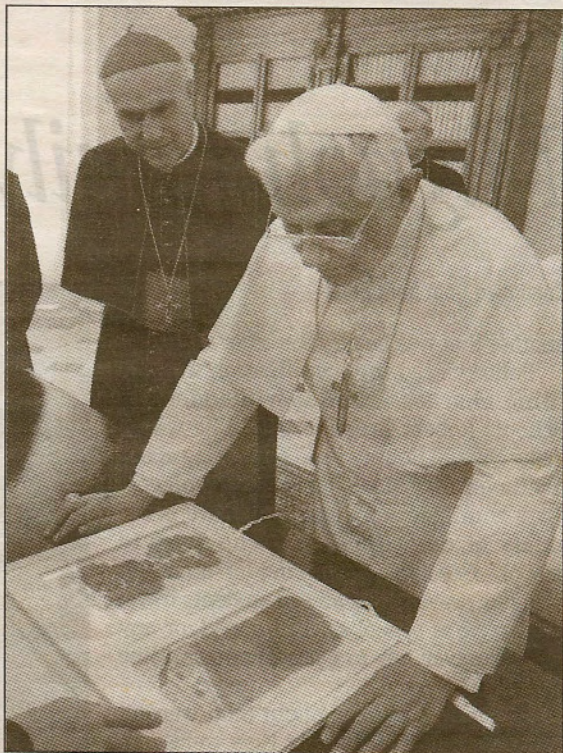
### City man coordinates Vatican gift

The Pave the Way Foundation, a non-sectarian organization based in New York, has presented Bodmer XIV-XV, the oldest written version of the Gospels of St. John and St. Luke, to the Vatican Library.

Written between 175 and 225 AD, the Bodmer Papyrus is considered to be one of the most important manuscripts in Christianity. Ranked with the discovery of the Dead Sea Scrolls in importance, the Bodmer Papyrus are among the most important possessions in the Vatican Library and are available for worldwide learning.

After the presentation of the Bodmer Papyrus to Pope Benedict XVI, Gary Krupp, president of Pave the Way Foundation, was knighted by Pope Benedict to the highest pontifical Order of Knighthood — Knights Commander with a Silver Star to the Order of St. Gregory The Great. Krupp, of Long Beach, had previously been the seventh Jewish person in history to be invested as Knights Commander of the Pontifical Order of St. Gregory the Great by Pope John Paul II in July 2000. He now becomes the only Jewish man in history to receive this level of knighthood and to be knighted by two Popes.

In making the announcement of the presentation of the Bodmer Papyrus, Krupp explained that his foundation worked for more than a year with Archbishop Pietro Sambi, Apostolic Nuncio to the United States and the Rev. Richard Donahoe, rector of the Cathedral of St. Paul in Birmingham, Ala. to first alert the Vatican Library of the availability of the papyri and ultimately to locate an anonymous donor to help make this historic event a reality.



Courtesy Pave the Way Foundation

**POPE BENEDICT XVI** examines the original Gospels of St. John and St. Luke, a gift to the Vatican from the Pave the Way Foundation, led by Gary Krupp of Long Beach.

The Bodmer Library, located outside Cologny near Geneva, offered for sale Bodmer XIV/XV to secure the library's future. The Library was opened in 1951 as the Bibliotheca Bodmeriana and is run by the Foundation Martin Bodmer.

"Pave the Way's mission is to ultimately eliminate the use of religion as a tool to enhance private agendas and to commit acts of violence," Krupp said. "We do this by bridging the gap in education and tolerance and by removing non-theological obstacles between the world's religions. This is accomplished by initiating historic gestures of good will, such as this gift of the Bodmer, rather than just words between the faiths."

Mr. Krupp and Harry Epstein, co-directors of the foundation, are both Jewish.



# CLERICAL WHISPERS

Sunday, February 25, 2007

## Historic Papyrus Now In Vatican (Vatican)

Officially known as Bodmer XIV-XV, it includes the oldest written version of the Gospels of St. John and St. Luke. This most historic manuscript was written between 175 and 225 A. D. and is considered to be one of the most important manuscripts in Christianity.

At the Vatican library, these papyri are now available for the first time for worldwide scholarship. Considered to rank in importance on par with the discovery of the Dead Sea Scrolls, the Bodmer Papyri are now among the most important acquisitions of the Vatican Library.



The papyrus is named for Martin Bodmer, who founded "Bibliotheca Bodmeriana" in Cologny, Switzerland in 1951 to realize his dream of showing history "as it is reflected in the intellectual creations of all times and places."

Bodmer XIV/XV was offered by the Martin Bodmer Foundation to secure the library's future. Pave the Way Foundation worked for over one year with Fr. Richard Donahoe, rector of the Cathedral of St. Paul in Birmingham, Alabama, and Archbishop Pietro Sambi, Apostolic Nuncio to the United States, to first alert the Vatican Library of the availability and ultimately to locate, through Mr. Harry Epstein, treasure and director of Pave the Way, the donor Mr. Frank Hanna III who helped to make this historic event a reality.

Commenting on the effort and the reasoning for PTWF's intense work for this event, Gary Krupp, President of Pave the Way Foundation, said, "Pave the Way Foundation's mission is to ultimately eliminate the use of religion as a tool of those who would use it to enhance private agendas and to commit acts of violence. We do this through education and promoting tolerance by removing non-theological obstacles between the world's religions. We initiate historic, concrete gestures, such as the Bodmer gift, with full expectation that actions and gestures of good will rather than just words will result in improved, self sustaining and mutually beneficial relations between the faiths ..."

Mr. Krupp and Mr. Harry Epstein, director of PTWF, are both Jewish and were both particularly proud to have played

such a pivotal role in this successful undertaking, which is so important to the Christian world. Other historic events, engineered by PTWF, include the largest Jewish Papal Audience in history, to simply thank Pope John Paul II for all he has done in religious reconciliation in January 2005; this was the Pope's last major audience.

Then in September 2005, PTWF arranged for the first loan ever from the Vatican Library to the State of Israel, which included manuscripts of Maimonides and others, which were displayed at the Israel Museum in Jerusalem for their 40th anniversary. This historic event "paved the way" for the Israeli Museum to loan a Rembrandt and a Botticelli to the Vatican for their 500th anniversary celebration of the Basilica of St. Peter. In May, of 2006, PTWF honored the Vatican Library for its inter-religious outreach. PTWF has been helping to establish the finalization of full diplomatic relations with Israel and the Holy See.

The foundation plays an active role in facilitating the resolution of issues encountered by the Greek Orthodox and Anglican Churches.

Pave the Way is currently working with moderate Palestinian Muslims to begin a new electoral party of peace in that troubled region.

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#### Sotto Voce

Posted by Sotto Voce at Sunday, February 25, 2007

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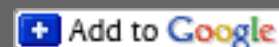
## **Pave the Way Foundation Invited to Address 100 Ambassadors to the Court of St. James in London**



Pave the Way Foundation (PTWF) founder and President Gary L. Krupp was invited to address 100 Ambassadors to the court of St. James at St. James Palace in London. The Ambassadors to Iran, Cuba, Syria, United States, Egypt, Jordan and many others attended this most important event. The event was sponsored by the Three Faiths Forum, an inter-religious organization in London, UK. Pave the Way Foundation has built an international reputation for its work in improving relations between the religions through historic gestures. Mr. Krupp spoke of the dangers of religious extremism in every religion and stressed that the governments need to reach out to religious leaders; to create a cadre of leaders to loudly and immediately respond to malevolent acts committed in the name of religion.

Forthright in his comments, Mr. Krupp believes it is just a matter of time before someone uses a WMD to kill millions of people in the name of religion. Stressing the importance of active engagement, he stated that we risk everything we have devoted our lives to building if people of good will continue to simply ignore the events which may lead to a catastrophic event. Government cannot respond to religious diatribes and claims of heavenly rewards for violent acts. Only the intervention of religious leaders can influence spiritual beliefs and this is essential today. In addition, Mr. Krupp stressed that the media must be made a partner in this effort. All of the condemnations

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against extremism can be made but are useless if no one hears them. While the governments are spending trillions on homeland security and defense, nothing is being spent on the cause of it all, extremists found among every religion.

Representatives from the World Economic Forum's C-100 Committee participated in the conference and invited representatives of Pave the Way Foundation to come to Amman Jordan and address the C-100 committee to make a better world in May.

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

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## Islamic Center of Long Island

### Event Details

**Title:** Islam and Judaism--Closer than Further Away

**Date:** February 11th, 2007

**Time:** 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM

**Presenters:** Gary Krupp and Rabbi Kiss--Pave the way Foundation

**Description:**

ICLI is delighted to welcome Gary L Krupp, founder of Pave the Way Foundation and rabbi Kiss an eminent jewish scholar to discuss the commonalities between Islam and Judaism.

Pave the Way Foundation's mission is to bridge the gap between religions, through cultural, technological and intellectual exchange's.--<http://www.ptwf.org>

For this pioneering work Gary Krupp was KNIGHTED by the late Pope John Paul 11.

During the recent attacks on ICLI by a politician from Long Island Gary Krupp and Pave the way Foundation were in the forefront defending the Muslims of Long Island.

We look forward to a very stimulating, informative exchange and welcome all.

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## FOUNDATION ADVISES ISRAEL ON RELIGIOUS ETIQUETTE

TEL AVIV, Israel, JUNE 15, 2007 ([Zenit.org](#)).- Israeli Airport Security and the Ministry of Tourism have asked a private foundation to educate their personnel on the various religious practices of visitors arriving to the country.

The Pave the Way Foundation, dedicated to peacemaking through enhancing relations between religions with cultural, technological and intellectual gestures, is preparing a short book of religious etiquette in response to complaints made by some Christian leaders and pilgrims after stringent questioning by airport personnel.

The book, which will include illustrations of religious dress and appropriate greetings, will help security personnel to know how to properly address religious tourists at Ben-Gurion Airport in Tel Aviv, balancing security with the dignity of those traveling.

Israel's ambassador to the Holy See, Oded Ben-Hur, has also held multiple training sessions with airport security personnel for the same purpose.

Raphael Ben-Hur, deputy director of the Ministry of Tourism, in an effort to increase Christian tourism to Israel, has been working with the Pave the Way Foundation to identify problems and complaints in order to eliminate traveling obstacles.

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

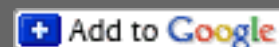


As a gesture of gratitude in recognition of his dedicated and tireless efforts on behalf of Catholic-Jewish and Vatican-Israeli relations, His Holiness Pope Benedict XVI has bestowed the rank of Knight Commander with a Silver Star of the Pontifical Equestrian Order of St. Gregory the Great upon Mr. Gary Krupp of New York. The conferral of the Silver Star marks the second time Krupp has been honored by the Supreme Pontiff, having been previously invested as a Knights Commander in the same order by the late Pope John Paul II. Gary and his wife Meredith founded Pave the Way Foundation, a nonprofit charity dedicated to the promotion of peace and understanding between religions through cultural, technological and education exchanges.

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

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

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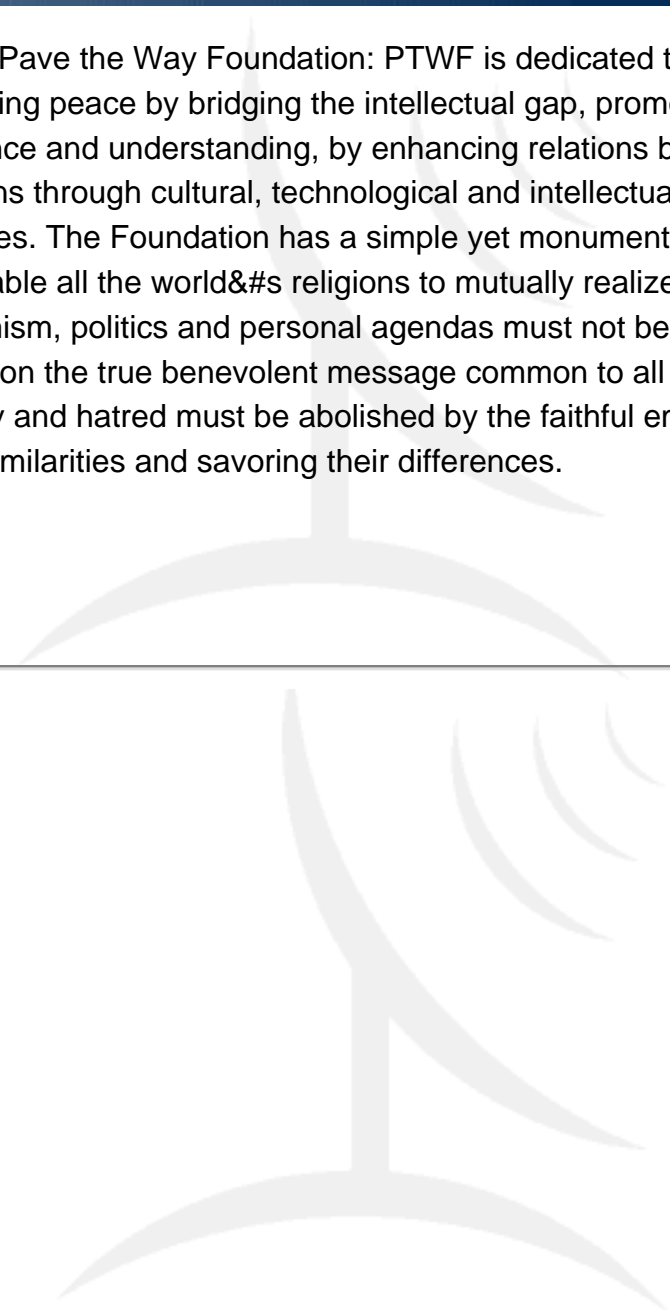
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About Pave the Way Foundation: PTWF is dedicated to achieving peace by bridging the intellectual gap, promoting tolerance and understanding, by enhancing relations between religions through cultural, technological and intellectual gestures. The Foundation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



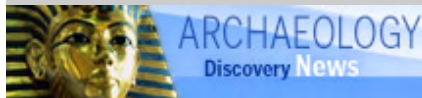
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News — Archaeology

**Earliest Gospels Acquired by Vatican**

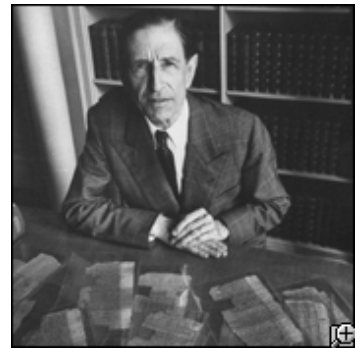
Jennifer Viegas, Discovery News

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**March 5, 2007** — The world's oldest known copy of the Gospel of Saint Luke, containing the earliest known Lord's Prayer, and one of the oldest copies of the Gospel of Saint John have been acquired by the Vatican, according to reports from Rome.

A nonsectarian New York nonprofit, Pave the Way, helped facilitate the acquisition.

Now stored in the Vatican's Library, the documents are for the first time available for scholarly review. In the future, excerpts may be put on display for the general public.


**The Bodmer Papyrus**

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**Related News:**

Collectively known as the Bodmer Papyrus XIV-XV, the documents date to 175-225 A.D. and consist of 51 leaves from a manuscript that originally consisted of 72 leaves folded in the middle to form a single quire, according to Father Richard Donahoe, rector of the Cathedral of St. Paul in Birmingham, Alabama, who also helped with the acquisition.

"The papyrus authenticates that which has been passed down over the millennia," Fr. Donahoe told Discovery News.

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He believes it is even possible the texts may have been copied from the original gospels.

Many of the earliest Biblical texts are in the possession of private collectors. In this case, the materials were found, along with other papyri, in 1952 at Pabau, Egypt, near the ancient Dishna headquarters of the Pachomian order of monks.

The papyrus was mysteriously smuggled to Switzerland, where collector Martin Bodmer purchased it.

To fund the construction of a library, the Martin Bodmer Foundation contacted the auction house Christie's about a sale. Gary Krupp, founder of Pave the Way, Donahoe and others learned of the sale and, with the Vatican's help, sought a buyer who could purchase the papyrus for the Vatican.

Frank J. Hanna III, CEO of an investment management company and co-chairman of the Presidential Advisory Commission on Educational Excellence, agreed to be the buyer. Hanna privately purchased the documents for an undisclosed, "significant" price.

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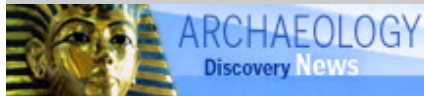
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## Current News



### News — Archaeology

#### Earliest Gospels Acquired by Vatican

Jennifer Viegas, Discovery News

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[ page 2 of 2 ]

With drama befitting a Dan Brown novel, the papyrus was transported from Switzerland to the Vatican.

"An armed motorcade surrounded by people with machine guns picked up the texts," said Krupp, the only Jewish man to have ever been twice knighted by two popes.

Donahoe added, "The materials were carried in the passenger section of a public plane that had some seats removed. Officers then escorted it to the Vatican."

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Cardinal Jean-Louis Tauran, a librarian and archivist at the Vatican, received the papyrus, from which he took a few pages to Pope Benedict XVI's private apartment.

According to the Catholic News Service, Cardinal Tauran invited the pope to "come in person to the library to meditate, if I may say so, in front of that which can be considered a true relic, given that the church has always venerated the divine Scriptures."

Donahoe believes the papyrus has now come full circle.

He said, "It has been a pilgrimage, a holy journey, to bring the texts back to the church, back to their proper home."

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The Bodmer Papyrus



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**What I Have  
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## Local News

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### Gift Places Historic Gospel Text In Heart Of Church

**PRISCILLA GREEAR, Staff Writer**

Published: March 8, 2007

ATLANTA—The evening of Jan. 20 Frank Hanna III, his wife Sally, and daughter Elizabeth descended into the vault holding the rarest documents of the Vatican Apostolic Library to view the Bodmer Papyrus XIV-XV, the oldest manuscript in existence of the Gospel of St. Luke and one of the two oldest of St. John's Gospel.

They were accompanied by the prefect of the library, Bishop Raffaele Farina, SDB, Father Laurence Spiteri, and Pat Cipollone, an attorney who assisted with the acquisition. They first viewed the world's oldest Bible that dates to the fourth century, the "Codex Vaticanus." Bishop Farina then showed the Hannas leaves of the famous Bodmer Papyrus, each encased in glass.

The papyrus was handwritten in Greek around the year 200 and contains about half of each of the Gospels of Luke and John. It holds the oldest copy of the Lord's Prayer in Luke. The manuscript was originally discovered in Upper Egypt in 1952 as part of a larger horde of manuscripts, the majority of which were acquired by Dr. Martin Bodmer. The Vatican acquired the manuscript in late November from the Bodmer Foundation in Switzerland through the purchase by the Frank and Sally Hanna Family Foundation and the Solidarity Association. The Hannas were originally contacted about the papyrus by the Pave the Way

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**Thu, March 8, 2007**

#### IN 2007

January, February, **March**

Foundation, a Jewish group which seeks to build peace and good will with other religions.

The Scriptures are written on 52 pages comprising 51 leaves, or part leaves, from a codex that is made up of 36 double leaves, and folded in the middle to form a single quire.

“It was a beautiful color, an amber color in the light. That night it almost had a golden glow. As we stood there Father Spiteri, just behind us, calmly whispered, ‘There it is, the word of God’ and it was,” recalled Hanna. “We have two key components of our faith. We have the church and her tradition, and we have holy Scripture. We were there at the Vatican, at the tomb of St. Peter where the church resides, and here we were looking at the word of God itself. It was nice to see the combination of these two elements, this ancient manuscript of the word of God residing there in the church.”

Hanna, the chief executive officer of HBR Capital Ltd. in Atlanta, recalled in a phone interview Feb. 16 the inspiring experience and how the papyrus “found us.” He is a parishioner at Holy Spirit Church and through his foundation has financially supported the Solidarity School for low-income Hispanic children and other Catholic schools in the archdiocese. He also served as a co-chair of President George W. Bush’s Commission on Educational Excellence for Hispanic Americans.

After his family beheld the handwritten, fragile leaves in ancient Greek he contemplated the historical foundation of his faith—how this copy of the Gospel was used in the liturgy and was part of the accepted set of four Gospels of the nascent church. He contemplated how people may not believe that Jesus is indeed God, and other messages of the Gospel, but they can’t deny the authenticity of the Gospels as historical documents, and how Jesus’ life led to the birth of Christianity which rapidly spread across the Middle East and beyond.

“Our faith does require belief, but it is a belief grounded in reality. When you go to Rome, St. Peter’s is a reality, built

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on the tomb of St. Peter. His bones are there. And he knew Jesus and was martyred for that belief," he reflected. "This papyrus is 1,800 years old, dating back to 200. It really does exist. Somebody really wrote it down, and its existence is not a legend. It's up to each individual to accept what Scripture says, but the authenticity of that Scripture and what we base our faith on, these are historical facts."

The morning of Jan. 22 the family attended Mass in the Clementine Chapel near the tomb of St. Peter on the bottom level of St. Peter's Basilica. Later that day a ceremony was held in the Apostolic Palace, where heads of state are received, with the Vatican Apostolic Library's archivist and librarian Cardinal Jean-Louis Tauran, Bishop Farina, Vatican Secretary of State Cardinal Tarcisio Bertone, Father Richard Donohoe of Birmingham, Ala., Cipollone, the president/founder of Pave the Way Foundation Gary Krupp, and other Vatican staff. Pope Benedict XVI greeted each person and discussed the importance of the documents, and he thanked everyone present for making the gift possible.

Cardinal Tauran presented the Hannas and then displayed pages of the papyrus under glass to the pope.

Hanna told the pope that it was a privilege for his family to assist the church in acquiring such a precious relic from the roots of Christendom.

"We first thanked him for his service to the church and told him we were praying for him and grateful for his dedication, and we told him we were grateful for the privilege of being in Rome with him and being able to be part of this effort with the papyrus," Hanna recounted.

In the conversation Hanna referred to the pope's message in a homily before the conclave about how money, buildings and books do not last, but what remains eternally is the human soul.

"We told him this papyrus would not last forever, but the imprint it would have on the souls of those who see it and

believe in it can indeed last forever. We were hopeful of that. I told him how his focus and devotion to the liturgy and his book 'Soul of the Liturgy' had been an inspiration to us, particularly regarding the church's teaching that liturgy is a sacred action surpassing all others," he continued. "We told him we are hopeful that the papyrus would help all who see it to grow in appreciation of the word of God and in appreciation of the liturgy that embodies that word."

Pope Benedict remarked about the treasure of the liturgy for the church, then put his glasses on and began to peruse the papyrus and then read introspectively out loud the Greek text.

"You could tell he immediately recognized it. ...You could tell he enjoyed reading it," Hanna said.

He described the room as warm and beautiful but not ornate. He found Pope Benedict to be a gentle man.

"He is very warm and engaging, and is a very kind, peaceful and serene man. Obviously he is a world class intellect and theologian, but he's also a very simple and peaceful man, and I think all of us were struck by that."

The new acquisitions join the Bodmer Papyrus VIII, a copy of the First and Second Letters of St. Peter, which Martin Bodmer personally gave to Pope Paul VI in 1969. The Gospel papyrus will be accessible to qualified scholars worldwide.

The document purchase was finalized on Nov. 21, which was the feast of the Presentation of Mary, a fitting date since they had named the trust they established for it at the Vatican the Mater Verbi (Mother of the Word)/Hanna Papyrus Trust. Both sides agreed not to disclose the purchase cost.

"The Gospel of Luke is also known as the Gospel of Mary because it contains certain details that could only be attributed to Mary," Hanna said, such as Jesus being lost as a child after a visit by the Holy Family to the temple in Jerusalem.

Father Donohoe, rector of the Cathedral of St. Paul in Birmingham, initiated the project when he learned through his goddaughter on Thanksgiving 2005 about the sale of the papyrus by the Bodmer Foundation through Christie's auction house. The Bodmer Foundation holds a vast collection of world literature, ranging from comedies by Greek playwright Menander to a Gutenberg Bible. Father Donohoe contacted the Pave the Way Foundation, knowing they had worked on other Vatican projects, and got the Vatican library phone number. He called and staff members were "ecstatic" to learn the twin papyrus was for sale. Within a week Cardinal Tauran called the priest directly to discuss the importance of acquiring it. And soon thereafter he had a mandate from the Holy See to raise the funds for the purchase and was crisscrossing the country from February through June 2006 speaking to cardinals and bishops about it. He was advised in fundraising by Pave the Way, which was "extremely helpful." Archbishop Pietro Sambi, apostolic nuncio to the United States, was also instrumental in helping to realize this historic acquisition.

Hanna's friend Harry Epstein, brother-in-law of Pave the Way founder Krupp, contacted Hanna and told him about the project and sent a packet of information. This wasn't the type of endeavor that Hanna's foundation usually supports, but as he contemplated the importance of this acquisition to the church library, which specializes in preserving ancient documents, and his own love of liturgy, Hanna agreed. He made the decision "given the fact that this was very important to the Holy Father and important to the church and given what it contained."

"I thought, we have one God in the universe. He came to earth one time, and he gave us one prayer to pray, and this is the oldest copy of that prayer. And he left us a church that is his bride, and this copy of that prayer should be within the church. We concluded at the Solidarity Association and the Sally and Frank Hanna Charitable Foundation that this is something important for the church and that we were being called to do."



He added that "one point the papal nuncio made to me was that if we don't seize the opportunity when it's available it may not be again. He was very concerned that it could be lost to the church."

Solidarity is an association of the Christian faithful that provides financial and logistical support to other entities within the church and undertakes corporeal works of charity, he explained.

The Vatican newspaper L'Osservatore Romano reported that until the 1952 discovery in Egypt of the papyrus, biblical scholars relied on references to the Gospels in the writings of early church theologians to assert that by the year 100 the Christian community had accepted only four Gospels as inspired texts. The newspaper said the papyrus provides concrete evidence that the four Gospels were circulating among Christian communities as a complete set by the year 200, although the twin papyrus containing the Gospels of St. Matthew and St. Mark has not been found.

As the writer of Luke wrote in chapter one, after the middle of the first century the need began to be felt in the Christian community to "compile a narrative of the things which have been accomplished among us, just as they were delivered to us by those who from the beginning were eyewitnesses." The four books of the Gospel were then brought together in the second century.

The article also reported that the papyrus was probably used by a Greek-speaking Egyptian parish. As the ancient manuscript became unusable and lost pages, it was given a modest binding which was reinforced with a hard binding with the rest of the first and last surviving pages. It was then probably venerated as a relic and conserved, "perhaps beginning in the fifth century, in the library of the Pachomian monastery of Middle Egypt." In the face of unspecified danger, it and some 40 other Greek and Coptic volumes were hidden in a "mound sheltered from the floods of the Nile," it reported.

The Vatican, upon receipt of the manuscript, discovered

that while in Switzerland some 30 fragments of external pages that were recovered by a partial restoration of the hard binding in 1961 by the Bodmer Foundation had not been identified, and others had not been documented. So now Vatican staff members are excited to find they have additional documents to study, Hanna said.

Krupp was happy to assist with the project, in accordance with his organization's mission to make concrete gestures of good will to bring together good Christian, Jewish and Muslim people, as well as other people of faith, to fight hatred, which endangers mankind, and to focus on common values. The seventh Jew in history to receive a papal honor of knighthood, Krupp said the foundation's many projects now include working to formalize Vatican relations with Israel and trying to organize a conference at the Holy See opposing religious extremism. He said this manuscript is now the second most important work at the Vatican after the "Codex Vaticanus," and that it is probably the best-equipped library in the world to preserve it.

"We feel very wonderful about this, that two Jewish men and two Catholic priests were able to make this happen, and, of course, the Hannas," he said. The papyrus "has got enormous value to the Christian world."

He commended Father Donohoe for working over a year on the project, clocking 110,000 sky miles. He called the Hannas "an enormously generous family" and Mr. Hanna a kind, benevolent and religious man.

Over in Alabama Father Donohoe prays that more people will come to understand the importance of these documents and how they manifestly communicate the unchanging truth.

"In our society, we are constantly confronted with documents and concepts contrary to the Gospel: the Judas Gospel, 'The Da Vinci Code' and countless other things that are contrary to the teaching magisterium of the church. The Bodmer Papyrus should cause us to center in to better appreciate the deep and profound reality of the

gift of the Good News that comes to us," he said. "It is the Bodmer Papyrus that reminds us of the validity of the deposit of faith; it is the Bodmer Papyrus that should turn us to the magisterium, the teaching authority of the church, encouraging us to give thanks that through these ancient texts we are continually authenticated in what we believe."

Hanna also left Rome with a sense of gratitude for the priests and bishops at the Vatican who have selflessly dedicated their lives in service of the church.

"They are human beings and subject to the same failings of us all. But it's remarkable how much they love the church and how much of their lives they dedicate to it," he reflected. "We have priests throughout the world and in our archdiocese who give their entire lives in service for the church, so when we in the laity have a chance to make a fraction of that sacrifice, it's a privilege. We left Rome with a profound sense of gratitude (that) we had a chance to participate in this event for the church. We felt like we were the ones who received the gift."

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## INTERVIEW

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### On Quieting Zealots and Achieving Peace Interview With Gary Krupp

NEW YORK, MARCH 26, 2007 (Zenit.org: <<http://www.zenit.org>> ).- To achieve peace, religions must respond to their own zealots, with the support of governments and media, says an interreligious-relations expert who was recently honored by Benedict XVI.

Gary Krupp of the Pave the Way Foundation, a U.S.-based, nondenominational organization founded by him and his wife, aims to eliminate the use of religion as a tool to achieve personal agendas and cause conflict. Their work to advance peace includes culture, education and technology.

For example, Pave the Way was responsible for giving an ancient papyrus containing parts of the Gospels to the Vatican library recently. And it has met with Palestinian leaders to search for solutions to the conflict with Israel.

Benedict XVI recognized Krupp for his work by bestowing upon him the rank of Knight Commander with a Silver Star of the Pontifical Equestrian Order of St. Gregory the Great. Krupp was also honored by Pope John Paul II in 2000.

In this interview with ZENIT, Krupp speaks of priorities in interreligious relationships and signs of hope for the future.

Q: The Pave the Way foundation is working in a plethora of causes, including relations between Jews, Muslims, Orthodox and Catholics, a resolution to the Palestine-Israeli conflict, and in cultural and technological fields as well. What are the primary priorities?

Krupp: Our primary priority is the fulfillment of our mission to eliminate the malevolent use of religion. This should be the common denominator that everyone can agree on. Creating a fertile environment for this must be advanced by identifying and eliminating the obstacles that exist between the faiths.

For example, a priority is helping with the finalization of the fundamental agreements between the Holy See and the state of Israel.

Others are the affirmation of the Greek Orthodox patriarch of Jerusalem by the Israeli government, helping to establish the Wasatia Party, or any electoral party, for peace and honesty in the Palestinian territories.

I would like to see the use of the Cenacle restored to the Church which will greatly enhance Christian tourism, helping all people in the region, as well as return this most important shrine to Christian use.

We would like to host a conference on religious extremism where the participants will be lay people who will only meet with their own religions to identify examples of their own extremism and how the everyday person can develop a real workable solution to respond to violence.

Over 85% of the world is secular and we must appeal to them to help, if we hope to curb violence.

Q: In a recent speech you gave to ambassadors in London, you mention the role of media, saying that many of them "tend to make a bad situation worse and typically illustrate events in a way which are crafted to inflame emotions." You say that media reports often contradict your personal experience. Could you explain this?

Krupp: The media is simply a business which generates its income from advertising and distribution. Sensationalizing a story directly affects sales.

I have seen on too many occasions where the media will take a biased position in its reporting style, resulting in intelligent people getting bad information resulting in incorrect assessments of the real conditions.

I travel to Israel for our work many times a year and the picture of hatred and discord painted by the media is simply wrong.

As a Jew I can say that I have been deeply offended by the Catholic bashing that I see here in the international press. Typically with the millions of examples of charitable outreach and ministries around the world, rarely are these wonderful benevolent acts ever reported. If someone commits some terrible act the media will be all over them in a feeding frenzy, but reports of the good that wonderful men and women do is hard to find in the international press.

Q: The mission of the Pave the Way Foundation seeks to "eliminate the use of religion as a tool to achieve personal agendas and to cause conflicts." You suggest that governments have a role to play in this. How do you see that working?

Krupp: I told the ambassadors that we are facing a world where the name of religion is being used as a tool to justify personal agendas and malevolent acts. Almost every conflict on earth is motivated by the intentional misuse and manipulation of religion and the holy texts. Religions must become active

defenders of God's name. I think that demonstrated action by quoting the holy text in the defense of religion and the condemnation of violence will be very effective.

I said that governments cannot respond to religious zealots, only the religions can. I urged the governments to reach out to religious leaders from all faiths, to become an ally or a partner in the struggle against those who defile religion by their violent acts. This unified offensive against the violent must also be embraced and vocalized by the media who must assume a level of responsibility by reporting this defense of religion and opposition to violence.

Q: The misuse of religion is perhaps a contributing cause to growing secularism or even atheism. What would you say to this?

Krupp: This is definitely a contributing factor. I believe that when religion and politics are mixed it is like a thirsty man is given muddy water to drink. If a religious leader wants to express his political beliefs, take it outside -- not in the pulpit.

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Q: Benedict XVI has spoken about the need to have hope for the future. With current trends of increasing religious extremism, what do you see as the most hopeful trends?

Krupp: Pope Benedict XVI is my personal hero. I met him first while he was cardinal and then three times while Pope in Poland, at a special Mass for Padre Pio and when we presented him with the Bodmer Papyrus on Jan. 22, 2007.

The Holy Father recognizes the dangers of religious extremism, in all religions, as a menace to peace. Almost every conflict on earth today is fueled by the misuse of God's name. The Holy Father sees this and speaks out as a defender of the word of God at almost every opportunity.

Are there hopeful trends? Yes there are, it is where religious leaders are beginning to follow the lead of Pope Benedict XVI. In the United States, we have an old expression "I see you talk the talk but do you walk the walk?" Pope Benedict XVI walks the walk.

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On Quieting Zealots and Achieving Peace  
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Benedicto XVI recibe un manuscrito que  
demuestra la historicidad de los Evangelios

Los Papiros Bodmer 14-15 están ahora en  
la Biblioteca Apostólica Vaticana

Benedicto XVI ha recibido como regalo  
para la Santa Sede unos de los papiros  
más antiguos de los Evangelios que  
demuestran su carácter histórico.

Entregó como regalo al Papa los Papiros  
Bodmer 14 y 15 (P75), datados entre 175  
y 225 d. C., este lunes su donante, el  
estadounidense Frank J. Hanna y su  
familia.

«El Papiro contiene cerca de la mitad de  
los Evangelios de Lucas y de Juan. Fue  
escrito en Egipto y quizá utilizado como  
libro litúrgico», explicó el cardenal Jean-  
Louis Tauran, Archivista y Bibliotecario  
de la Santa Romana Iglesia, durante la  
audiencia.

Los manuscritos pertenecían antes a la  
Fundación Bodmer de Coligny, a las  
afueras de Ginebra (Suiza) y se encuentra  
ahora custodiado en la Biblioteca  
Apostólica Vaticana.

«La Biblioteca del Papa posee el más  
antiguo testimonio del Evangelio de Lucas  
y entre los más antiguos del Evangelio de  
Juan», añadió el purpurado francés.

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Los papiros Bodmer 14 y 15 (P75) contienen un total de 144 páginas y constituyen el manuscrito más antiguo que mantiene unidos el texto de dos Evangelios.

«Casi seguramente estaba destinado a una pequeña comunidad, una “parroquia” egipcia de lengua griega, que, como es habitual en todas las liturgias cristianas, leía el Evangelio durante la celebración eucarística», explica el diario vaticano «L’Osservatore Romano» en su edición del 24 de enero.

El hecho de que los Evangelios de Lucas y Juan se encontraran unidos en un mismo papiro, como sucede en este caso, es visto por los expertos como una demostración de que para las primeras comunidades cristianas los Evangelios formaban una unidad, han explicado a Zenit algunos de los participantes en el encuentro con el Papa.

El documento es decisivo pues coincide con el del «Codex Vaticanus», uno de las ediciones más antiguas de la Biblia, del siglo IV. Los Papiros Bodmer 14 y 15 demuestran, por tanto, que las versiones más antiguas del Nuevo Testamento que se conservan en su integridad corresponden con los Evangelios que ya siglos antes circulaban entre las comunidades cristianas.

Entre otras cosas, en estos papiros se encuentra la transcripción más antigua del Padrenuestro, según es relatada por Lucas.

En la entrega del papiro participó el cardenal Tarcisio Bertone, secretario de Estado; el obispo Raffaele Farina, prefecto de la Biblioteca Vaticana, y Gary Krupp KCSG, fundador de la «Pave the Way Foundation», que durante un año ha trabajado para alcanzar este resultado.

# Maurice Pinay Blog

A Weblog in the Spirit of the Book, "The Plot Against the Church."

Saturday, February 3, 2007

## The Vatican's Knight Defenders of the Talmud

These are two of the Vatican's seven Judaic Papal Knights

### **Pope Knights Jewish Man**

Jewish Telegraph Agency

The head of Pave the Way, a non-sectarian group in New York, became the first Jewish man to be knighted by two popes.

Gary Krupp was promoted to the highest Pontifical Order of St. Gregory the Great, receiving the Silver Star in a Jan. 15 ceremony in Rome, after Pave the Way presented important Christian documents to the Vatican Library. Krupp "has encouraged, promoted and achieved high levels of cultural cooperation between Catholic and Jewish institutions," said Father David Jaeger, the Vatican's representative to Israel.

Pave the Way says religion should not be a tool for violence, but can help bridge cultural gaps between Israel and the Vatican and between Jews and Christians through education, tolerance and goodwill. Krupp "has never lost his optimism, never allowed anyone else to lose their optimism, and we need that in the world at this time," Jaeger said.

[http://jta.org/page\\_view\\_breaking\\_story.asp?intid=6764](http://jta.org/page_view_breaking_story.asp?intid=6764)

## **Rabbi Rosen Invested as Papal Knight**

Nov. 3, 2005

Jerusalem Post

Rabbi David Rosen, the American Jewish Committee's international director of interreligious affairs on Thursday became the first Israeli citizen, the first Orthodox rabbi and the fifth living Jew to be invested with a papal knighthood.

Rosen received the decoration and citation attesting to his new status as a Knight Commander of the Pontifical Order of St Gregory the Great at a ceremony hosted at the Notre Dame of Jerusalem Center by the Apostolic Delegate in Jerusalem and Palestine and the Apostolic Nuncio in Israel Archbishop Pietro Sambi.

The investiture was conducted by Cardinal Walter Kasper, President of the Holy See's Commission for Religious Relations with Jewry. The ceremony coincided with the 40th anniversary celebrations in Israel of *Nostra Aetate*, the ground-breaking Vatican II document that paved the way for mutual respect and dialogue between the Catholic Church and the Jews.

Kasper credited Rosen with being a moving force in the realization and implementation of the spirit of *Nostra Aetate*.

Noting that Rosen is active in many fields, Kasper who has known him and worked with him for several years said: "One meets him everywhere that this dialogue is going on - and he keeps the



dialogue going on."

He first met Rosen, Kasper recalled, as a Jewish partner in dialogue. He found Rosen to be frank, free and outspoken, saying what pleased him about the Christians and also what didn't please him.

Kasper characterized Rosen as "a fair partner who wants to understand Christianity" and struggles to overcome misunderstandings and slander. He described Rosen as a man of peace and dialogue who builds bridges.

One of the most positive developments of the last half century said Kasper is that Jews and Christians have found a way to gather. "It is a sign of hope and reconciliation, friendship and mutual understanding."

Kasper made a point of emphasizing that in his work for reconciliation and peace, Rosen is not a man of compromise, but acts from the depth of his Jewish faith ...

... Rosen **who was on the team that negotiated diplomatic relations between Israel and the Vatican** was pleased to see among the witnesses to his honor Shmuel Hadass, who was Israel's first ambassador to the Vatican.

Full Article:

<http://www.jpost.com/servlet/Satellite?pagename=JPost/JParticle/ShowFull&cid=1131035504811>

Posted by Maurice Pinay at 2:07 AM

Labels: Catholic Judaism, Gary Krupp, John Paul II, Kabbalah, Pave the way, Pope, Rabbi, Rome, Talmud, Vatican

■ PAPIRO BODMER «Prestito permanente» alla Biblioteca apostolica vaticana

# Donato al Papa il Vangelo più antico del mondo

Joseph Ratzinger ha sorriso al suo segretario: «Gli occhiali, per favore». Era il momento più atteso, al termine dell'udienza alla piccola delegazione della *Sally and Hanna Frank Family Foundation* e della *Solidarity Association* (Usa).

È stato allora che il Papa si è potuto chinare sui frammenti di un papiro antichissimo, imprigionati tra due lastre di vetro (nella foto). Visibilmente emozionato, ha decifrato con lo sguardo le lettere vergate in greco che componevano il più antico esemplare esistente sulla Terra della preghiera del Padre Nostro.

Il Papiro Bodmer, contenente il più antico testimone del Vangelo di Luca e i due terzi di quello di Giovanni, dal 22 gennaio scorso è in «prestito permanente» alla Biblioteca apostolica vaticana grazie alla generosità del miliardario statunitense di origine libanese Hanna Frank. Ma è un regalo pieno di significati per Benedetto XVI soprattutto perché l'ha ricevuto grazie all'interessamento e alla transazione riservata gestita con la casa d'aste *Christie's* da Gary Krupp, l'imprenditore ebreo americano presidente della *Pave The Way Foundation* che nel gennaio 2005 portò 130 rabbini in visita da Gio-



*Manoscritti  
e rotoli vennero trovati  
nel 1955 in Egitto*

vanni Paolo II per ringraziarlo dell'impegno profuso nel corso del suo pontificato per il riavvicinamento fra la Chiesa cattolica e il popolo ebraico. È stato Krupp a cercare instancabilmente per mesi, lo scorso anno, qualcuno che potesse staccare un assegno milionario pur di far arrivare in Vaticano un papiro di eccezionale valore storico.

Scoperti intorno al 1955 in Egitto, tra le sabbie del Sinai, quei rotoli sopravvissuti a 17 secoli di intemperie vennero certificati da Page 1

del II secolo - inizio del III secolo d.C. Fu il collezionista svizzero Martin Bodmer ad acquistarli, insieme ad altri reperti (la *Lettera di Pietro*, risalente al IV secolo, venne regalata da Bodmer a Paolo VI nel 1965).

Un anno fa la Fondazione Bodmer decise di mettere in vendita i Vangeli. «Il rettore della cattedrale di Birmingham, in Alabama, un pomeriggio del gennaio 2006 ricevette una telefonata da un agente di *Christie's*. Volevano sapere se il Vaticano fosse interessato all'acquisto», racconta Gary Krupp, che si è impegnato a

non rivelare la cifra richiesta per l'acquisizione.

«Mi chiese di aiutarlo e immediatamente contattammo il prefetto della Biblioteca, mons. Raffaele Farina. *Christie's* ci accordò l'esclusiva e cinque mesi di tempo per trovare un benefattore. Nulla da fare. Due giorni dopo la scadenza dell'esclusiva, al tesoriere della nostra Fondazione Harry Hastin, venne in mente un facoltoso miliardario libanese che ogni anno sottoscrive generose donazioni in favore della Chiesa cattolica. Questo signore era conosciuto anche da mons. Pietro Sambì, l'attuale nunzio apostolico negli Stati Uniti. Fu lui a convincerlo. È così che il Papiro Bodmer è arrivato alla Biblioteca vaticana». Krupp da anni dedica molte energie a «spianare la strada», come recita il nome della *Pave the Way Foundation*, per realizzare progetti di collaborazione fra esponenti di diverse religioni: «Dobbiamo unire le nostre forze, cattolici, ebrei, musulmani... per riconoscere e rimuovere l'estremismo presente in ciascuna delle nostre religioni. Dobbiamo rifiutare la violenza nel nome di Dio. Dobbiamo unirici per fare qualcosa di buono».

**Manuela Borraccino**

**INTERVISTA** Il presidente di "Pave the Way" ha più volte aiutato la Chiesa Cattolica

# Gary Krupp, un ebreo con Padre Pio nel cuore

di Antonio Parisi

Roma "Il migliore amico che io ho è Padre Pio". A parlarci così del frate innalzato agli onori dell'altare da Santa Romana Chiesa è un... ebreo osservante newyorkese, Gary Krupp, che in realtà non ha mai conosciuto San Padre Pio da vivo, ma, visitando San Giovanni Rotondo e le opere che il frate ha realizzato, ne è divenuto a tal punto estimatore, da considerarlo un amico che Krupp sente sempre al suo fianco. Krupp non è una persona ordinaria. Infatti è l'influente presidente della fondazione americana "Pave the Way" (Prepara la Strada) in stretti rapporti personali con tutti i potenti della Terra. La "Pave the Way" vuole promuovere il dialogo tra gli appartenenti alle diverse confessioni religiose, anche antagoniste tra di loro, che sono presenti sulla Terra. Progetto ambizioso, ma in cui c'entra, in qualche modo, Padre Pio. Proprio l'affetto verso il Santo di Pietrelcina ha spinto questo personaggio, che ribadisce la propria appartenenza alla religione ebraica, a contribuire con le proprie relazioni e le proprie conoscenze, alla realizzazione di alcuni progetti ed iniziative della Chiesa Cattolica. Nelle scorse settimane la collaborazione tra "Pave the Way" con la General Electric, ha consentito l'acquisto e l'installazione da parte della Casa Sollie-



Gary Krupp con il Pontefice Benedetto XVI

re su quanto fatto da lui personalmente o dalla "Pave the Way" in favore della Chiesa. Nei mesi passati ha fatto scalpore, negli ambienti degli studiosi, l'acquisto da parte di un membro cattolico della "Pave the Way", Frank Hanna, di alcuni papiri del primo secolo dopo Cristo contenenti il Vangelo di Luca. L'opera è stata comprata per nove milioni di Euro e donata al Vaticano nelle mani di Papa Benedetto XVI. Braccio destro di

La-porta, Gary Krupp accetta di incontrare noi de "Il Meridiano".

L'occasione è ghiotta per chiedergli come sia stato possibile per lui ebreo divenire "amico" di padre Pio.

«Il merito - ci dice Krupp - è stato di Clementoni è di Monsignor Riccardo Ruotolo, allora Presidente della Fondazione Casa Sollievo della Sofferenza, con cui ci incontrammo, una trentina di anni fa, a New York. In quella occasione mi in-

no ho avvertito al mio fianco la presenza di Padre Pio».

Per dimostrare che non scherza Krupp tira fuori dal portafoglio l'amata immagine che in verità è sempre sovrapposta alla esclusiva carta Platino della American Express.

«Tomo spesso in Italia - continua il presidente della "Pave the Way" - ed ogni volta vado volentieri a San Giovanni Rotondo».

# Ancora un miracolo di Padre Pio

## La visita del Cardinale Tarcisio Bertone ha chiuso il cinquantenario dell'opera del frate

di Piero Laporta

Il Cardinale Segretario di Stato Tarcisio Bertone ha chiuso a San Giovanni Rotondo le celebrazioni per il 50° anniversario dell'Opera di San Pio da Pietrelcina, con una messa solenne celebrata con monsignor Domenico D'Ambrosio, vescovo di Manfredonia, Monte Sant'Angelo e San Giovanni Rotondo, e il vescovo di Lecce, monsignor Cosmo Francesco Ruppi. Il rito religioso si è svolto all'aperto, sotto il pronao dell'ingresso principale, lì dove Padre Pio nel 1956 ha celebrato la messa di inaugurazione dell'ospedale da lui fortemente voluto.

In precedenza il Cardinale Bertone ha benedetto l'apparecchiatura Per-Tac, la prima di questo genere in Puglia, installata nel Polambulatorio Giovanni Paolo II, la struttura socio sanitaria di Casa Sollevero della Sofiferenza, inaugurata nell'anno della santificazione di San Pio da Pietrelcina (2002). La Per-Tac è stata fornita dalla General Electric Healthcare ed è giunta lo scorso 30 marzo direttamente dagli Stati Uniti.

Artefici di questa nuova possibilità di diagnosi precoce dei tumori, offerta a Casa Sollevero della Sofiferenza, sono la fondazione americana "Pave the Way" e il suo presidente, Gary Krupp, i quali, con la collaborazione della General Electric, hanno consentito la disponibilità della macchina a un prezzo scontato di oltre il sessanta per cento rispetto a quello di mercato, che si aggira intorno ai cinque milioni di dollari.

La Per Tac della General Electric consente, con tecniche sofisticate, di appurare tempestivamente quale cancro affligga il paziente, stabilire con precisione quali organi siano interessati e, mediante una enorme serie di dati incoordinati, stabilire se la terapia in atto sia appropriata oppure necessiti di aggiustamenti.

Gary Krupp, che si è fortemente e personalmente impegnato in questa meritoria operazione, nel corso di una intervista a Teleradio Padre Pio ha tenuto a sottolineare alcuni particolari per molti versi singolari. Egli è un ebreo professore, però non esita a riconoscere la qualità del tutto speciale della figura di Padre Pio e la sua straordinaria capacità di attrazione su



L'EBREO MECENATE E IL PAPA. Gary Krupp, presidente della fondazione americana "Pave the Way", con Benedetto XVI



## Giovanni De Leonardis, Udeur: «La famiglia non può stare né a destra né a sinistra»

Società

Lecce | Da che parte sia la famiglia? Né a destra né a sinistra, ma al centro degli obiettivi di tutti gli schieramenti politici. Ne è convinto il presidente del gruppo Consiliare Udeur alla Regione Puglia, Giovanni De Leonardis, intervenuto durante la conferenza stampa tenutasi ieri a Lecce nell'ambito delle iniziative sulla "Famiglia" che il partito di Clemente Mastella ha organizzato su tutto il territorio nazionale. «La Famiglia prima di tutto. Essa - ha detto De Leonardis - deve essere il primo luogo educativo e formativo per i suoi componenti, genitori e figli: luogo in cui si impara a crescere, relazionandosi e confrontandosi con la Società». Per De Leonardis, quindi, «è tempo che le istituzioni a tutti i livelli promuovano degli orientamenti culturali e sociali forti e chiari a sostegno delle famiglie, tutelando e rispettando comunque le loro convinzioni etiche, religiose e politiche». Le varie proposte di leggi, nazionali e regionali, che l'Udeur sta presentando, infatti, hanno l'obiettivo di valorizzare «sia il ruolo della donna quale protagonista imprescindibile nella famiglia del terzo millennio, sia di tutelare i diritti dei figli e dei minori/ portatori di handicap». La Famiglia - ha detto - è padre di tutti. Non è né di destra, né di sinistra. Nessuno può sentirsi "prescelto" nella gestione di problematiche così importanti per il futuro della nostra società. Anche per questo, l'Udeur sarà presente in tutte le manifestazioni ed in tutte le sedi istituzionali finalizzate a salvaguardare i diritti della crescita e della tutela della famiglia».

## IL PROGETTO. Il vicepresidente della Regione, Sandro Frisullo, sui servizi digitali. L'alfabetizzazione informatica per far crescere tutta la Puglia

Pietramontecorvino (Fg) | «Attraverso tali iniziative, la Regione Puglia intende agevolare l'abbattimento del divario digitale per promuovere la crescita complessiva del territorio attraverso la fruizione di servizi della Pubblica Amministrazione». È quanto ha dichiarato il vice presidente e assessore regionale allo Sviluppo Economico, Sandro Frisullo, intervenendo in video-conferenza alla giornata inaugurale dell'intervento dei Centri di Accesso Pubblico ai Servizi Digitali Avanzati dell'Apv, svoltosi sabato, presso il Palazzo Ducale di Pietra-



Sandro Frisullo

montecorvino, in provincia di Foggia. «Il contributo - ha proseguito Frisullo - che si intende dare alla riduzione del *digital-divide* ed alla promozione dell'utilizzo di servizi digitali avanzati prende forma nella volontà di rendere disponibili sul territorio punti e centri di accesso pubblici dotati di connessioni a banda larga fornicata nel contempo sia strumenti di accesso ai servizi della Pubblica Amministrazione che opportunità di fruizione di servizi complementari a valere aggiunto a sostegno della alfabetizzazione informatica ed anche nell'ottica di consentire la possibilità di fruire, attraverso categorie svantaggiate, il servizio *Internet*».

15:35 del 16/05/2007 Calcoli ed enigmi, gli studenti si sfidano in matematica 15:30 del 16/05/2007 "La regina delle nevi", una storia per tutti 12:40 del 16/05/2007 E Pino Daniele duetta con Giorgia e Noa 12:25 del 16/05/2007 «Non penso che io sia la voce di un'intera generazione» 12:10 del 16/05/2007 Passando dal Gargano alla Sicilia continua il viaggio di Laurent Gaudé

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## Primo piano

08.05.2007 ore 14:50:00.

### Ancora un miracolo di Padre Pio

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Gary Krupp, è andato più volte a San Giovanni Rotondo ed ha sperimentato di persona il carisma universale del Santo Padre Pio.

D'altro canto questa attitudine a superare le barriere religiose è lo scopo della sua vita, da quando, sotto gli occhi e con il patrocinio di Giovanni Paolo II, mise in piedi la "Pave the Way Foundation" (letteralmente "Fondazione Prepara la Strada"), un sodalizio che si propone di incoraggiare con tutti gli sforzi possibili il dialogo interreligioso nel mondo intero.

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Gary Krupp vanta a suo attivo, oltre a una quantità di iniziative per il dialogo fra ebrei, mussulmani e cattolici nel Medio oriente, anche l'aver condotto al cospetto di Giovanni Paolo II, una settimana prima che egli si ammalasse per l'ultima volta, ben 160 leader religiosi ebraici, che hanno reso omaggio a un Pontefice visibilmente commosso e soddisfatto, nella Cappella Sistina. È stato un evento di portata storica del quale Pave the Way va giustamente orgogliosa.

Con questa impresa della Pet-Tac nell'ospedale Casa Sollievo della Sofferenza, centro cattolico di assistenza medica di fama mondiale, al centro dell'opera di Padre Pio, la strada che prepara il dialogo fra le religioni ha fatto un importantissimo passo avanti.

**Piero Laporta**



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# Le prix « Serviteur de la paix » décerné au directeur de Zenit

ROME, Dimanche 11 juin 2006 ([ZENIT.org](#)) - Le prix « Servitor pacis » (Serviteur de la paix) 2006, remis par la Fondation « Path to Peace » (Chemin de la paix) sera décerné cette année à Gary L. Krupp, Dino Samaja et au directeur de Zenit, Jesús Colina.

Gary L. Krupp est le fondateur de la « Pave the Way Foundation » pour le dialogue entre les croyants de différentes religions. L'ambassadeur Dino Samaja est président du comité directeur de Farmasa - Laboratoire américain de Pharmacothérapie S.A., connu pour son important travail humanitaire.

La Fondation « Path to Peace », dont le président est l'archevêque Celestino Migliore, nonce apostolique, observateur permanent du Saint-Siège auprès des Nations Unies, a pour but de soutenir l'œuvre de la mission du Saint-Siège aux Nations Unies.

Le prix sera remis le 13 juin au siège des Nations Unies à New York.



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Jesús Colina a fondé l'agence Zenit en 1997. Il s'agit d'une agence d'information sur Internet, indépendante et à but non lucratif, dont l'objectif est de promouvoir le message de l'Eglise catholique et notamment sa doctrine sociale. L'équipe de travail de l'agence est composée de 52 journalistes, traducteurs, techniciens et administrateurs de 14 nationalités différentes. Zenit publie des bulletins d'information quotidiens et hebdomadaires en six langues et compte actuellement quelque 400.000 abonnés.

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En 1998 Jesús Colina fut nommé responsable des contenus du Réseau informatique de l'Eglise en Amérique Latine (RIIAL), une initiative du Conseil pontifical pour les Communications sociales, en collaboration avec le Conseil épiscopal Latino-américain (CELAM).

La Fondation « Path to Peace » lui remet ce prix « en reconnaissance de son service à l'Eglise, à travers la diffusion de ses enseignements sur la paix et sur la dignité de la personne, et pour diffuser de manière efficace l'œuvre du Saint-Siège aux Nations Unies ».

L'américain Gary Krupp, qui recevra également le prix « Servitor Pacis » a fondé la « Pave the Way Foundation » en 2003. Son objectif est d'aider à créer des ponts entre les religions à travers des échanges culturels, technologiques et intellectuels. Gary Krupp organisa le 18 janvier 2005 la plus grande rencontre de rabbins avec le pape Jean-Paul II pour le remercier pour tout ce qu'il a fait pour les juifs et pour Israël.

En juillet 2000, Jean-Paul II a décerné à Gary Krupp le titre de Chevalier de l'Ordre Equestre de saint Grégoire le Grand. En septembre 2000 il a reçu l'Arbre de la Vie Centenaire du Fonds national juif des Etats-Unis pour son engagement en faveur de l'Etat d'Israël, du peuple juif et de l'Eglise catholique. En juillet dernier il a été élevé dans l'Ordre anglican de Saint Jean, de la Reine Elizabeth II d'Angleterre.

La Fondation « Path to Peace » remet ce prix à Gary Krupp « en reconnaissance de son inlassable engagement à promouvoir la paix et l'harmonie entre les personnes des différentes traditions religieuses ».

Le troisième lauréat du prix « Servitor Pacis » est Dino Samaja, pharmacien brésilien né en Italie, président du Comité directeur de FARMASA, qui réalise une œuvre humanitaire importante en Amérique Latine, spécialement à travers la distribution de médicaments.

Dino Samaja est ambassadeur de l'Ordre souverain de Malte au Paraguay, président de l'Association de l'Ordre souverain de Malte de Sao Paulo et du sud du Brésil, et premier représentant de l'Ordre auprès des Nations Unies (1994).

La Fondation « Path to Peace » lui décerne ce prix « en reconnaissance de son engagement désintéressé en faveur des autres, en particulier des pauvres ».

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## Islamic Center of Long Island Donates to Pave the Way Foundation Project in Support of Jewish and Christian Mothers in Need

JERUSALEM 5/25/2007 2:33 PM GMT (TransWorldNews)

The Pave the Way Foundation (PTWF), a non-sectarian New-York-based foundation dedicated to enhancing relations between religions, announced that the Islamic Center of Long Island, Westbury NY has provided a financial gift which was used to provide baby formula, diapers and toys to needy Jewish and Christian mothers in Jerusalem. The Christian mothers in need were identified with the assistance of Fr. Peter Vasko OFM, President of the Franciscan foundation for the Holy Land.

Path the Way Foundation initiated this charitable program to address a vital need and provide a way that individuals, churches, synagogues and mosques could contribute to improving relationships between religious groups. Social services in Israel are lacking in certain areas and sometimes leave the poorest mothers without the basic needs of infants. Funds collected from mosques are donated to help Christian and Jewish mothers. Likewise, funds collected from churches are used to help Muslim and Jewish mothers and funds collected from synagogues help Christian and Muslim mothers.

Such gestures of good will are the cornerstone of Pave the Way Foundation's mission. PTWF's founder, Gary L. Krupp, stated, "A gesture is worth a million words and promises. We commend and thank the Islamic Center of Long Island for their contribution. We hope this wonderful gesture of friendship is duplicated by other religious groups."

The gift baskets were distributed on May 22nd and May 24th by PTWF founders, Gary and Meredith Krupp, along with renowned artist, Sam Philipe, and Under Secretary for the Franciscan Custody of the Holy Land, Fr. Angelo Ison OFM. Both are Special Advisors to PTWF in Jerusalem.

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While the international news media focuses on horrendous acts of terrorism rooted in religious extremism, PTWF works to give a voice to the silent majority of peace-loving religious people. Religion must not be used as a tool for violence but rather as a tool of reconciliation and peace.

Pave the Way Foundation is founded on the idea that concrete gestures of good will between the faiths can do much more than just simple dialog. PTWF held the largest Jewish Papal Audience in history to simply thank Pope John Paul II for all he had done in religious reconciliation. PTWF initiated the first ever loan of a rare manuscript of Maimonides from the Vatican Library to the State of Israel. These and other projects enhance the common message that the world must come together to oppose religious extremism in every religion and to recognize this abuse as the greatest danger to humanity.

#### About Pave the Way Foundation

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

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## Magazine

12.05.2007 ore 13:15:00.

### Gary Krupp, un ebreo con Padre Pio nel cuore

**Roma** "Il migliore amico che io ho è Padre Pio". A parlarci così del frate innalzato agli onori dell'altare da Santa Romana Chiesa è un...ebreo osservante newyorkese, Gary Krupp, che in realtà non ha mai conosciuto San Padre Pio da vivo, ma, visitando San Giovanni Rotondo e le opere che il frate ha realizzato, ne è divenuto a tal punto estimatore, da considerarlo un amico che Krupp sente sempre al suo fianco. Krupp non è una persona ordinaria. Infatti è l'influente presidente della fondazione americana "Pave the Way" (Prepara la Strada) in stretti rapporti personali con tutti i potenti della Terra. La "Pave the Way" vuole promuovere il dialogo tra gli appartenenti alle diverse confessioni religiose, anche antagoniste tra di loro, che sono presenti sulla Terra. Progetto ambizioso, ma in cui c'entra, in qualche modo, Padre Pio. Proprio l'affetto verso il Santo di Pietrelcina ha spinto questo personaggio, che ribadisce la propria appartenenza alla religione ebraica, a contribuire con le proprie relazioni e le proprie conoscenze, alla realizzazione di alcuni progetti ed iniziative della Chiesa Cattolica. Nelle scorse settimane la collaborazione tra "Pave theWay" con la General Electric, ha consentito l'acquisto e l'installazione da parte della Casa Sollievo della Sofferenza di San Giovanni Rotondo, con un prezzo di favore, di una avveniristica Pet-Tac. La macchina, è stata ottenuta con uno sconto del sessanta per cento sul costo di mercato che si aggira sui cinque milioni di dollari. E' riservato Krupp, ed è difficile farlo parlare su quanto fatto da lui personalmente o dalla "Pave the Way" in favore della Chiesa. Nei mesi passati ha fatto scalpore, negli ambienti degli studiosi, l'acquisto da parte di un membro cattolico della "Pave the Way", Frank Hanna, di alcuni papiri del primo secolo dopo Cristo contenenti il Vangelo di Luca. L'opera è stata comprata per nove milioni di Euro e donata al Vaticano nelle mani di Papa Benedetto XVI. Braccio destro di Gary Krupp è un cattolico italiano che vive a Roma ma che ha girato il mondo e continua, imperterrito nonostante i suoi ottanta anni, a saltare da un aereo all'altro. Si tratta di Rolando Clementoni. Proprio grazie ai buoni uffici di Clementoni e del nostro editorialista Piero La-porta, Gary Krupp accetta di incontrare noi de "Il Meridiano".

L'occasione è ghiotta per chiedergli come sia stato possibile per lui ebreo divenire "amico" di padre Pio.

«Il merito - ci dice Krupp - è stato di Clementoni è di Monsignor Riccardo Ruotolo, allora Presidente della Fondazione Casa Sollievo della Sofferenza, con cui ci incontrammo, una trentina di anni fa, a New York. In quella occasione mi invitarono a visitare San Giovanni Rotondo. Accettai. Quando giunsi in Puglia e visitai i luoghi dove era vissuto Padre Pio, sentii subito il carisma di quella figura. Monsignor Ruotolo mi regalò una foto del frate. Quella foto è sempre con me, sul mio cuore e da allora ogni giorno ho avvertito al mio fianco la presenza di Padre Pio».

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Per dimostrare che non scherza Krupp tira fuori dal portafoglio l'amata immagine che in verità è sempre sovrapposta alla esclusiva carta Platino della American Express.

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«Torno spesso in Italia -continua il presidente della "Pave the Way"- ed ogni volta vado volentieri a San Giovanni Rotondo».

Attualmente Krupp coadiuvato del sempre presente Clementoni sta lavorando ad un progetto per la pace nel mondo: un concerto in cui far cantare insieme artisti ebrei, musulmani sunniti e sciiti, cattolici e buddisti. Vuoi vedere che con l'aiuto di Padre Pio, Krupp ci riesce?

**Antonio Parisi**



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Three Faiths Forum meets with Ambassadors to the Court of St. James



Written by [Andie Newman](#)

Thursday, 15 February 2007

Over 100 ambassadors and senior diplomats, invited by the Marshal of the Diplomatic Corps, Sir Anthony Figgis, gathered to meet with leaders of the Three Faiths Forum at Ambassadors Court, St. James's Palace yesterday. Sir Sigmund Sternberg, co-founder of the Three Faiths Forum, chaired the meeting which included presentations by representatives of interfaith communities with an international reach. He praised the interest shown by members of the Royal Family in seeking to further interfaith relations.

Speakers included Mr. Sherif El Diwany, Director of the Middle East and Council of One Hundred Leaders of the World Economic Forum, Sir Peter Ricketts, Permanent Under Secretary of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, Rabbi Avraham Soetendorp, Member of the C100, and Mr. Gary Krupp, president of Pave the Way Foundation.

In a call to leaders of the three Abrahamic religions to bring to bear their combined religious teachings to end conflicts, demand equitable global economic order, and press for the protection of liberties, Mr. Sherif El Diwany, called for religious leaders to become the heroes of good faith. He invited all those present to suggest leaders from their countries with whom the World Economic Forum can work and include in its community to address the myriad and complex issues involved in enhancing dialogue between the Western and Islamic worlds.

Sir Peter Ricketts underlined the support of the Government and FCO for the Three Faiths Forum and the understanding of interfaith relations today. "Issues of identity and faith and alienation are more important than ever", he said. He added that the Foreign Office can no longer concentrate just on what is happening abroad, as any event in a foreign country is immediately an issue for many people in this country with a connection or reason for concern.

Rabbi Avraham Soetendorp cautioned that humanity must choose its future, form a global partnership to care for the earth and each other or face destruction.

H.E. Mr. Khaled Al-Duwaisan, Ambassador of the State of Kuwait and Dean of the Diplomatic Corps, spoke about the need to focus on education and enlightenment. "We have a problem addressing the young generation which is less tolerant and blemished by antagonism", he said. Other ambassadors spoke about the developments of interfaith dialogue in their particular countries, while Stephen Shashoua of the Three Faiths Forum focussed on the youth and education activities of the Three Faiths Forum and in particular, Tools 4 Dialogue.

Mr. Anthony Bailey stressed the importance for the diplomatic corps to work with the Three Faiths Forum and to bring their interfaith leaders to Britain to see the work being done here; while Ruth Weyl of the International Council of Christians and Jews welcomed the insight of the Foreign Office, understanding the need to support not only what appears relevant to their country but, in a globally intertwined world, that responsibility for such support needed to come from departments of both home and foreign affairs. Mr. Gary Krupp protested that the picture painted by the media was very distorted and crafted to inflame emotions rather than to report facts with historical accuracy. Mr. Sidney Shipton, Coordinator of the Three Faiths Forum, summed up the proceedings.

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## Catholic-Jewish interfaith group rebukes Israel's attack on Pope Benedict



New York, Aug 8, 2005 / 12:00 am (CNA). - Earlier this week, Gary Krupp, head of the Pave the Way Foundation, an organization seeking to improve relations between Catholics and Jews, rebuked Israeli leaders for their harsh words against Pope Benedict regarding what they saw as a failure of the Holy Father to recognize terrorist attacks aimed at Israel. During a past Sunday's Angelus, the Pope deplored recent terrorist attacks on the countries of Brittan, Egypt, Turkey and Iraq--all of which had been hit within the previous 72 hours.

Israel's foreign ministry quickly criticized Benedict for failing to mention the frequent attacks on Israel, the most recent of which had been 12 days prior.

Israel summoned a Vatican envoy and said that the Pope deliberately failed to include the country, charges which the Vatican has vehemently denied.

According to the Associated Press, Krupp asked the Pope to grant him and other Jewish leaders an audience to tell him "that we do believe that the pope is enormously supportive of the Jewish people and the state of Israel."

He said that while Israel's sensitivity was understandable, their protest of the Pope's remarks should have been carried out privately, not on the world stage.

The Vatican had responded to Israel in a July 30<sup>th</sup> statement which read, "It is sad and surprising that it has gone unobserved how, for the past 26 years, Pope John Paul II's voice has been so often raised with force and passion in the dramatic situation in the Holy Land, condemning all terrorist acts and calling for sentiments of humanity and peace."

The statement added that, "Not every attack against Israel could be followed by an immediate public condemnation... partly because they were "sometimes followed by immediate Israeli reactions not always compatible with the norms of international law. It would, consequently, have been impossible to condemn the former and remain silent on the latter."

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VATICAN CITY, JAN. 16, 2006 (Zenit.org).- Here is a translation of the address Benedict XVI delivered today at an audience attended by Chief Rabbi Riccardo Di Segni of Rome and a delegation from the Jewish community. <http://www.engagingamerica.org/ajc/images/benedictspeech1.16.06.pdf>

March 16, 2006 ? American Jewish Committee President E. Robert Goodkind led a leadership delegation in a private audience with Pope Benedict XVI at the Vatican today. AJC is the first American Jewish organization the pope has received.

<http://www.engagingamerica.org/ajc/news/index.asp?partnerID=133&subHeadID=151>

The pope recently honored Rosen by making him a Knight Commander of the Order of Saint Gregory the Great. He is the first Israeli and only Orthodox rabbi to receive the papal knighthood.



Gary Krupp and Jerzy Kluger, both of Pave the Way, welcome Pope Benedict XVI and Stanislaw Cardinal Dziwisz into the childhood home of Pope John Paul II in Wadowice Poland during the Papal mission to Poland May 27, 2006. <http://www.ptwf.org/Projects/Education/indexWadowice.htm>

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

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



Vatican City State (PRWEB) February 25, 2007 -- As a gesture of gratitude in recognition of his dedicated and tireless efforts on behalf of Catholic-Jewish and Vatican-Israeli relations, His Holiness Pope Benedict XVI has bestowed the rank of Knight Commander with a Silver Star of the Pontifical Equestrian Order of St. Gregory the Great upon Mr. Gary Krupp of New York. The conferral of the Silver Star marks the second time Krupp has been honored by the Supreme Pontiff, having been previously invested as a Knights Commander in the same order by the late Pope John Paul II. Gary and his wife Meredith founded Pave the Way Foundation, a nonprofit charity dedicated to the promotion of peace and understanding between religions through cultural, technological and education exchanges.



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### Birmingham Cathedral Contributes to Pave the Way Foundation Project Supporting Jewish and Muslim Welfare Mothers in Jerusalem

 Click to go back to [USA Religious News](#)

2007-06-05 -- USA Religious News

The Pave the Way Foundation (PTWF) a non-sectarian New York-based foundation dedicated to enhancing relations between religions, today announced that the Cathedral of St. Paul in Birmingham, Alabama has provided financial support to a program that supports needy mothers on welfare in Jerusalem. One of Pave the Way Foundation projects to demonstrate and encourage good will between religious groups, this project uses funds donated by Christian groups to help Jewish and Muslim mothers.

Path the Way Foundation initiated this charitable program to address a vital need and provide a way that individuals, churches, synagogues and mosques could contribute to improving relationships between religious groups. Social services in Israel are lacking in certain areas and sometimes leave the poorest mothers without the basic needs of infants. Funds collected from mosques are donated to help Christian and Jewish mothers. Likewise, funds collected from synagogues are used to help Muslim and Christian mothers and funds collected from churches help Jewish and Muslim mothers.

"The Cathedral of St. Paul, ever striving for peace in our world, believes that dealing with poverty at the grass roots level is the most effective way we can address many of the illnesses of our world," said Rev. Richard E. Donohoe, Rector. "Because of our mandate to love our neighbor we are compelled to respond in many varied ways to these ills. To assist the feeding of children in Jewish and Islamic cultures is a wonderful sign that authenticates our vision."

The funds were used to provide baby formula, diapers and toys. The gifts were distributed on May 22nd and May 24th by PTWF founders, Gary and Meredith Krupp, along with renowned artist, Sam Philipe, and Under Secretary for the Franciscan Custody of the Holy Land, Fr. Angelo Ison OFM. Both are Special Advisors to PTWF in Jerusalem. Fr. Peter Vasko OFM, President of the Franciscan foundation for the Holy Land, helped by locating the Muslim women in need.

While the international news media focuses on horrendous acts of terrorism rooted in religious extremism, PTWF works to give a voice to the silent majority of peace-loving religious people. Religion must not be used as a tool for violence but rather as a tool of reconciliation and peace.

Pave the Way Foundation is founded on the idea that concrete gestures of good will between the faiths can do much more than just simple dialog. PTWF held the largest Jewish Papal Audience in history to simply thank Pope John Paul II for all he had done in religious reconciliation. PTWF initiated the first ever loan of a rare manuscript of Maimonides from the Vatican Library to the State of Israel. These and other projects enhance the common message that the world must come together to oppose religious extremism in every religion and to recognize this abuse as the greatest danger to humanity.

#### About Pave the Way Foundation

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

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#### Story Source



*St. Peter The Apostle  
Catholic Diocese for  
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March 27, 2007

## On Quieting Zealots and Achieving Peace

### Interview With Gary Krupp

**NEW YORK, MARCH 26, 2007 (Zenit.org).**- To achieve peace, religions must respond to their own zealots, with the support of governments and media, says an interreligious-relations expert who was recently honored by Benedict XVI.

Gary Krupp of the Pave the Way Foundation, a U.S.-based, nondenominational organization founded by him and his wife, aims to eliminate the use of religion as a tool to achieve personal agendas and cause conflict. Their work to advance peace includes culture, education and technology.

For example, Pave the Way was responsible for giving an ancient papyrus containing parts of the Gospels to the Vatican library recently. And it has met with Palestinian leaders to search for solutions to the conflict with Israel.

Benedict XVI recognized Krupp for his work by bestowing upon him the rank of Knight Commander with a Silver Star of the Pontifical Equestrian Order of St. Gregory the Great. Krupp was also honored by Pope John Paul II in 2000.

In this interview with ZENIT, Krupp speaks of priorities in interreligious relationships and signs of hope for the future.

**Q:** The Pave the Way foundation is working in a plethora of causes, including relations between Jews, Muslims, Orthodox and Catholics, a resolution to the Palestine-Israeli conflict, and in cultural and technological fields as well. What are the primary priorities?

**Krupp:** Our primary priority is the fulfillment of our mission to eliminate the malevolent use of religion. This should be the common denominator that everyone can agree on. Creating a fertile environment for this must be advanced by identifying and eliminating the obstacles that exist between the faiths.

For example, a priority is helping with the finalization of the fundamental agreements between the Holy See and the state of Israel.

Others are the affirmation of the Greek Orthodox patriarch of Jerusalem by the Israeli government, helping to establish the Wasatia Party, or any electoral party, for peace and honesty in the Palestinian territories.

I would like to see the use of the Cenacle restored to the Church which will greatly enhance Christian tourism, helping all people in the region, as well as return this most important shrine to Christian use.

We would like to host a conference on religious extremism where the participants will be lay people who will only meet with their own religions to identify examples of their own extremism and how the everyday person can develop a real workable solution to respond to violence.

Over 85% of the world is secular and we must appeal to them to help, if we hope to curb violence.

**Q:** In a recent speech you gave to ambassadors in London, you mention the role of media, saying that many of them "tend to make a bad situation worse and typically illustrate events in a way which are crafted to inflame emotions." You say that media reports often contradict your personal experience. Could you explain this?

**Krupp:** The media is simply a business which generates its income from advertising and distribution. Sensationalizing a story directly affects sales.

I have seen on too many occasions where the media will take a biased position in its reporting style, resulting in intelligent people getting bad information resulting in incorrect assessments of the real conditions.

I travel to Israel for our work many times a year and the picture of hatred and discord painted by the media is simply wrong.

As a Jew I can say that I have been deeply offended by the Catholic bashing that I see here in the international press. Typically with the millions of examples of charitable outreach and ministries around the world, rarely are these wonderful benevolent acts ever reported. If someone commits some terrible act the media will be all over them in a feeding frenzy, but reports of the good that wonderful men and women do is hard to find in the international press.

**Q:** The mission of the Pave the Way Foundation seeks to "eliminate the use of religion as a tool to achieve personal agendas and to cause conflicts." You suggest that governments have a role to play in this. How do you see that working?

**Krupp:** I told the ambassadors that we are facing a world where the name of religion is being used as a tool to justify personal agendas and malevolent acts. Almost every conflict on earth is motivated by the intentional misuse and manipulation of religion and the holy texts. Religions must become active defenders of God's name. I think that demonstrated action by quoting the holy text in the defense of religion and the condemnation of violence will be very effective.

I said that governments cannot respond to religious zealots, only the religions can. I urged the governments to reach out to religious leaders from all faiths, to become an ally or a partner in the struggle against those who defile religion by their violent acts. This unified offensive against the violent must also be embraced and vocalized by the media who must assume a level of responsibility by reporting this defense of religion and opposition to violence.

**Q:** The misuse of religion is perhaps a contributing cause to growing secularism or even atheism. What would you say to this?

**Krupp:** This is definitely a contributing factor. I believe that when religion and politics are mixed it is like a thirsty man is given muddy water to drink. If a religious leader wants to express his political beliefs, take it outside -- not in the pulpit.

This only serves to separate people and pollute the true message of religion. The laity, who I come to meet, say they don't go to synagogue or to church, but they all say they are spiritual and they believe in God. I think people see the violence and bigotry in the name of God as being so negative and are disillusioned by the silence from leaders in their faith, who in many cases simply stay silent because they do not want to offend anyone.

**Q:** Benedict XVI has spoken about the need to have hope for the future. With current trends of increasing religious extremism, what do you see as the most hopeful trends?

**Krupp:** Pope Benedict XVI is my personal hero. I met him first while he was cardinal and then three times while Pope in Poland, at a special Mass for Padre Pio and when we presented him with the Bodmer Papyrus on Jan. 22, 2007.

The Holy Father recognizes the dangers of religious extremism, in all religions, as a menace to peace. Almost every conflict on earth today is fueled by the misuse of God's name. The Holy Father sees this and speaks out as a defender of the word of God at almost every opportunity.

Are there hopeful trends? Yes there are, it is where religious leaders are beginning to follow the lead of Pope Benedict XVI. In the United States, we have an old expression "I see you talk the talk but do you walk the walk?" Pope Benedict XVI walks the walk.

**Q:** How essential is interreligious dialogue and cooperation for the battle against religious extremism?

**Krupp: Interreligious dialogue is and has been essential in "paving the way" to opening the door between the faiths.**

**We believe that once that door is opened it must be followed by interreligious action and gestures. An example of action is where Pave the Way initiated the largest historic Jewish audience with Pope John Paul II on Jan. 18, 2005, to simply thank him for all he has done in religious reconciliation.**

**Gestures are like our work to bring the Bodmer Papyrus to the Vatican Library and the Vatican Library's loan of the manuscripts of Maimonides to the state of Israel.**

**We don't have to all agree on theology but a gesture is a thousand times more effective in sending a message of love and cooperation. Once the practical relations between the faiths have been established, then the religions can work together to effectively confront those who use God's name to destroys God's creations.**

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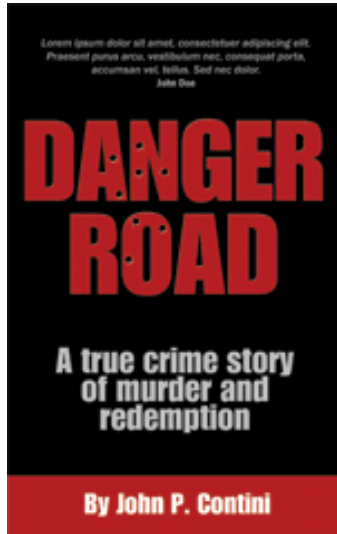
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### Pave the Way Foundation working to improve Multi-religious tourism in Israel and the Holy Land

To: News Assignment Desk

**Media Contact:**

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www.ptwf.org

2007-06-13 -- [WDC News Post] -- NEW YORK - Israeli Airport Security and the Israeli Ministry of Tourism have asked Pave the Way Foundation (PTWF) to prepare a short book of religious etiquette with illustrations of religious dress and appropriate salutations, so that airport security personnel may learn to properly and respectfully address religious guests traveling into and out of Israel. These materials will be used for ongoing training of all security details and shifts at Ben Gurion airport.

Israel's ambassador to the Holy See, H.E. Oded Ben-Hur, has held multiple training sessions with airport security personnel and this has definitely made a positive difference. PTWF wants to commend this effort and work to improve the situation even more with consistent training on an ongoing basis.

PTWF has initiated this work in reaction to complaints by some Christian leaders and pilgrims, in regards to the questioning at the airport. The Israeli government is keenly aware of this problem and has been working to make pilgrims wonderful spiritual experience equally wonderful as they arrive and depart Ben Gurion. This can be a challenge with the necessity to maintain the high level of competent security.

The problem has never been a lack of care, only a lack of training and correct

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the business end of a gun wielded by a Miami-Dade police officer. But police and prosecutors say Officer Gilbert Fernandez Jr. and his cohorts weren't there to arrest the drug dealers; they were there to kill them and steal their nine kilos of cocaine.



*Danger Road* details the transformation Fernandez, a former Mr. Florida bodybuilding champion and black-belt karate champion, who became a Christian during the intervening years between the 1983 murders and his subsequent arrest in 1990. This was no courthouse conversion. The man who had once been named "Miami's meanest cop" had been a Christian for years by the time of his trial. He no longer forced African American detainees to eat cigarette butts from the squad-car ashtray at gunpoint, as he did in his days before knowing Christ. And he no longer ran the ring of bodybuilder debt collectors out of the notorious Apollo Gym, which he eventually owned. He

information. As an example of inconsistent information, Passport Control lists the Vatican as a state which it recognizes but does not mention "the Holy See." All Vatican diplomats and high-ranking members of the clergy from the Vatican travel with passports labeled The Holy See and thus there has been some confusion. PTWF is working to correct this problem.

First Deputy Director of the Ministry of Tourism, Raphael Ben-Hur, has been energetic in his efforts to increase Christian tourism to Israel and has been working with PTWF to identify problems and complaints in order to eliminate these obstacles.

Gary Krupp, President of PTWF, said, "I was most impressed with the Israeli Tourism Ministry's attempt to bring more meaningful travel to Bethlehem by encouraging overnight stays, in order to help the local Palestinian economy, so dependent on tourism." The Assistant Head of Inspections Security Department has stated that keeping our visitors safe has been paramount and we appreciate the effort of PTWF which enables us to do our job while trying to respect the dignity of our guests. She has admitted that in some cases, knowing of the stringent attention to security, some people have used this as a means to create a crisis and some headlines, but we truly wish to do our job while respecting the differences of our guests. She added that "when we ask if your luggage was packed by you and in has remained in your possession? The reason is that some people leave their luggage with the Hotel or they received a gift, a potential danger, from which we must protect our visitors.

Pave the Way Foundation commends this effort by the Israeli Ministry of Tourism and the Airport security for their sensitive understanding. PTWF encourages tourism as an effective means to help to alleviate tension between the Israelis and the Palestinians which can only help combat the efforts of those who wish to capitalize on poverty for their own agenda.

#### About Pave the Way Foundation

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

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## Commentary

### The Wasatia Movement - An Alternative to Radical Islam

Mohammed Dajani  
June 21, 2007

The flames of religious radicalism continue to fan out across much of the Muslim world in general, and the Palestinian Territories in particular. Islam as a religion remains a spiritual center and focal point in the lives of Palestinians, and actively molds and shapes the content and vision of Palestinian society.

In contradiction to Islamic traditions of sparing prisoners and the wounded, violent events took place recently in Gaza and the West Bank in which Muslims from Hamas had no reservations about dragging other Muslims from Fatah into the street, beating them up and then summarily executing them. Images of Palestinians holding guns pointed at one another and shooting at each other are seen across the global airwaves.

According to Mohammed Dajani, director of American Studies Institute at Al-Quds University in Jerusalem, this reflects the present kindergarten *jihaddist* education which many young



The Mufti of Jerusalem and Palestine, Muhammad Ahmad Hussein, reading Wasatia book. (Photo: Pave the Way Foundation)

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Palestinians receive; namely, a simplistic concept of jihad which encourages the bloody encounters which have resulted in the recent deaths of more than 200 Palestinians. According to Professor Dajani, the roots of the problem lie in the fact that Palestinian youth are growing up learning two lessons: that the only way to resolve conflict or differences is through a win-lose formula; and that Muslims, Christians and Jews are not meant to coexist, let alone thrive together.

Dajani, founder of the *Wasatia* Movement in Palestine, is working from a small office in one of the poorest neighborhoods in a suburb of Jerusalem to do something about this distortion of Islam. "*Wasatia*" embodies centrism, moderation, justice, balance, and fairness. The term comes from the Arabic word "*wasat*" meaning "middle of the road" or "center of the circle." It is a balance of extremes — between rich and poor, high and low, empty and full, courage and cowardice. Its English equivalent is "moderation" and its meaning in the Qur'an is justice and goodness. Above all, the concept of *wasatia* emphasizes the avoidance of extremes, and the rejection of radicalism — a lesson also taught by Christianity and Judaism.

The "Prof," as his students like to call him, asserts that Islam calls on Muslims to be moderates and to take moderate positions in compliance with the Holy Quran (Baqarah Surah), where it states: "And so we have created you a midground nation." (Notably, this is verse number 143, which falls exactly in the middle of al-Baqarah Surah's 286 verses.)

Dajani further argues that the liberal democratic values of equity, tolerance, justice, liberty, pluralism, the rule of law, and respect for civil and human rights all have comparable values in Islam, and he cites *surahs* from the Holy Quran to support this view. His vision is a mix of the secular with religion, a vision which speaks to the issues of peace, co-existence, and tolerance from within the Islamic tradition.

Professor Dajani maintains that *wasatia* reflects the peaceful message of Islam, stating: "The gap is and has always been very wide between the song and the singer; while Islam is a religious ideology that deals with faith and calls for peace, free choice, dialogue and coexistence, the Muslim fundamentalist ideology demands the use of violence, terrorism and war to be waged against those perceived to be the 'other' — meaning Christians and Jews or anyone classified as infidels."

Dajani's goal is to popularize the neglected concept of moderation and peaceful coexistence among young Palestinians and to acquaint them with the heavenly call for *wasatia*. He is trying to meet the challenge of religious radicalism through a real-time, homegrown contest for the hearts and minds of ordinary Muslims.

The *wasatia* movement is reaching out to a wide range of sectors within Palestinian society including religious leaders, prisoners and ex-prisoners, women, youth, university and high school faculty and students. *Wasatia* structures its educational programs around themes such as state-building, political and



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social reform, peace education, women's empowerment, religious moderation, economic development and support for civil society. Perhaps the deadly outcome of recent events will serve as a tragic sign of the need for *wasatia* to become a touchstone of the Palestinian landscape.

*Wasatia* adheres to a moral platform that places justice, rights, and peace at top of its priorities. Dajani maintains that both sides in have been wronged and deserve mutual recognition, legitimization and accommodation. He believes that creativity and imagination play a key role in bringing both conflicting parties to the table to move ahead toward forgiveness and reconciliation. He calls for a negotiated settlement and rejects violence and terrorism. His position is based on the premise that out of the ashes of decades of conflict, pain and suffering, a mutually-accepted win-win compromise will emerge. Notably, *wasatia* recognizes the moral legitimacy for the existence of both the State of Palestine and the State of Israel.

On the two controversial issues of refugees and Jerusalem, Dajani proposes rational solutions. With regard to refugees, *Wasatia* makes a distinction between the "rights of refugees" and the "right of return." While it considers the "rights of refugees" sacred, it views the "right of return" as an issue to be negotiated with Israel in the final settlement negotiations.

As for Jerusalem, Dajani contends: "Actually the Ottomans have solved this problem for us. The main holy sites of Moslems, Christians, and Jews are located within the walls of the Old City, which is divided into four quarters: Christian, Moslem, Jewish, and Armenian. Jerusalem would be declared an open city and each religion would take control of its quarter."

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# Pave the way bridges the gap between religions



FRAN SALONE-PELLETIER

**A SECOND LOOK**

When I hear the words, "Prepare the way," I think of an impassioned John the Baptist in the desert crying a penitential command. I see a prophet bearing news that was not universally and quickly accepted. I hear the words of Isaiah proclaiming our need to "fill every valley; level every mountain... then the glory of the Lord will be revealed, and all humankind will see it." [Isaiah 40:4-5]

The message is demanding while it is encouraging. It seems but a happy dream—or an impossible nightmare. Yet, "prepare my way" is the call and challenge God gives to the people of God. There are some who have both heard and heeded it in ways that give the rest of us pause. One such person is Gary Krupp, a man who has given his life to God and is living it for God.

Folks in this area are blessed to have the opportunity to meet him, hear his story, and participate in his project. All are welcome to come to his presentation at St. Brendan Roman Catholic Church on U.S. 17, Friday, June 22, at 10 a.m.

Steeped in his Judaism, Krupp's journey began long ago, with his first encounter of the word of God in the Torah, but a milestone event occurred four years ago when he decided to act upon the word and begin a journey that would radically change his life and that of his wife Meredith. He followed the advice of an itinerant Jewish rabbi, Jesus of Nazareth. Literally, Krupp sold what he had in order to give to the poor and follow the way of the Lord. No, he did not convert to Christianity. He is living his Judaism with completion.

Gary and Meredith Krupp were blessed with much material wealth. They had a large home in Rockville Center, Long Island and flourishing businesses. They were the quintessential "successful couple", but Gary's vision far exceeded this reality. He "saw" a united people of God—Jews, Christians and Muslims no longer concentrating on their differences, but focusing on their similarities.

Krupp's family included both observant Jews and those who assimilated into

the American life and culture. As he stated, "I have to say it is quite wonderful to be born a Jew. It is a special part of who I am. But throughout my life I have been exposed to other religions by my parents, friends and in the mixed neighborhood in Queens where I spent my childhood. I attended Hebrew School and was a bar mitzvah, but I also grew up celebrating Christmas. I consider this a gift that has opened many doors for me in my life."

His friendship with Gentiles afforded him an understanding he shared with his Jewish community, tempering their views and piercing their biases. In turn, his life as a committed Jew had a similar effect on his Christian friends. It was this background that would eventually infuse his dream with reality. He wanted to change the world. He wanted to work for peace. He wanted to help return shalom—a divine wholeness and wholeness we humans have been successfully destroying—to God's creation.

To do this would require money. So, he sold his big house and his wife's beautiful jewelry and created Pave the Way Foundation. Aptly named, Krupp notes that the foundation was established to "bring about a bridging of the diverse religions in the commonality of their similarities." This would be achieved by undertaking projects to bring the Jewish people and the State of Israel closer to Catholics and the Holy See. There would also be an involvement with many members of the diverse Christian faiths and Islam.

The mission statement of Pave the Way Foundation indicates that it "is dedicated to bridging the gap between religions, through cultural, technological, and intellectual exchanges. By funding specific projects, we hope to pave the way towards further cooperation and understanding among the diverse faiths, and in turn, embrace our similarities and savor our differences. We strive to eliminate the use of religion as a tool, which historically has been used by some to achieve personal agendas and to cause conflicts. Through our projects and our concrete gestures of good will, we hope to pave the way towards global education directed to the everyday 'grass roots' person. We must now all recognize the dangers of apathy and silence. The end result...peace, understanding and mutual



respect."

A monumental task, Krupp has broken it into smaller, manageable pieces. He used what he knew and what he could do and stretched the knowledge beyond its confines. For example, when he learned of the difficulties occurring at a hospital in a small town in Italy, he drew on his expertise as a businessman who had developed the first diagnostic imaging center on the South Shore of Long Island and owned/operated a kidney dialysis center in upstate New York. Krupp was familiar with sophisticated medical equipment. He could, and did, convince both GE Medical Systems in the U.S. and Phillips Medical Systems in The Netherlands to place state-of-the-art equipment in Casa Sollievo della Sofferenza Hospital. Neither he nor they accepted any recompense for their efforts.

This philanthropic behavior, coupled with other responses to expressed needs, so impressed Pope John Paul II that he bestowed upon Krupp the title Knight of Saint Gregory the Great, an honor given to persons who have distinguished themselves by their accomplishments benefiting society, regardless of their religion or gender. This award bears with it entry into the papal household. Krupp is the seventh Jewish person to receive this particular Pontifical Honor since 1831. Only three are alive today.

But this would not simply remain an honor received. It would be another stepping stone to Pave the Way. As a member of the papal household, Krupp could initiate an historical mission of scholars to the Vatican Library to view original manuscripts of Moses Maimonides. These writings of a 12th century Jewish philosopher, rabbi and physician had been in the Vatican library for centuries. Jewish scholars had been denied access to them.

They would now be able to study them and have them on loan for a period of time.

Krupp's deepest belief is that much can be accomplished through gestures of good will. He brought rabbis: Orthodox, Conservative and Reform to the Vatican where, together, they blessed Pope John Paul II. Acting on reports from the Welfare Department in Israel that no one is helping in a critical area of need, he is beginning a project of giving basic baby supplies to welfare mothers in Israel. But there is a difference in this giving. The difference is that the gifts are not restricted to one group. "One third goes to Muslim moms, one third to Christian moms, and one third to Jewish moms."

Pave the Way sponsored a lecture series entitled, "Islam and Judaism—closer than further." Additionally, it has played a key role in the historic acquisition of the Bodmer Papyrus bringing worldwide availability to the oldest written version of the Lord's Prayer. Projects are ongoing. The Way is being paved with godliness that is not limited to any race, creed, or gender. To pave the way is as Rabbi Hillel said, "To be among the disciples of Aaron, by being a lover of peace, a pursuer of peace, a lover of all humanity and bringing them closer to religion."

It is to pray as Gary Krupp does: "That Jews, Christians and Muslims, the three children of Abraham, may soon bond together in one common cause and voice to defend all humanity against those who defame God by committing wanton acts of violence in his holy name."

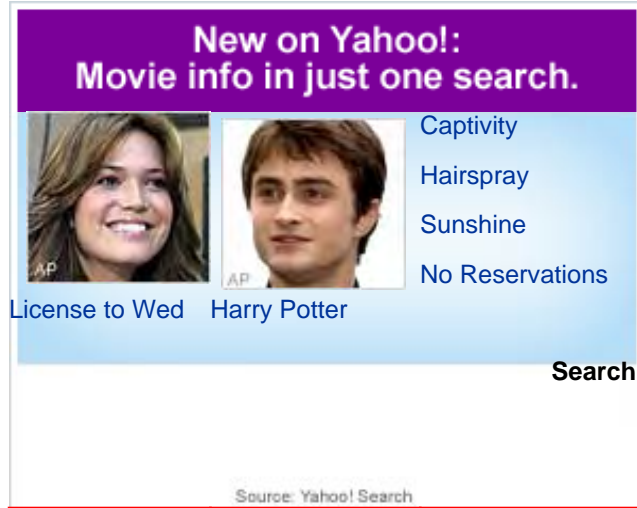
**FRAN SALONE-PELLETIER** is lead Chaplain at Brunswick Community Hospital, religious educator, retreat leader, and lecturer. Her trilogy, *AWAKENING TO GOD: The Sunday Readings in Our Lives* [Cycles A, B], is available at local bookstores or by contacting the author.

## Pave the Way Foundation Questions the Current Outcry Against Pope Benedict's Statements



Sat Jul 14, 3:01 AM ET

A recent statement by Pope Benedict XVI on church doctrine has stirred up international controversy among various Christian groups, according to the media. We need to re-focus on what is of critical importance today.

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(PRWEB) July 14, 2007 -- The Pave the Way Foundation (PTWF), a non-sectarian New-York-based foundation dedicated to enhancing relations between religions, calls for religious persons worldwide to recognize and embrace the similarities between religions rather than concentrate on the differences that separate us.

A recent statement by Pope Benedict XVI, referring to the Doctrine of the Catholic Church has stirred up international controversy among various Christian groups, according to the media. Yet the statement was simply an affirmation of longstanding church doctrine. Many vocal and critical religious institutions and individuals have historically made their own similar statements holding their own religious interpretation to be the true path to salvation and redemption. This is a doctrinal matter, important only to each individual belief and worship system.

More seriously and with a sense of urgency, however, Pave the Way Foundation wishes to shed light on the dangers of the universal silence of the religions to the daily use of religion as a tool to justify violence. Gary Krupp, president of PTWF stated that "it is like rearranging the deck chairs on the Titanic as we hear of these many divisive remarks about the Pope's statement and yet there is a universal silence of this most terrible use of religion. When the extremists, who exist in every faith, try to gain access to weapons of mass destruction with a religious goal to kill millions because of our differences, we need to rally the universal voice of all of the religious leaders to condemn this illegitimate use of religion as justification for violence. We should be concentrating on what we can agree on, such as the benevolent messages of love, charity and the forbidding of violence and murder. This is far more important than arguing over the differences that only serve to create discord and separation. The time has come to concentrate our energies on bringing the religions together as allays in the war against the extremists, who exist in every faith, and who are largely responsible for almost every conflict on Earth."

### About Pave the Way Foundation

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

Contact Linda Simpson  
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## Pave the Way Foundation Calls on Muslim, Christian and Jewish Groups to Help Welfare Mothers in Need

New York 8/20/2007 12:00 PM GMT (TransWorldNews - Top Story)

Pave the Way Foundation today issued an appeal to religious groups worldwide to help mothers and children in need in Jerusalem. "Project Baby" as it has come to be known amongst supporters of Pave the Way Foundation, provides baskets of necessities to welfare mothers, including baby formula, diapers and toys. This initiative based on the most fundamental principles of Pave the Way Foundation (PTWF), the idea that concrete gestures of good will between the faiths accomplish more than simple dialog, and that there is a silent majority of peace-loving people who share the true benevolent message common to all faiths.

Social services in the Middle East are generally lacking in resources and sometimes fail to provide the poorest mothers with the most basic needs for their infants. Supplies that many of us take for granted and assume are readily available for poor families, like diapers, baby formula, and even the simplest toys, are not regularly distributed or available.

PTWF has responded to this alarming situation in a unique way. We are soliciting donations to purchase emergency baby supply baskets from mosques to help Christian and Jewish mothers, from churches to help Muslim and Jewish mothers and from synagogues to help Christian and Muslim mothers. Groups and individual donors have the opportunity to reach out of the boundaries of their own religious communities and address this most vital and unmet need for other families in the Holy Land.

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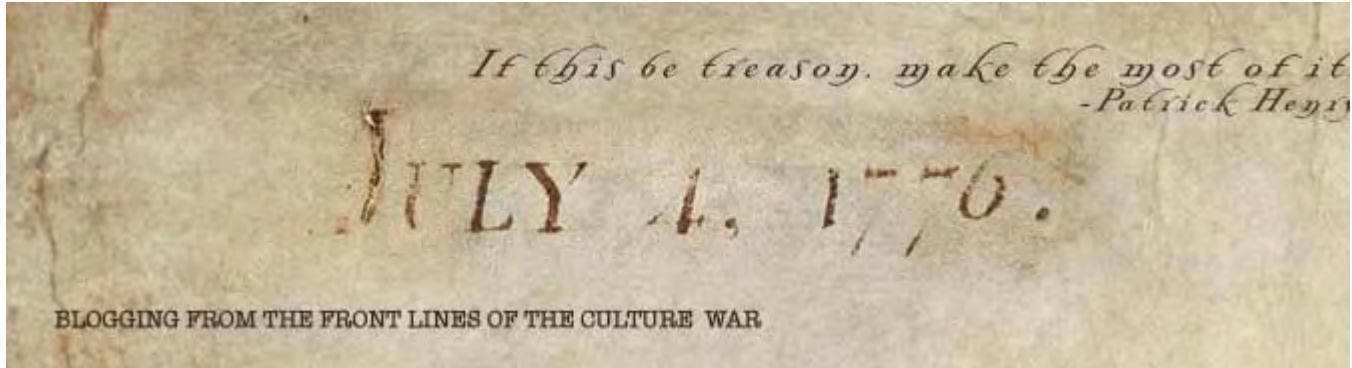
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### [Is the Media our Friend or our Foe?](#)

([Alternative Approaches News](#)) — Pave the Way Foundation (PTWF), an international non-denomination organization calls for the creation of an award of excellence for accurate and balanced news reporting. “We should also set rating standards for the delivery of information,” said PTWF President Gary Krupp. He added that “one element in almost all of the conflicts that we are suffering under must be addressed. The role of the media must be considered when trying to mediate conflicts.”

The media has been used as a weapon on all sides, and we must return to reporting how, when, where, and why as the basic structure of any news story. Too many times, individual bias and agendas have been the overriding influence in reporting today. If we ever hope to gain ground in dealing with terrorism and conflicts we must allow intelligent people to get accurate and balanced information.

Mr. Krupp also stated that rightfully so, as free people, we hold sacred the right of freedom of the press. As “their customers” we have the right to demand accuracy and balance and have the right to some positive content in reporting. We are reminded of the quote from Mark Twain, “If you don’t read the newspaper you are uninformed, if you do read the newspaper you are misinformed.”

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

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## Pave the Way Foundation Applauds the Sunni and Shi'a Religious Leaders for Their Efforts in Defending Islam and to Achieve Peace

*Pave the Way Foundation (PTWF) loudly applauds the religious actions of these defenders of Islam. "Violence and the murder of innocent people justified by the intentional misinterpretation of the laws of Islam have been and remains the most despicable form of defilement of Islam," said Sheikh Agha Syed Jafri, Muslim advisor to Pave the Way Foundation. Sheikh Jafri further stated, "While many will riot and cause violent protests when cartoons of Mohammed are printed, far too many Muslims remain silent when one absolutely and openly defiles the laws of the Qu'ran by killing innocent people." PTWF further commends the Canon Andrew White, an Anglican priest who served in Baghdad for nine years, for his "inter-religious action" in bringing these leaders to the table in a spirit of peace and harmony.*

New York, NY ([PRWEB](#)) August 27, 2007 -- As reported in the Wall Street Journal, an historic meeting of the most senior Iraqi Sunni and Shi'a religious leaders took place recently in a Cairo suburb where they resolved to "end terrorist violence, and to disband militia activity in order to build a civilized country and work within the framework of law." This meeting included Sheikh Ahmed al Kubaisi, a Sunni religious leader, Ayatollah Sayyid Ammar Abu Ragheef, chief of staff for Grand Ayatollah Ali al Sistani, an acknowledged leader of the Shi'a community in Iraq and beyond, and Sheikh Abdul Lateef Humayem, the former personal imam to Saddam Hussein.

Pave the Way Foundation (PTWF) loudly applauds the religious actions of these defenders of Islam. "Violence and the murder of innocent people justified by the intentional misinterpretation of the laws of Islam have been and remains the most despicable form of defilement of Islam," said Sheikh Agha Syed Jafri, Muslim advisor to Pave the Way Foundation. Sheikh Jafri further stated, "While many will riot and cause violent protests when cartoons of Mohammed are printed, far too many Muslims remain silent when one absolutely and openly defiles the laws of the Qu'ran by killing innocent people." PTWF further commends the Canon Andrew White, an Anglican priest who served in Baghdad for nine years, for his "inter-religious action" in bringing these leaders to the table in a spirit of peace and harmony.

PTWF has been working with many important Islamic leaders all over the world in order to see that action of speaking out against violence in the name of Islam takes preference over the suicide bombing or indiscriminate rocket attacks in Iraq, Israel and other locations. When a Katusha rocket is launched and kills an innocent child or a suicide bomb kills innocent Muslims at prayer this is a clear violation of Islamic law and should be loudly protested and recognized for what it is - the illegal use of religion to accomplish a private agenda of violence and destruction. That same illegal agenda violates the true aspirations of the Palestinian and the Iraqi people, to bring up their families in peace and safety and to have an opportunity to prosper.

Gary Krupp, President of Pave the Way Foundation said "PTWF further encourages all of the true Islamic leaders to step forward to defend their faith against forces of evil which preach indiscriminate killing in absolute violation of Islamic law. These forces are the true enemies of Islam. It is these violent acts promoted by false leaders, which defile and insult your faith that should be protested. This is the meaning when you greet one another with Salaam Alaikum, peace be unto you."

Sheikh Jafri said that the Holy Qu'ran, which is believed by all Muslims to be the word of God as revealed to the prophet Mohammed, states clearly in Surah 5, Verse 32: "...whosoever kills a human being ...it shall be as if he had killed all mankind and whosoever saves the life of one, it shall be as if he had saved the life of mankind." Moreover, Surah 4, verse 29 states: "oh ye who believe...kill not yourselves", followed by verse 30: "whosoever does that through aggression and injustice, we shall cast him into fire".

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Mr. Krupp further stated that "PTWF also issues an international challenge to the media to follow the lead of the Wall Street Journal and to carry this story and highlight every effort world wide action achieve international peace rather than reporting only death and tragedy and giving a voice to those perpetrators of violence and murder."

#### About Pave the Way Foundation

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## MEDIA-FRIEND OR FOE?

### Media must become part of the solution not the problem

New York 8/8/2007 5:04 PM GMT (TransWorldNews - Top Story)

**MEDIA-FRIEND OR FOE?**As we struggle to learn of all that is occurring around us, we try to absorb the information available to us. The sources we have relied upon have been print, broadcast and now Internet media. As we see the media moguls gobbling up the competition, we need to step back and take a careful look at the job they are doing. Rightfully so, as free people, we hold sacred the right of freedom of the press. However, seeing what is happening today, one must question how some appear to be using this right as a shield against criticism when held accountable for the delivery of information. As their customers I believe we have right to demand accuracy and balance and have the right to some positive content in reporting.

When one opens the morning paper or watches the eleven o'clock news we are struck with the fact that almost nothing reported is really newsworthy. Robberies, murders, celebrity arrests, rape, fires, explosions and the like do nothing to enhance our well being or teach us anything. This type of sensationalism is simply a report card of human stupidity, which showcases the level of depravity whose bottom limits are constantly pushed lower and lower. On a positive note, there are many fine high quality media industry leaders who do make an effort to positively disseminate information but they are the exception rather than the rule.

When you pickup a conservative or liberal periodical you expect a certain point of view. However when the daily reporting of news lacks balanced positive content and accuracy, we are simply being lied to. The personal agendas of those who control these outlets are simply attempting to mold our opinions and decision making to their personal point of view. Too often we are misled. When intelligent people are given information from trusted sources, we logically arrive at conclusions based on what we read or see. In too many cases these conclusions are wrong and may actually result in hatred, bigotry and violence.

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When we step back and take a close look at this problem we understand that first and foremost these media entities are businesses. The job of the editor is to bait us into buying their newspaper over the competition or similarly to keep our radios or TVs tuned to their station. Unfortunately, in some cases, they accomplish this by catering to the primitive human impulses and feeding us violence and negativity in huge doses. This accepted coverage consistently ignores the true human character of goodness, compassion and decency.

When the news network spends hours on end reporting on a Lindsay Lohan what message are we sending to our children? When days are spent reporting a Columbine massacre how does this benefit us and who is seeing this, with a similar mental illness, who may also commit this same heinous crime as they crave publicity. Doesn't the media bear some responsibility when this crime is repeated? When the news reports the capture of a terrorist cell through cell phone chatter or an informant, does this not alert the enemy to be careful and to avoid cell phone use or to take precautions against spies? Or what about the report that terrorists are using small liquid undetected components to create a bomb on a plane. Aren't we inviting them to invent some new device as we search millions of passengers for liquids? Remember the WWII phrase "a slip of the lip can sink a ship"? Aiding and abetting the enemy is a crime. Is the people's right to know outweighing the states' responsibility to guarantee safety and security of millions of its citizens?

We collectively allow ourselves and our families to be exposed to this assault without objection. Politicians and religious leaders seem to fear the media's wrath. After all by innuendo or a suggestion of impropriety, a person's entire life, reputation and career can be ruined by one headline. Unfortunately, the apology or retraction never seems to get the same exposure as the accusation.

Freedom of press is of course paramount but we, John & Jane Q Public have some rights also. It's time for a bill of rights regarding information dissemination to be instituted, which can serve as a guide for minimum standards for the media industry to follow universally. We have a rating system for the film industry - why not one for the media industry? A percentage of the news should be positive. When was the tried and true journalistic principles of reporting who, when where why and how replaced by opinions and personal editorials?

Let's consider creating an international award of excellence that recognizes those media entities that meet or exceed the standards of the people's bill of rights regarding dissemination of information. Those media entities that consistently show disdain or ignore the rights of people to accurate, positive and balanced news should be exposed and shunned. Possible sanctions, like exclusion from news conferences or depriving them of advertising dollars could be considered.

In the past, some media outlets have agreed with this and tried positive news and failed. The reason is that everyone did not follow suit because the public simply likes reading sensational articles. For this notion to work all media must follow the people's bill of rights of information dissemination. The public's primitive appetite for violence and depraved behavior is so ingrained that a universal broad change in reporting will be required to succeed.



Our work with Pave the Way Foundation seeks to eliminate, through positive gestures, sources of friction and obstacles between religions and to direct the religious leaders to work with the governments to end the use of religion to achieve private agendas. This tool to justify war and violence has been used throughout history to cause almost every conflict on earth. For example, I have seen first hand how the Muslim community has repeatedly tried to speak out against those whose acts have defiled their religion through religiously illegal violent acts. Their public statements against violence do not get reported. As a result, the rest of the world keeps asking "why haven't the Muslims spoken up?" There are multiple examples of this kind of reporting and photo coverage some involve Israeli conflicts or the daily rocket attacks into Israel which remain unreported to this very day. Many reports are simply biased and photos have been doctored to sway the reading public in a desired direction.

October 2005, at a London meeting, I spoke of my observations about the media. In defense a British journalist stood up and said "well after all there really is no good news in the world is there?" I responded that for every reported act of violence or negativity, billions of positive actions remain unreported. Acts of volunteerism, kindness and charity noted across the globe are omitted from the news. I furthered that these stories will also sell papers because people feel good when they read of acts of kindness and goodwill. Positive news will go a long way towards improving our quality of life through volunteerism and by setting examples of how positive thinking and acts can change the course of history. The media would be mirroring the reality of life where there are hundreds millions of positive acts to the one negative act which is featured.

If we don't speak up and try to effect change, if we don't remove this "loose cannon" from our lives, all of the trappings of wealth, which we seem to devote our lives to acquire, will be dust in a chain reaction of destruction that can be sparked by one atomic detonation. We need the media industry to be part of the solution rather than exacerbating the problem and to recognize that it has a moral obligation to become part of the team to work towards global peace.

As we all sing *Kumbaya* and other songs of peace, greet each other with *Shalom and Salaam* and pray for peace let us gather the courage to really diagnose the problem and take concrete steps to really achieve peace through action.

I close with a quote from Mark Twain "if you don't read the newspaper you are uninformed, if you do read the newspaper you are misinformed." My plea to the thinking public is to wake up and let your voices be heard "I want you to go to your window, and throw it open and say I'm as mad as hell and I'm not going to take it anymore." Let's do it! Visit us at [www.ptwf.org](http://www.ptwf.org)

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# **Pave the Way Foundation Applauds the Sunni and Shia Religious Leaders for Their Efforts in Defending Islam and to Achieve Peace**



As reported in the Wall Street

Journal, an historic meeting of the most senior Iraqi Sunni and Shi'a religious leaders took place recently in a Cairo suburb where they resolved to "end terrorist violence, and to disband militia activity in order to build a civilized country and work within the framework of law." This meeting included Sheikh Ahmed al Kubaisi, a Sunni religious leader, Ayatollah Sayyid Ammar Abu Ragheef, chief of staff for Grand Ayatollah Ali al Sistani, an acknowledged leader of the Shi'a community in Iraq and beyond, and Sheikh Abdul Lateef Humayeem, the former personal imam to Saddam Hussein.

Pave the Way Foundation (PTWF) loudly applauds the religious actions of these defenders of Islam. "Violence and the murder of innocent people justified by the intentional misinterpretation of the laws of Islam have been and remains the most despicable form of defilement of Islam," said Sheikh Agha Syed Jafri, Muslim advisor to Pave the Way Foundation. Sheikh Jafri further stated, "While many will riot and cause violent protests when cartoons of Mohammed are printed, far too many Muslims remain silent when one absolutely and openly defiles the laws of the Qu'ran by killing innocent people." PTWF further commends the Canon Andrew White, an Anglican priest who served in Baghdad for nine years, for his "inter-religious action" in bringing these leaders to the table in a spirit of peace and harmony.

PTWF has been working with many important Islamic leaders all over the world in order to see that action of speaking out against violence in the name of Islam takes preference over the suicide bombing or indiscriminate rocket attacks in Iraq, Israel and other locations. When a Katusha rocket is launched and kills an innocent child or a suicide bomb kills innocent Muslims at prayer this is a clear violation of Islamic law and should be loudly protested and recognized for what it is - the illegal use of religion to accomplish a private agenda of violence and destruction.

That same illegal agenda violates the true aspirations of the Palestinian and the Iraqi people, to bring up their families in peace and safety and to have an opportunity to prosper.

Gary Krupp, President of Pave the Way Foundation said "PTWF further encourages all of the true Islamic leaders to step forward to defend their faith against forces of evil which preach indiscriminate killing in absolute violation of Islamic law. These forces are the true enemies of Islam. It is these violent acts promoted by false leaders, which defile and insult your faith that should be protested. This is the meaning when you greet one another with Salaam Alaikum, peace be unto you."

Sheikh Jafri said that the Holy Qu'ran, which is believed by all Muslims to be the word of God as revealed to the prophet Mohammed, states clearly in Surah 5, Verse 32: "...whosoever kills a human being it shall be as if he had killed all mankind and whosoever saves the life of one, it shall be as if he had saved the life of mankind." Moreover, Surah 4, verse 29 states: "oh ye who believe...kill not yourselves", followed by verse 30: "whosoever does that through aggression and injustice, we shall cast him into fire".

Mr. Krupp further stated that "PTWF also issues an international challenge to the media to follow the lead of the Wall Street Journal and to carry this story and highlight every effort world wide action achieve international peace rather than reporting only death and tragedy and giving a voice to those perpetrators of violence and murder."

#### About Pave the Way Foundation

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

Contact Linda Simpson

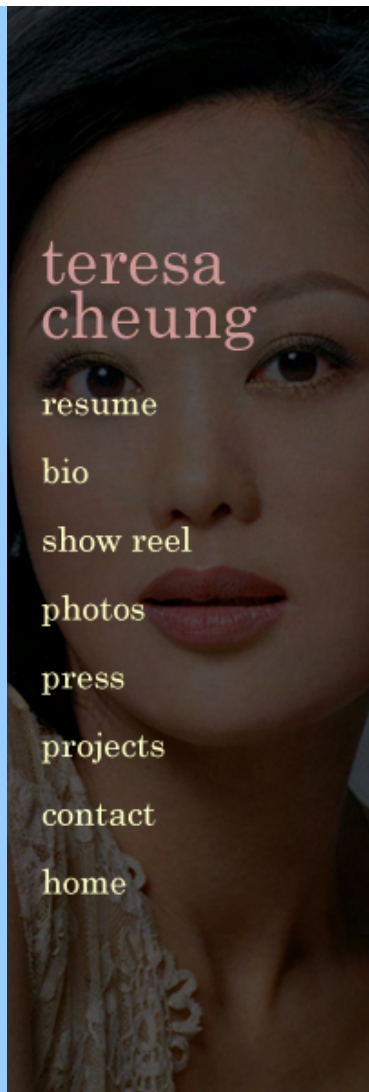
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#### **Pave the Way Foundation Applauds the Sunni and Shia Religious Leaders for Their Efforts in Defending Islam and to Achieve Peace**

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Renowned Chinese actress and celebrity

Teresa Cheung

Receives Human Rights Hero Award at United Nations

Asian star works to make human rights a global reality

Chinese writer, movie actress, and fashion icon Teresa Cheung received the International Human Rights Hero Award Friday, August 25, at the United Nations, for her work to make human rights – and the rights of children in particular – a global reality.

She was one of a five Human Rights Heroes honored during a two-day summit sponsored by Youth for Human Rights International, the Church of Scientology Department of Human Rights, the International Foundation for Human Rights and Tolerance, Artists for Human Rights and a coalition of other groups.

Contributing to the proceedings were UN officials including: veteran human rights figure, Mr. Ram Babu Dhakal, from the UN Mission of Nepal and Mr. Enzo DiTaranto, coordinator of Action 2, a key UN Reform body, who welcomed the conference on behalf of the Office of the UN High Commissioner of Human Rights. Hans Janitschek, President of the UN Society of Writers, spoke about the role of the artist in bringing about true human rights reform.

Mr. Gary Krupp of the Pave the Way Foundation and Imam Dr. Muhammad Hatim of the Malik Shabazz International Justice Foundation joined other human rights leaders and diplomats on the discussion panels.

The emphasis of the summit is on the use of human rights education to prevent war and conflict and to enable people to live in a world of peace and mutual respect.

A key part of the program Friday, at Conference Room One, was the international premiere of a series

of 30 public service announcements, each one covering a point of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The videos are produced by award-winning writer and director Taron Lexton, of Youth for Human Rights.

Ms. Cheung stated, "I think many people are unaware of the 30 human rights outlined by the UN. Youth for Human Rights International is getting the message out to where the world's future lies--our children."

Cheung's advocacy, and that of YHRI, could not be more needed than it is today, with 100 million children worldwide who are currently on the streets, or the 115 million of primary school age who are out of school, or the 120 million under 15 who are forced to work full-time.

The new public service announcements are among YHRI's unique "tools for tolerance," which include *What are Human Rights?*, an illustrated booklet that, in child-friendly prose, describes each of the United Nations Universal Declaration's 30 principles. Translated in more than 20 languages, *What are Human Rights?* is specifically for use in schools and community centers worldwide.

The PSAs brought the attendees to their feet in a standing ovation, and then had the assembled delegates discussing how they could use the videos to make the Universal Declaration widely known and widely implemented.

Also receiving awards and sharing human rights successes at the United Nations will be youth and adult leaders from Liberia, Iran, New Zealand (Samoa), Canada, and Columbia

## Hong Kong Film Critic Society Awards Announced (MonkeyPeaches Exclusive)

January 18, 2005

Yesterday Hong Kong Film Critic Society announced its pick of the best of 2004. Although Hong Kong film industry only released 60 movies last year, it spent the critics a long time to come out the list. The best film is awarded to **McDull Prince de la Bun**, an animated sequel about the new adventure of a little pig. Yee Tung-Shing won the title of Best Director for **One Nite in Mongkok**. Gordon Chan and Chung Kai-Cheong's screenplay for **A-1** is selected as the best. Leung Chiu-Wai was named the Best Actor, after defeating Lau Ching-Wan (**Fantasia**), Eason Chan (**Love Battlefield**) and Leung Ka-Fai (**A-1** and **Dumping - Three ... Extreme**). Previously he received the title for **Infernal Affairs**. However, the tightest competition was for the title of Best Actress. According to local newspaper *Sing Pao Daily*, there were five actress remained in the race after the first round of ballot - Zhang Ziyi (**2046**), Bai Ling (**Dumping - Three ... Extreme**), Teresa Cheung (**Colour Blossoms**), Yuen Qiu (**Kung Fu Hustle**) and Liu Joyin (**20 30 40**). Among them, Zhang Ziyi and Teresa Cheung were tied as the front runner, and Zhang Ziyi finally won after five rounds of ballot. This is her first best actress title from the city.


The complete list:

Best Picture: **McDull Prince de la Bun**

Best Director: Yee Tung-Shing (**One Nite in Mongkok**)



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## BREAKING NEWS Pope knights Jewish man

The head of Pave the Way, a non-sectarian group in New York, became the first Jewish man to be knighted by two popes.

Gary Krupp was promoted to the highest Pontifical Order of St. Gregory the Great, receiving the Silver Star in a Jan. 15 ceremony in Rome, after Pave the Way presented important Christian documents to the Vatican Library. Krupp "has encouraged, promoted and achieved high levels of cultural cooperation between Catholic and Jewish institutions," said Father David Jaeger, the Vatican's representative to Israel.

Pave the Way says religion should not be a tool for violence, but can help bridge cultural gaps between Israel and the Vatican and between Jews and Christians through education, tolerance and goodwill. Krupp "has never lost his optimism, never allowed anyone else to lose their optimism, and we need that in the world at this time," Jaeger said.



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**MAIN NEWS**

## Jew, Christian, Sikh scholars vie for Guru Nanak award

Prabhjot Singh  
Tribune News Service

Chandigarh, September 19

An award of \$ 50,000, to be given every other year to an individual or an organisation in recognition of propagating Guru Nanak's philosophy of discovering oneness of humanity by exploring the differences that separate people, has attracted nominations from top Jew, Christian, Muslim and Sikh scholars besides academics and inter-faith organisations.

Instituted by the New York-based HOFSTRA University and supported by the Sardarni Kuljit Kaur Bindra Foundation, the first Guru Nanak Interfaith Award will be presented in September, 2008.

Nobel Laureate Archbishop Desmond Tutu, a former Indian Prime Minister Inder Kumar Gujral, US Senators Charles Schumer and Norm Coleman, academics Rabbi David Rosen, Dr Martin Marty besides celebrated writer and author Khushwant Singh and a member of the Rajya Sabha (MP) Tarlochan Singh are members of the selection committee constituted for the inaugural award.

HOFSTRA University had invited nominations by inserting advertisements in major US newspapers.

Interestingly, the list of nominees is who's who of individuals and organisations involved in spreading the message of universal brotherhood as preached by the founder of Sikhism, Guru Nanak Dev.

One of the nominees, Debora Batcha, for example, is designer of a talisman symbolising the fundamental unity of three Abrahamic religions. Abode of the Message (a community of Lebanon), Rabbi Arthur Schneier (spiritual leader of Park East Synagogue, and a member of the first interfaith delegation to visit the Soviet Union and China), medicos Alan Astrow and Daniel Sulmasy, the Bo Yin Ra Foundation and the Center for Religious Inquiry.

Council for a Parliament of the World's Religions, the Compassionate Listening Project, the Esalen Institute for Theory and Research and Track Two's Abrahamic Family Reunion, Sacha Stone and the Humanitad Foundation, Hands of Peace, Hartford Seminary, the Interfaith Encounter Association, Interfaith Peace Building Initiative, Interfaith Works of Central New York, Joseph Interfaith Foundation, Interfaith Mission Service for Greater Tennessee Valley, International Center for



Religion and Diplomacy, International Summer School on Religion and Public Life, Molloy College Institute for Christian/ Jewish Dialogue and the Liberian Council for Churches are among some of the organizations whose nominations have been received.

Interestingly, nomination of Modernage Public School and College of Abbottabad in Pakistan for the award has also been acknowledged.

Tenzin Gyatso, the fourteenth Dalai Lama, is also on the nominee list for the award list.

Among individuals of Indian origin Jagdish Gandhi of Lucknow, Dr Eboo Patel, an eminent speaker and broadcaster on interfaith, Sukhbir Singh Kapoor , an author of 40 books on Sikh religion, Bhai Harbans Lal, Emeritus Professor of Pharmacology and Neurosciences and Baba Virsa Singh of Delhi and Trilochan Singh, Professor of Mechanical engineering at Wayne University in Detroit.

Others individuals nominated for the award include Steve D. Martin, president of Vital Visions, Ruth Broyde-Sharone, a film maker, Dr Sayyed Hussain Nasr, University Professor of Islamic Studies, Dr Paul F. Knitter, Gary Krupp, Dr Frank Kaufmann and Dr Harold Kasimow, a pioneer in introducing the study of non-Christian traditions in the curriculum.

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## Pave the Way Foundation Paving the Way to Peace in the Palestinian Territories

Pave the Way Foundation (PTWF) a New York based non-sectarian organization whose mission is to bring about peace through positive Interreligious gestures and to educate the everyday person, has initiated an effort within the Palestinian territories.

Jerusalem 10/9/2007 1:00 PM GMT (TransWorldNews - Top Story)

Pave the Way Foundation (PTWF) a New York based non-sectarian organization whose mission is to bring about peace through positive Interreligious gestures and to educate the everyday person, has initiated an effort within the Palestinian territories. The Wasatia Forum is an organization founded by two brothers, Dr. Mohammed and Dr. Munther Dajani in order to teach tolerance to the Palestinian people. They have published a book of principles based on positive quotes from the Holy Qu'ran, demonstrating how the true religion of Islam is one of peace, love and tolerance. The book debunks the incorrect statements use by so-called religious leaders to incite violence and forward their own private agendas of death and destruction. The Dajani brothers have formed Wasatia in order to initially operate summer programs which teach young Palestinians the truth and to encourage tolerance and peace rather than the violence of the children's military training camps.

Pave the Way Foundation has pledged to support Wasatia in their efforts and recently provided the funds and logistics to translate the Wasatia manual into Hebrew, enabling the everyday Israeli to read and understand its positive message. Noted Sculptor and Israeli advisor to PTWF, Mr Sam Philippe commented "that this is the answer to every Israeli's dreams."

The Dajani brothers are hoping to transition the Wasatia Forum into a viable political party in order to give the Palestinians a third choice in elections between Fatah and Hamas. A recently survey of Palestinians showed that when asked who they plan to vote for in the next elections they state neither Hamas nor Fatah. The Dajani brothers hope to give the Palestinians a clear choice for change by building a transparent infrastructure in a future Palestine based on peace with Israel using the positive values of the Islamic faith as their anchor.

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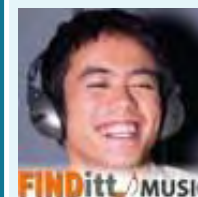
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Never taking media reports of the Middle East situation as factual, Gary and Meredith Krupp, founders of Pave the Way Foundation, travel throughout the Holy Land many times during the year to learn the truth and to help encourage positive initiatives such as Wasatia. Mr. Krupp commented that "not only have I personally never witnessed an act of violence or even heard a cross word between a Christian, a Jew or a Muslim in Israel, every Palestinian I have personally met with says exactly the same thing that every Israeli tells us – 'enough with this fighting we want peace'. These statements are in stark contrast with the picture painted by international media. What we see on television and read in the newspapers does not even resemble our personal experience over the last several years with multiple trips to Israel each year."

We encourage all who wish to see an end to the violence in the Middle East and the mistrust and hatred between the religions to visit our website and see the difference we are making in this area. Join with Pave the Way Foundation to expose the real enemies of peace for the future of our children and generations to come.

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## Education News

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### Pave the Way Foundation Announces Gestures Newsletter

PTWF wishes to teach tolerance through action and by example.

New York 10/09/2007 03:00 PM GMT (TransWorldNews)

Pave the Way Foundation (PTWF) a New York based, non-sectarian organization whose mission is to bring about peace through positive inter-religious gestures and to educate the everyday person, is now publishing a regular newsletter called "Gestures". The name of the publication reflects the main activity of PTWF, gestures of good will from one religion to another. Gestures newsletter will be published regularly and distributed to the organization's supporters. The newsletter may also be accessed though Pave the Way Foundation's website, [www.ptwf.org](http://www.ptwf.org).

Each issue of the Gestures Newsletter features at least one article by Gary L. Krupp, founder and president of PTWF explaining the philosophy and activities of the organization. There are also articles about past and ongoing PTWF projects of good will and information about how one can participate or donate to the projects.

A popular feature in each issue is "Why I Support Pave the Way Foundation", featuring a different person each time sharing his thoughts on why he has chosen to contribution time, energy or finance to this endeavor.

"Gary and Merry Krupp and the Pave the Way Foundation are doing great work all over the world in the direction of improving communication and harmony amongst all religious groups," said Doyle Mills, Board Member of PTWF. "With Gestures Newsletter we will finally be able to communicate some of the good news to the broad public in an easy-to-read, convenient format."

Sign up for the PTWF mailing list and each new issue of Gestures Newsletter will be emailed to you at no cost - [www.ptwf.org/AboutUs/SignUp.aspx](http://www.ptwf.org/AboutUs/SignUp.aspx)

For the latest news about Pave the Way Foundation and back issues of Gestures Newsletter, go to [www.ptwf.org/NewsAndEvents](http://www.ptwf.org/NewsAndEvents)

#### About Pave the Way Foundation

Pave the Way Foundation is dedicated to bridging the gap between religions through cultural, technological, and intellectual exchanges. The Foundation has a simple yet monumental vision: To enable all the world's religions 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 information on the Foundation can be found at [www.ptwf.org](http://www.ptwf.org).

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## Political News

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### Pave the Way Foundation Participates in World Conference on Dialogue Among Religions and Civilizations in Macedonia

New York 11/08/2007 05:47 PM GMT (TransWorldNews)

Pave the Way Foundation (PTWF) a non-sectarian organization founded to remove obstacles between religions in order to foster cooperation and to end the misuse of religion, participated in the World Conference on Dialogue among Religions and Civilizations on October 26-28 in Ohrid, Macedonia. Over 400 representatives of the world's diverse religious groups attended the conference in order to

discuss the advancement of religious dialog.

Gary L. Krupp and Meredith Krupp, Co-founders of Pave the Way Foundation, were invited to attend the conference as a guest of the Macedonian government. They commented that the hospitality of the Macedonians was second to none and that much was discussed during the three day conference. The event culminated with a positive declaration which spells out the common message of benevolence of religion and urges all to oppose the intentional misinformation and the abuse of the religious word.

Gary Krupp spoke on two occasions where he urged the group to consider panel meetings to deal not only with Inter-Religious dialogue but also with Intra-Religious dialogue. "If we are to dialogue with other religions we also need to dialogue with each other," stated Mr. Krupp. "These differences exist in each of the three Abrahamic faiths and should be addressed at future events. Lack of discord and communication within each religion allows religious extremism to exist unchecked. Religious zealots must be responded to by religious leaders not governments." He also called for "an international panel of respected religious leaders who will act quickly to condemn in each faith, crimes and acts committed against the innocent in the name of religion."

Reportedly, the largest growing sector in world wide religion is actually secularism. PTWF believes that growing secularism is due to the lack of respect and confidence individuals have for their respective religious leaders, in part due to their "politically correct" silence when religion is perverted and abused by those who have their own agenda. We believe that the everyday person is also impatient with the division within each faith due to differences that tend to be exaggerated. We often hear that "I am spiritual but not religious." This is a symptom of the failure of the religious leaders who will put ceremonial differences and customs ahead of drawing closer to one another. PTWF believes in order to bring the spiritual back to their respective faiths that religious leaders need to spend more time on the true message of religion rather than the politics which only serves to polarize us..

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 information on the Foundation can be found at [www.ptwf.org](http://www.ptwf.org).

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## Pave the Way Foundation Paving the Way to Peace in the Palestinian Territories

Pave the Way Foundation (PTWF) a [New York](#) based non-sectarian organization whose mission is to bring about peace through positive Interreligious gestures and to educate the everyday person, has initiated an effort within the Palestinian territories.

Jerusalem 10/9/2007 1:00 PM GMT (TransWorldNews)

Pave the Way Foundation (PTWF) a New York based non-sectarian organization whose mission is to bring about peace through positive Interreligious gestures and to educate the everyday person, has initiated an effort within the Palestinian territories. The Wasatia Forum is an organization founded by two brothers, Dr. Mohammed and Dr. Munther Dajani in order to teach tolerance to the Palestinian people. They have published a book of principles based on positive quotes from the Holy Qu'ran, demonstrating how the true religion of Islam is one of peace, love and tolerance. The book debunks the incorrect statements use by so-called religious leaders to incite violence and forward their own private agendas of death and destruction. The Dajani brothers have formed Wasatia in order to initially operate summer programs which teach young Palestinians the truth and to encourage tolerance and peace rather than the violence of the children's military training camps.

Pave the Way Foundation has pledged to support Wasatia in their efforts and recently provided the funds and logistics to translate the Wasatia manual into Hebrew, enabling the everyday Israeli to read and understand its positive message. Noted Sculptor and Israeli advisor to PTWF, Mr Sam Philipe commented "that this is the answer to every Israeli's dreams."

The Dajani brothers are hoping to transition the Wasatia Forum into a viable political party in order to give the Palestinians a third choice in elections between Fatah and Hamas. A recently survey of Palestinians showed that when asked who they plan to vote for in the next elections they state neither Hamas nor Fatah. The Dajani brothers hope to give the Palestinians a clear choice for change by building a transparent infrastructure in a future Palestine based on peace with Israel using the positive values of the Islamic faith as their anchor.

Never taking media reports of the [Middle East](#) situation as factual, Gary and Meredith Krupp, founders of Pave the Way Foundation, travel throughout the [Holy Land](#) many times during the year to learn the truth and to help encourage positive initiatives such as [Wasatia](#). Mr. Krupp commented that "not only have I personally never witnessed an act of violence or even heard a cross word between a Christian, a Jew or a Muslim in Israel, every Palestinian I have personally met with says exactly the same thing that every Israeli tells us – 'enough with this fighting we want peace'. These statements are in stark contrast with the picture painted by international media. What we see on television and read in the newspapers does not even resemble our personal experience over the last several years with multiple trips to Israel each year."

We encourage all who wish to see an end to the violence in the Middle East and the mistrust and hatred between the religions to visit our website and see the difference we are making in this area. Join with Pave the Way Foundation to expose the real enemies of peace for the future of our children and generations to come.

1

Tuesday, November 6, 2007

## **Pave the Way Foundation Urges Israeli Government to Expedite Affirmation of Theophilos III**

New York 11/06/2007 03:47 PM GMT (TransWorldNews)

Pave the Way Foundation (PTWF) a non-sectarian organization founded to remove obstacles between religions in order to foster cooperation and to end the misuse of religion, has issued an urgent call for the Israeli government to quickly finalize the affirmation of the Greek Orthodox Patriarch of Jerusalem. Theophilos III. The Greek Patriarch was duly elected by his synod in August 2005, over two years ago. In Jerusalem, the Patriarchs must be affirmed by the Israelis, the Palestinians, and the Jordanians. The Israeli government has been delaying this affirmation for over two years.

As a result of this, the Patriarch has been forced to function in a limited capacity since he has not been able to perform simple banking, mail and some religious functions and has also not been able to move into the official residence of the Patriarch. Gary Krupp, President of Pave the Way stated, "We became involved with this situation early on, because we viewed it as a simple matter of religious freedom. The Israeli government rightfully prides itself on allowing full religious freedom in Israel. We feel that this situation holds potential danger in future events where this delay could be cited to challenge the Israeli government's claim of religious freedom.

"His Beatitude Theophilos III has shown enormous personal patience over these past two years while steadfastly asserting his commitment as Patriarch of Jerusalem," said Gary Krupp.

Last week, the Israeli inter-ministerial committee ruled that the government should affirm Theophilos III as the Greek Patriarch of Jerusalem. PTWF urges quick completion of this process in order to allow the normal day-to-day business of the Patriarchate to begin. PTWF also wishes to see the positive healing process begin between the parties to unite against those who will use religion to forward their own agenda.

We are gratified that the ministerial committee has come to approve His Beatitude Theophilos III . We now call upon the government to quickly finish this process.

### 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 information on the Foundation can be found at [www.ptwf.org](http://www.ptwf.org).

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## Pave the Way Foundation Participates in World Conference on Dialogue Among Religions and Civilizations in Macedonia

New York 11/8/2007 5:47 PM GMT (TransWorldNews)

Pave the Way Foundation (PTWF) a non-sectarian organization founded to remove obstacles between religions in order to foster cooperation and to end the misuse of religion, participated in the World Conference on Dialogue among Religions and Civilizations on October 26-28 in Ohrid, Macedonia. Over 400 representatives of the world's diverse religious groups attended the conference in order to discuss the advancement of religious dialog.

Gary L. Krupp and Meredith Krupp, Co-founders of Pave the Way Foundation, were invited to attend the conference as a guest of the Macedonian government. They commented that the hospitality of the Macedonians was second to none and that much was discussed during the three day conference. The event culminated with a positive declaration which spells out the common message of benevolence of religion and urges all to oppose the intentional misinformation and the abuse of the religious word.

Gary Krupp spoke on two occasions where he urged the group to consider panel meetings to deal not only with Inter-Religious dialogue but also with Intra-Religious dialogue. "If we are to dialogue with other religions we also need to dialogue with each other," stated Mr. Krupp. "These differences exist in each of the three Abrahamic faiths and should be addressed at future events. Lack of discord and communication within each religion allows religious extremism to exist unchecked. Religious zealots must be responded to by religious leaders not governments." He also called for "an international panel of respected religious leaders who will act quickly to condemn in each faith, crimes and acts committed against the innocent in the name of religion."

Reportedly, the largest growing sector in world wide religion is actually secularism. PTWF believes that growing secularism is due to the lack of respect and confidence individuals have for their respective religious leaders, in part due to their "politically correct" silence when religion is perverted and abused by

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those who have their own agenda. We believe that the everyday person is also inpatient with the division within each faith due to differences that tend to be exaggerated. We often hear that "I am spiritual but not religious." This is a symptom of the failure of the religious leaders who will put ceremonial differences and customs ahead of drawing closer to one another. PTWF believes in order to bring the spiritual back to their respective faiths that religious leaders need to spend more time on the true message of religion rather than the politics which only serves to polarize us..

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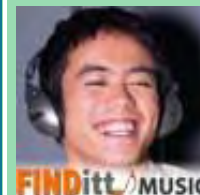
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## Political News

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### Pave the Way Foundation congratulates the Israeli Government on their decision to Affirm Theophilos III as the next Greek Orthodox Patriarch of Jerusalem

New York 12/17/2007 10:00 AM GMT (TransWorldNews)

Pave the Way Foundation (PTWF) a non-sectarian organization founded to remove obstacles between religions in order to foster cooperation and to end the misuse of religion for private agendas, wishes to praise and congratulate the Israeli government on their decision to affirm Theophilos III as the Greek Orthodox Patriarch of Jerusalem. The Greek Patriarch was duly elected by his synod in August 2005, over two years ago. In Jerusalem, the Patriarchs must be affirmed by the Israelis, the Palestinians, and the Jordanians. The Israeli government has on Sunday December 16, 2007 decided to follow the recommendation of the inter-ministerial advisors and finalize the affirmation process.

Pave the Way Foundation had worked very hard on this issue and in a quote from a personal letter to Gary Krupp, President of PTWF, His Beatitude Theophilos III stated, " *I wish to thank the Pave the Way Foundation and you personally, for your efforts in helping to defend religious freedom in the State of Israel as well as elsewhere around the world.*

*In light of the many religious leaders and organizations, who have supported our efforts, Pave the Way Foundation and your personal action has distinguished yourselves as true movers and defenders of religious freedom through sincere committed action.*

*Your work has been very effective in helping to move forward the various affairs of our Greek Orthodox Patriarchate of Jerusalem."*

Pave the Way Foundation is grateful to His Beatitude for his warm and generous remarks to us. We now call upon all parties to resolve any differences and begin to build a positive relationship.

About Pave the Way Foundation

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بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

(وَكَذَلِكَ جَعَلْنَاكُمْ أُمَّةً وَسَطًا)  
(صدق الله العظيم)

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<http://www.pavethewayfoundation.org/Projects/Peace/Palestinian%20Israeli%20Peace.htm>

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### **Working toward Palestinian Israeli Peace**

Throughout the history of the modern State of Israel peace has alluded all of the people of the region PTWF is working with prominent Palestinians who wish to give the Palestinian people another choice. Contrary to media coverage of this region, the Palestinians and the Israelis desperately want peace. The media seems to only report on the exceptional few extremists. The truth is all of the people from both sides have the same message. For three generations we have been at war and we don't want our children to have to continue this.

The Dajani family is beginning a movement towards starting a third electoral party in Palestine. PTWF is committed to help make this a reality.

In Dr. Dajani's own words you can see the essence of the Wasatia Party:

*"Wasatia is a concept extracted from the Arabic word "wasat" which means "middle of the road", and "center of the circle". It is used in Arabic to mean also "balance" "moderation". In the Holy Quran, it is used to mean "goodness", "righteousness", "justice", and "straightforwardness" . Wasat is said to be that which is in the midst of extremes such as hot and cold, rich and poor, empty and full, generosity and stingyness,*

*courage and cowardice.*

*It is time for wasatia creed to emerge and rise in the Moslem world that it may draw the best and the brightest from among the Moslem community. The new initiative adopts the wasatiah Islamic tradition and the shura Islamic concept as its main pillars. Al-Wasatiah calls for Muslims to take mid-ground that stands between those who sanctify strict tradition and those who opt for rational thinking in reading and explaining the Holy Quran in compliance with the Surah in the Holy Quran: •{And so we have created you a midway nation.}*

*The wasatia concept is reflected also in many other verses in the Quran such as: {Be neither miserly nor prodigal, for then you should either earn reproach or be reduced to penury.} Al-shurah Islamic tradition advocates collective and consultative decision-making.*

*The goal will remain to seek peace and move to the center away from radicalism. The wasatia road taken in conflict resolution is negotiation, not confrontation. It is not win-lose situation but the win-win situation" - [Dr Munther S. Dajani](#), Professor, Dean, Faculty of Arts Al Quds University-Jerusalem*



Professors Munther and Mohammad Dajani meeting in Jerusalem with Aleksandar Simic, Gary Krupp and Meredith Krupp of PTWF



Wasatia ion formation

**[New Islamic party seeks the center](#)**

**[Article in Arabic on the Wasatia Party](#)**

**[Explanatory article on true Islam and Wasatia by Mohammad Dajani](#)**



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## Actividades en Jerusalén

**El Pontificio Instituto *Notre Dame* de Jerusalén es un centro de hospedaje para peregrinos que visitan Tierra Santa, y una sede importante para la promoción del diálogo intercultural e interreligioso.**

Jerusalén, 30 de julio de 2007. Numerosos grupos de peregrinos venidos de las diversas partes del mundo se han hospedado en el **Pontificio Instituto *Notre Dame* de Jerusalén**. La **Legión de Cristo** y los miembros **consagrados del *Regnum Christi*** les brindan la acogida, la ayuda y el acompañamiento espiritual que necesitan durante su peregrinación a los lugares santos.

Durante el curso 2006-2007 se han tenido múltiples actividades en este sentido. Presentamos una pequeña selección:



Mons. Antonio Franco, nuncio apostólico de Su Santidad en Tierra Santa, con algunos rabinos judíos.

### Cocktail con los representantes del mundo judío

El 26 de octubre se tuvo un encuentro con los principales dirigentes políticos y religiosos del mundo judío, organizado por Gary Krupp, fundador y presidente de *Pave the Way foundation* y comandante de la Pontificia Orden Ecuéstre de Caballeros de San Gregorio Magno. Se concluyó con un cocktail en el Pontificio Instituto *Notre Dame* de Jerusalén en el que tomó parte el Nuncio Apostólico de Su Santidad en Tierra Santa, Mons. Antonio Franco, y otros obispos, así como el Custodio de Tierra Santa, el P. Pierbattista Pizzaballa, o.f.m.

### Congreso por la paz en Palestina

Del 2 al 3 de noviembre tuvo lugar un encuentro interreligioso, organizado por la institución Sabeel, para el fomento de la paz y el desarrollo en el



Obispos ortodoxos y participantes judíos, cristianos y musulmanes que participaron en el Congreso Sabeel por la paz de Palestina.

mundo palestino. Tomaron parte los más altos dirigentes religiosos de todas las denominaciones cristianas presentes en Tierra Santa.

### Reunión y comida del Patriarca ortodoxo y su clero

El 14 de noviembre se celebró un encuentro y una comida con un nutrido grupo de obispos y

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«Amor que vela, amor que lucha, amor que disculpa, amor que exalta, que capta los latidos de su Madre, que la medita en la fe, la acoge en la obediencia, la dilata en el apostolado, la santifica en la vida».

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**Encuentro Internacional de Juventud y Familia 2007**



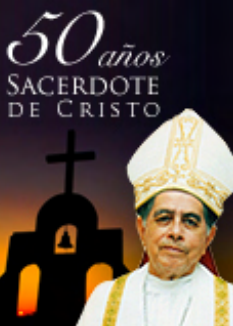
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controversial and although our present Holy Father is very interested in seeing this Fundamental Agreement being concluded. The recent invitation to visit Israel next year could be looked upon as a positive move on the part of the Israeli government and as a sign that they are ready to reach an agreement.

**5. Can you speak about some of the future projects that the Franciscan Custody is interested in implementing in the Holy Land?**

There are many projects that are “on the books” that the Custody is interested in implementing, but one that has been approved is to have a multi-media museum center in Capernaum in Galilee, the place where St. Peter and some of the apostles were called to follow Jesus. The Holy Site of St. Peter’s house and its surrounding 4<sup>th</sup> century synagogue are of great interest but more is needed to further explain the significance of these spiritual and historic sites.

Another project that we are looking at is to help young people who are “chemically dependent” by finding them a place in the Holy Land where they can reside and work while at the same time receive the needed medical and psychological assistance they need. We are still studying this proposal.

Lastly, we are looking at assisting our Christian families living in Galilee with housing accommodations as we have been doing for our families in Bethlehem and Jerusalem.

**6. As Chairman of FFHL as well as Custos of the Holy Land, would you like to leave some parting words to the many Catholics and Christian believers in the U.S. who support the work and ministry of the Custody?**

As Custos of the Holy Land, I do quite a bit of traveling around the world and I have to say that it has been the Catholics and fellow Christians of the great United States who have been the most generous in helping the Christians as well as the Custody in the Holy Land. Their donations and funding provide for more than 70% of our financial resources and for this we are most grateful. I cannot thank them enough.

This exceptional support as well as interest from the American Church in the Holy Land is a gift from God and I hope this collaboration and love will continue to blossom. I would especially like to thank all those who support the Franciscan Foundation for the Holy Land in helping us to preserve and to maintain the Christian presence in the Holy Land. It is a cause that none of us should ever forget.

## EWTN: Humanitarian Organizations Partner with FFHL



*Fr. Peter, Mr. Ronny Levy, President of MADP-TARSHISH, appear with Mr. Raymond Arroyo, talk show host for the “World Over”.*

PAVE THE WAY FOUNDATION is an organization founded by Mr. Gary Krupp, a native New Yorker, which is attempting to bridge the gap between religions through cultural, technological, and intellectual exchanges as well as paving the way towards global cooperation, mutual respect and education. Mr. Krupp has been of great assistance in promoting better understanding between the peoples of the Holy Land and has greatly assisted the Franciscan Custody.

During the program, all three individuals discussed the conflict in the Holy Land as well as how their respective organizations are attempting to promote peace and goodwill among Jews, Christians and Muslims through dialogue and humanitarian assistance.

Mr. Ronny Levy, President of MADP-TARSHISH and Mr. Gary Krupp, President of PAVE THE WAY FOUNDATION appeared together with Fr. Peter Vasko, OFM on EWTN’s *The World Over* with Raymond Arroyo. It was a unique program since both organizations are headed up by those of the Jewish faith and both organizations are working in partnership with the Franciscan Foundation and the Franciscan Custody respectively.

The MADP-TARSHISH was founded in Jerusalem in 1999 by two Israeli born individuals: Mr. Ronny Levy and Mr. Avi Shemesh. Their foundation was established to provide humanitarian and social aid to all those who are in need irregardless of religion. Several years ago, MADP-TARSHISH partnered with FFHL to promote goodwill in a land that has been traumatized by conflict and violence. Both organizations have jointly sponsored humanitarian programs in the Holy Land.



*Fr. Peter, Mr. Gary Krupp, President of PAVE THE WAY FOUNDATION and Raymond Arroyo.*

# Pope Pius XII's efforts to save the Jews, the theme of a Broadway play

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Friday, November 9, 2007

## Pope Pius XII's efforts to save the Jews, the theme of a Broadway play

New York, U.S.A, Nov.09,2007 (CINS/ROMEreports) - Pope Pius XII's efforts to save the Jews from Nazi persecution during the Second World War are to become the theme of a Broadway play.

The drama will be performed in New York in the fall of next year and will be based on true facts, backed up by historians. Both a theatre and financing have been promised.

The idea for the play came from Dan Kurzman's bestseller, "A Special Mission". According to Gary Krupp, president the Pave the Way Foundation, the book is based on the plot to kidnap Pope Pius XII and sack the Vatican. "This is information that the Jewish people, I'm sure have never heard of", he says.

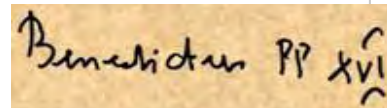
Not only will the play depict Hitler's plan to kidnap Pius XII, but it will also show how the Pope ordered all Catholic monasteries to open their doors to Jews escaping from the Nazis. Interestingly, a group of Jewish entrepreneurs are the ones who have decided to produce this homage to the wartime Pontiff.

"We, as Jews, are responsible, it's our obligation to honour those to save the lives of so many people, and this man did!", explains Krupp. "In fact, an estimated 860,000 Jewish lives were saved [by the Pope] - far more than any other European leader or American leader".

It promises to be an epic play, one in which many true accounts from Holocaust survivors will be re-enacted.

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## Pave the Way Foundation Investigating the Papacy of Pope Pius XII

Pave the Way Foundation (PTWF), a non-sectarian organization founded to remove obstacles between religions in order to foster cooperation and to end the misuse of religion to justify [violence and terrorism](#), has initiated an extremely important project to investigate the [Papacy of Pope Pius XII](#).

Identifying the conflicting information about [Pope Pius XII](#)'s actions during [World War II](#), a continued source of discord between Jews and Catholics, PTWF has begun interviewing eye witnesses and gathering publicly available documentation and newspaper accounts. We hope that this will help to clarify this most difficult time in history. After spending over a year speaking to experts on both sides of the debate, Gary [Krupp](#) (PTWF President) has discovered vast amounts of information which is available publicly but simply not known. In the interest of [education](#) and religious harmony PTWF has taken on this project, the results of which will be released to the public and delivered to various Holocaust memorials worldwide.

To date the investigation has uncovered many events which paint an entirely different picture of this controversial [Papacy](#). In the furtherance of the PTWF mission, Gary and Meredith [Krupp](#) PTWF President and founders, are traveling to London, France, Israel and Italy to meet and video interview eye witnesses, historians and people with first hand information. We are meeting with historians to get an accurate picture of why events have been perceived so negatively since we have discovered that prior to the introduction of the fictional play The Deputy, Pius XII was revered by Jews and many Israeli leaders. Gary [Krupp](#) stated, "The information we have been gathering is completely independent of any official Vatican Archival records, which I do not believe is absolutely necessary to realize what happened during the war years. 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."

On January 25th, in France, Gary and Meredith [Krupp](#) will be video interviewing 95 year old Monsignor Giovanni Ferrofino. In February 1942, Monsignor Ferrofino delivered, along with the Vatican Ambassador to Haiti and the [Dominican Republic](#) Archbishop Silvani, a personal verbal plea from [Pope Pius XII](#), to General Rafael Trujillo to issue 400 visas to the [Dominican Republic](#) for Jews trying to escape Europe. The request was initially denied, and then the General reversed his decision after receiving the verbal plea from the [pope](#) by stating "how can I deny my [Pope](#)?" This was only one example of [Pope Pius XII](#)'s personal and direct intervention. We also have also come to realize that all Vatican and papal actions had to be secret and delivered either by [word of mouth](#) or by code. Completely contrary to the claims of papal complicity in John Cornwell's book Hitler's [Pope](#). We discovered through the research of journalist Dan Kurzman, that the [Pope](#)

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was aware of an imminent order by Hitler to kidnap Pius XII, and kill him and to seize the Vatican. This information is revealed in Dan Kurzman's [new book](#), *A Secret Plot*. Dan Kurzman held extensive direct interviews with General Karl Wolff, commandant for Italy and Himmler's deputy, just prior to his death in 1984. The Vatican had actually begun forming a government in exile in the event this order was carried out.

There are numerous public newspaper accounts, which directly challenge the current opinion of this [Papacy](#). PTWF will be continuously providing all of the gathered information to Yad Vashem, the Holocaust Memorial in Jerusalem. Yad Vashem has stated to Mr. [Krupp](#) that they welcome any information to help to clarify the actions of the Vatican during [World War II](#).

PTWF works diligently to address and overcome any barrier to true inter-religious understanding and cooperation. False, one-sided, or biased information causes continued misunderstandings and strife. Historical accounts can be slanted to serve various private agendas. These continual misrepresentations through false and incomplete information lead people to errors in thinking and action. Revealing the truth is an important step in ending bigotry and hatred and achieving peace through tolerance and understanding.

### ***About Pave the Way Foundation***

*PTWF is dedicated to achieving peace by bridging the intellectual 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.*

judythpiazza@newsblaze.com

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## Religious News

### PAPAL INVITATION: Pave the Way Foundation has been invited to meet with Pope Benedict XVI in Washington, DC

New York 4/04/2008 03:37 PM GMT (TransWorldNews)

Pave the Way Foundation (PTWF), a non-sectarian organization tasked with removing non-theological obstacle between the religions, has been invited to meet with Pope Benedict XVI at a small gathering of inter-religious organizations. Only fifteen organizations from the United States have been invited. PTWF will be represented by its founders Meredith and Gary Krupp of Long Beach, New York. Mr. Krupp, who is Jewish, curiously is actually the highest ranking layperson in the Roman Catholic Church on Long island as was knighted first by Pope John Paul II to the Papal Knighthood of St. Gregory the Great as a Commander and raised in rank by Pope Benedict XVI to Commander with a Silver Star. Mr. Krupp is the only Jewish man in history ever to have been recognized by two Popes and to be inducted by Anglican Church into the Order of St. John of Jerusalem.

"I have been requested to wear the uniform of my Papal Order by the Apostolic Nuncio to the United States, Archbishop Pietro Sambi, but was informed by the Secret Service that I cannot wear the ceremonial sword of my uniform," Said Mr. Krupp. Meredith Krupp commented "I cannot tell you how humbled and grateful we are that the Holy See has recognized the enormous projects of Pave the Way Foundation and included us in this most prestigious group." Mr. and Mrs. Krupp have met both Pope John Paul II and Pope Benedict XVI on many private occasions and have known Pope Benedict XVI since he was a Cardinal.

Unique amongst inter-religious groups, Pave the Way Foundation does not specialize in dialog or talking but rather sponsors concrete gestures of goodwill from one religious group to another. PTWF initiated the first ever loan of rare Jewish manuscripts of Maimonides first to be seen by a delegation of Jewish scholars at the Vatican Library and then placed on loan to the Israel Museum in Jerusalem. PTWF organized the largest Jewish audience ever with a sitting Pope to thank Pope John Paul II in

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January 2005 for all he had done in religious reconciliation. Thanks to the work of PTWF, the Bodmer Papyrus, dating from 175 AD and containing the Gospels of St. John and St. Luke and the oldest written version of the Lord's Prayer in existence, was donated to the Vatican Library in January 2007. PTWF worked to locate the donor and to insure that this priceless artifact was delivered to the Vatican Library to be preserved and to available to scholars for future study. The Bodmer Papyrus is now one of the most important religious possessions of the Vatican Library.

Pave the Way Foundation has also worked to finalize diplomatic relations with the State of Israel and the Holy See and recently was successful in helping the Greek Orthodox Patriarch of Jerusalem finalize his affirmation from the Israeli government, which took almost two years. PTWF works with the Muslims and all of the religious denominations in the US, Europe and the Middle East. "We work in this area to advance our mission to ultimately bring the unified voices of the religions together to stop the illegal use of religion for personal agendas and violence," said Mr. Krupp.

###

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## Pave the Way Foundation has been invited to meet with Pope Benedict XVI

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**Long Beach couple to meet with pope again on U.S. visit**



(04/11/08) **LONG BEACH** - Gary and Meredith Krupp will meet with the pope when he visits Washington D.C. next week, and it won't be their first brush with the pontiff.

Gary Krupp is the only Jewish man to be knighted by two popes -- Pope John Paul II in 2000 and Pope Benedict XVI last year. He was knighted for work he did in a hospital in Italy. Krupp is also the founder of the Pave the Way Foundation, which encourages peaceful cooperation among religions.

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"[The pope is] a very sweet and gentle and sort of a shy person...and very intense. [He] speaks beautifully. His English is excellent, so we were really able to communicate with him," Krupp says.

During the visit, Krupp has to wear an official uniform with metals on it, according to protocol. The Krupps will be meeting with Pope Benedict again in June at the Vatican and at the pope's summer residence in September.

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# NEW YORK POST

## PONTIFF TO HONOR LI JEW

By DAN MANGAN

*April 14, 2008* -- Gary Krupp is a Jewish man from Long Island, but in Washington later this week, when he dons the uniform of a knight of St. Gregory the Great, he'll be the only other member of the papal household present at a meeting with Pope Benedict XVI.

"They've warned me that the Secret Service will not allow me to use the ceremonial sword," Krupp, 60, said of the pope's session Thursday with representatives of other religions.

"I told them I've met with the pope many, many times, and I always have my sword. I said, 'How am I going to protect him without my sword?'"

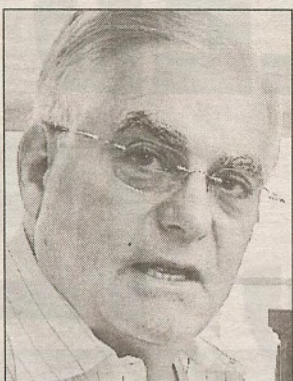
Krupp's rare status - one of just a handful of Jews ever knighted by a pope - stems from his charitable work for a Catholic hospital in Italy, and from his leadership of the Pave the Way Foundation, which labors to improve inter-religious relations.

"We've been working for five years to get the Vatican and the Israeli government to normalize diplomatic relations," noted Krupp.

A regular visitor to Rome and the Holy Land, Krupp was knighted by John Paul II and again by Benedict, whom he accompanied during a trip to Auschwitz.

"He's a marvelous person. He's very quiet and gentle . . . and very, very brilliant," Krupp said.

# GA



**GARY KRUPP**  
Knighthood by pope.

## Pontiff to honor LI Jew

By DAN MANGAN

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## PONTIFF TO HONOR LI JEW

By DAN MANGAN For more Regional news, visit NYPOST.COM

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## Long Island Jew

### Lauded For Work To Unite Religions

#### 'Knighthood' By 2 Popes, Gary Krupp To Assist Benedict XVI In Washington Sessions



Reporting

[Jennifer McLogan](#)

LONG BEACH, N.Y. (CBS) — A Long Islander dedicated to achieving peace by bringing all faiths together is being honored by Pope Benedict XVI this week.

As CBS 2 HD found out the pontiff has already bestowed a rare

"knighthood" on a Jewish man from Long Island.

"I was knighted by Pope John Paul II, then knighted by the Anglican church, and then knighted by Pope Benedict and I'm Jewish!" Gary Krupp said.

Vatican Knight Gary Krupp and wife Meredith of Long Beach are Jews with strong ties to Rome.

Invited to Washington this week, Krupp will don the white gloves, hat, historical medals and dress uniform as a Knight of St. Gregory the Great.

"Secret Service told me to leave the sword at home," Krupp said as he modeled his uniform for CBS 2 HD.

The U.S. Secret Service is strict and the papal instructions confidential.

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Gary Krupp, a Jew from Long Island, has already been "knighted" by two popes. He will assist Pope Benedict XVI in Washington during the pontiff's trip.

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"The letter describes how we're going to meet the pope," Krupp said.

At Pope Benedict's Thursday session with representatives of Islam, Christian and Jewish religions, Krupp will be the only other member of the "papal household" present -- to deliver strong messages to the Catholic leader they so admire.

"When Meredith and I first met him we were astonished," Gary Krupp said. "He is simple but so brilliant."

Krupp's unique status as a Jew, knighted by two Popes, relates to his charitable work for a Catholic hospital in Italy, and his foundation: Pave the Way -- which strives to improve relations among religions.

"The enemies of mankind are not Muslims vs. Jews vs. Christians, this is not true," he said. "It is the extremists from within each religion."

The pope was impressed by Krupp's messages of accountability, as can be seen on the [Pave The Way Foundation Web site](#).

Recently the Krupps visited Auschwitz with Pope Benedict. A rainbow appeared, a signal to Krupp that the pope loves and respects all faiths.

Krupp hopes to get the Israeli government to normalize diplomatic relations with the Vatican, and the Muslim world.

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## Long Islanders participate in papal events

BY BART JONES AND RHODA AMON

[bart.jones@newsday.com](mailto:bart.jones@newsday.com)

[rhoda.amon@newsday.com](mailto:rhoda.amon@newsday.com)

April 15, 2008

As Pope Benedict XVI arrives in Washington, D. C., Tuesday afternoon, many Long Islanders are headed to the nation's capital to participate in activities there. Continuing his six-day visit to the United States, Benedict arrives in New York on Friday.

### A papal knight

Long Beach resident Gary Krupp will be meeting with the pope in Washington, but he'll have to leave his ceremonial sword at home.

Krupp, who is Jewish and has been invited to an inter-religious meeting with the pope on Thursday, is the recipient of one of the Catholic Church's highest ranks for lay people. He was knighted by Pope John Paul II to the Papal Knighthood of St. Gregory the Great as a commander, he said.

Pope Benedict XVI raised his rank to commander with a Silver Star.

Krupp, who has met with both popes several times, said he received a request from the Vatican to wear his Papal Order uniform to Thursday's event. The Secret Service, however, does not want him to bring the ceremonial sword.

That's fine with Krupp. He said the larger aims of his organization, Pave the Way Foundation, revolve around stopping extremists from using religion to carry out acts of violence or advance other personal agendas.

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Benedict XVI in D.C.****By JOSEPH KELLARD**

It once appeared to then-Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger that the Long Beach man had stood him up. The future Pope Benedict XVI invited Gary Krupp to meet him in Rome, but unbeknown to both men, the cardinal's secretary mixed up the scheduling.

Krupp recalled this story on Tuesday morn-

ing, two days before he was to reunite with the pope in Washington, D.C., the initial stop on the pontiff's first official visit to the United States.

"When I was in Jerusalem with my wife," Krupp remembered, "I got an e-mail from his secretary saying, 'I think I made a terrible mistake -- the cardinal was waiting for you today and you weren't here. As soon as I saw him next, I apologized for the confusion.'"

Krupp, whose rare spare time is spent at beach cabanas or dining at his favorite Italian restaurant, told the tale matter-of-factly, since he has met the last two popes several times.

Six years ago, Krupp, who is Jewish, estab-

lished the Pave the Way Foundation, an interfaith activist group that aims to remove "non-theological obstacles" between religions. On Tuesday Krupp was busy preparing for his trip to Washington, after the Vatican invited him to attend a gathering of heads of major faiths on Thursday. Pave the Way is the only nonsectarian organization invited to the meeting, and Krupp is the only lay member of the papal household.

A Rockville Centre resident before he moved to Long Beach in 2001, Krupp was knighted by Pope John Paul II into the order of St. Gregory

# Krupp to meet Pope Benedict XVI

Continued from front page

the Great in 2000, making him a member of the House of the Holy See. He is one of only seven Jews ever to receive that papal honor, and Pope Benedict XVI raised Krupp's rank to commander with a silver star.

Krupp said that the Vatican requested that he wear his Papal Order uniform to Thursday's event, where he expects the pope to extend a conciliatory hand to the various religious leaders. "Because there's been some rough spots here and there with the

different religions — with the Muslims and the Jews — and this will be a healing event," said Krupp, who will stand alongside the pope when he delivers a Passover blessing.

The day before his flight to Washington, Krupp was doing the rounds with local media, from News 12 to CBS to the New York Post. "Normally we wouldn't be getting this much attention," Krupp said of Pave the Way, "so it's very exciting. We're hoping for a very special time with the pope."

Dave Hauser, a member of the foundation's board of directors, said that directing the organization has turned into a full-time job for Krupp. "Gary is very concerned about the future of humanity, and his whole life revolves around this organization, making trips every three weeks to a month, and he's gone for up to three weeks sometimes."

Among Krupp's more memorable meetings with Benedict XVI was during a trip to Poland in 2006. He and fellow Pave the Way member Dr. Jerzy Kluger met the pontiff at the childhood home of Pope John Paul II in Wadowice, and at the Auschwitz concentration camp.

"When he started blessing the shrine in Auschwitz," Krupp recalled, "a rainbow came out. I took a picture of it, framed it and gave it to him. He was so excited to get that."

One controversy that followed Cardinal Ratzinger to the papacy was his experiences as a youth in Nazi Germany, which had the greatest potential to fracture Krupp's relationship with him. But Krupp said that just as Pope John Paul II witnessed Hitler's troops occupying Poland, his successor's connection to the Nazi regime gives him "a dimension of understanding."

"He told everyone that he was drafted into Hitler Youth as a young boy, but upon discovering their motives, he resigned, and also that he was drafted into the army and escaped, as did his father," Krupp said when Cardinal Ratzinger was elected pope in 2005, the first German leader of the Catholic Church since the 11th century. "He was hunted down because he would not fight."

From 1990 to 2005, when Pope John Paul II died at age 84, Krupp and his wife, Meredith, met him four times. In January 2005, Krupp and local religious leaders met with John Paul II at the Vatican, the pope's last public audience before his death. The mostly New York-area delegation included the largest group of Jewish leaders — 130 — ever to visit the Vatican.

Krupp considered John Paul II a "very good friend," one who changed the course of his life and prompted him to form the Pave the Way Foundation.

The organization sponsors gestures of good will among different religious groups — such as a meeting of high-level ministers

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**GARY KRUPP** met Pope Benedict and Archbishop Domenico D'Ambrosio at St. Peter's Piazza in the Vatican in 2007. Krupp was scheduled to meet the pontiff again on Thursday, this time in Washington, D.C.

# The pilgrimage to D.C.

BY BART JONES  
AND RHODA AMON

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As Pope Benedict XVI arrives in Washington, D.C., this afternoon, many Long Islanders are headed to the nation's capital to participate in activities there. Continuing his six-day visit to the United States, Benedict arrives in New York on Friday.

## A papal knight

Long Beach resident Gary Krupp will be meeting with the pope in Washington, but he'll have to leave his ceremonial sword at home.

Krupp, who is Jewish and has been invited to an inter-religious meeting with the pope on Thursday, is the recipient of one of the Catholic Church's highest ranks for lay people. He was knighted by Pope John Paul II to the Papal Knighthood of St. Gregory the Great as a commander, he said. Pope Benedict XVI raised his rank to commander with a Silver Star.

Krupp, who has met with both popes several times, said he received a request from the Vatican to wear his Papal Order uniform to Thursday's event. The Secret Service, however, does not want him to bring the ceremonial sword.

That's fine with Krupp. He said the larger aims of his organization, Pave the Way Foundation, revolve around stopping extremists from using religion to carry out acts of violence or advance other personal agendas.

"We were absolutely astonished" to be invited to the event, said Krupp, who will attend with his wife, Meredith, a cofounder of the group. "Of course, it's an honor."

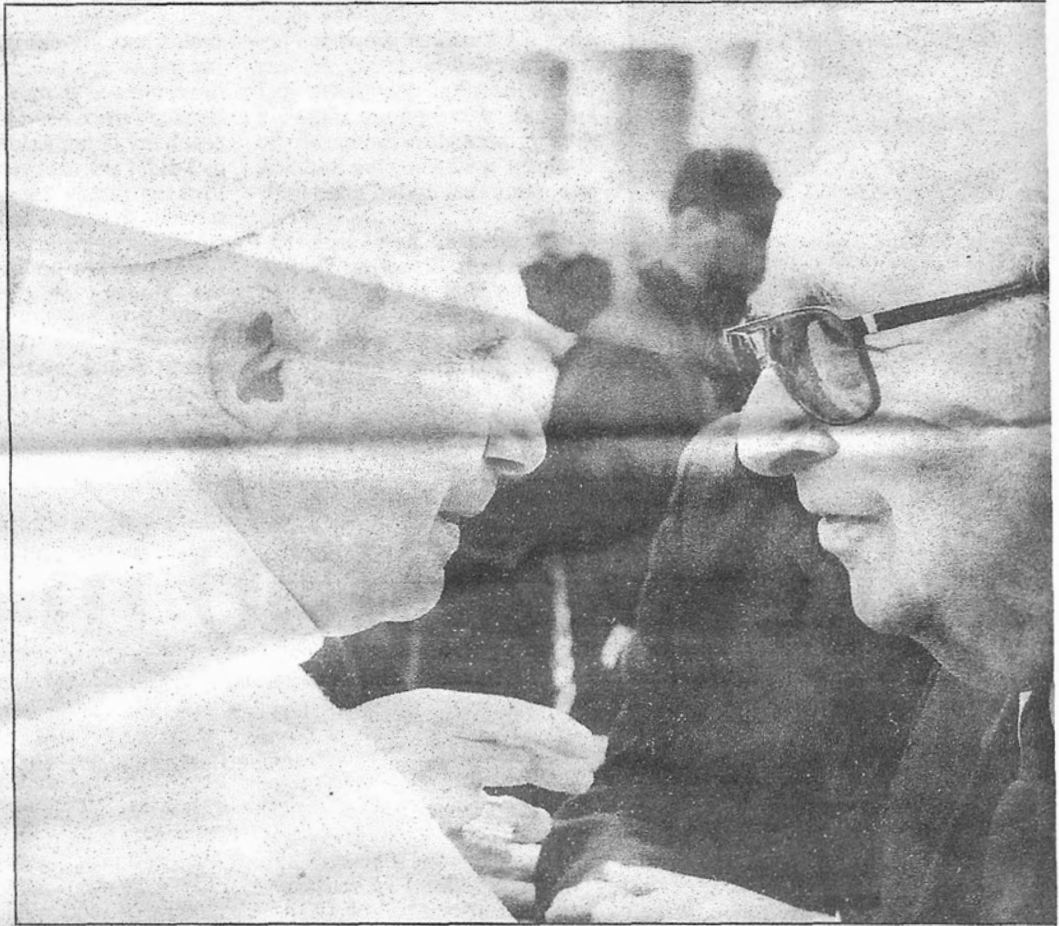
## He made the pope laugh

Gunther Lawrence of Port Washington also will be at the event, but he probably won't keep a promise he made the last time he saw the pope.

After a formal presentation at an interfaith conference in October, Lawrence, who was born in Berlin, called out to the pope in German, "The next time I see you, I'll bring you your favorite weiswurst [white sausage]."

"The pope broke out in laughter," Lawrence recalled, "so I know he has a sense of humor." Considering the tight security surrounding the pope's visit next week, Lawrence is not likely to greet the German-born pontiff with a package of sausages from Long Island.

Guests are required to arrive no later than 3:30 p.m. for the 6:30 p.m. reception.



Gunther Lawrence presented the pontiff with a miniature of a Holocaust menorah at a conference.

Lawrence, 80, a refugee from Nazi Germany in 1936 and executive director of the Interreligious Information Center, has been promoting Catholic-Jewish relations for the past 20 years. He brought a gift to the pope at the October conference: a miniature of a Holocaust menorah he designed with Israeli sculptor Aharon Bezalel. Lawrence presented a similar gift to Pope John Paul II in 1999.

## The Catholic sheriff

By day, Vincent DeMarco is sheriff of Suffolk County. On weekends the Huntington resident heads to his childhood Catholic parish in Ronkonkoma, St. Joseph's.

DeMarco, 39, is one of four sheriffs in New York State who also happen to be Catholic and have been invited to a welcoming ceremony for the pope to take place Wednesday morning on the White House South Lawn.

DeMarco said he was honored by the invitation, and that it brought back memories of when his grandmother saw Pope John Paul II in 1979 at Shea Stadium. "I remember that was a real big deal" for her, he said.

She brought him back a pin from the event that he still has. Now DeMarco is thrilled about his own chance to see the pope up close. "It will be something that will be with me for the rest of my life," he said.

## An inspired educator

Bishop William Murphy of Rockville Centre, along with the diocese's three auxiliary bishops, will be attending papal events in Washington. So will Sister Joanne Callahan, the superintendent of the Catholic school system on Long Island.

Callahan will attend a meeting of Catholic school superintendents and presidents of Catholic universities with the pope on Thurs-

day. She said it was energizing across Long Island as a "teachable moment with students."

She said on is trying to em that people need a kinder, God-

## Excitement —

The Rev. A. is an immigrant priest with the Centre. He'll be ton, to attend t Nationals Stad

Vellarampa the heavily Ita Rocco in Glen pope — multil native languag Italian, English

He said see one of the hig as a priest. "B of the pope r he said. "He's

## Teacher strike

Some Catholic high schools in New York City may close today if teachers picket.

## Il saluto a un gruppo di ebrei sopravvissuti alla Shoah

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

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

# OSSERVATORE ROMANO

## 19th June 2008



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





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## Delegazione ebraica da Benedetto XVI: "Pio XII ha salvato nel mondo più ebrei di chiunque altro nella storia". Intervista con Gary Krupp

"Pio XII ha salvato nel mondo più ebrei di chiunque altro nella storia": è quanto ha affermato ai nostri microfoni Gary Krupp, esponente della comunità ebraica statunitense e presidente della Fondazione Pave the Way, in Vaticano mercoledì scorso per incontrare il Papa al termine dell'udienza generale insieme ad altri ebrei sopravvissuti all'Olocausto. Gary Krupp ha presentato a Benedetto XVI il Simposio che si svolgerà a Roma nel prossimo settembre in occasione dei 50 anni dalla morte di Pio XII: un evento organizzato per ribadire le verità su Papa Pacelli oscurate da una campagna mediatica lanciata negli anni '60 e che in alcuni ha ingenerato un'impressione negativa su quel pontificato. Ma ascoltiamo lo stesso **Gary Krupp**, al microfono di **Susan Hodges**:

*R. – Our Foundation has been going...*

*La nostra Fondazione è andata in giro per il mondo, intervistando testimoni oculari, persone che hanno incontrato Pio XII personalmente. Sono testimonianze meravigliose e sono tutte a disposizione nella nostra pagina web [www.ptwf.org](http://www.ptwf.org). Sulla pagina di "Pave the Way Foundation" si possono vedere tutte le nostre interviste, alcune delle quali dimostrano quanto questa impressione fosse sbagliata. Allora ho chiesto ai membri dello Yad Vashem, che si suppone siano esperti in questo ambito, se ne avessero mai sentito parlare: non hanno mai sentito niente di tutto questo, non hanno mai sentito parlare di un piano di Hitler per rapire Pio XII, eliminare la Curia Romana e "conquistare" il Vaticano. Il generale Karl Wolff aveva ricevuto ordine esplicito di formulare questo piano ... Noi abbiamo un giornalista ebreo che ha scritto un libro su questo argomento, e sarà con noi al Simposio di Roma per spiegarcelo...*

*D. – Quindi, lei è ottimista riguardo al fatto che questo simposio fugherà ogni ombra sui rapporti tra Pio XII e gli ebrei ...*

*R. – Far more than optimistic...*

*Molto più che ottimista, ne sono sicurissimo. Questo nostro è un gruppo di ebrei intellettualmente brillanti. Bisogna essere imparziali: soltanto così si può giudicare. Vedrete esattamente quello che abbiamo fatto e la genesi degli eventi che si sono succeduti, da quando Pio XII era ragazzo: nella sua infanzia*

14/06/2008 14.06.52

Pace e giustizia, valori condivisi da cristiani e musulmani: così il Comitato islamo-cattolico riunito in Vaticano

06/06/2008 15.05.50

Mons. Sarraf: le violenze contro i copti in Egitto non hanno moventi religiosi

03/06/2008 15.04.22

Non dimenticare i cristiani dell'Iraq: l'appello dell'arcivescovo di Kirkuk, Louis Sako, ad un anno dall'uccisione di padre Ghanni e di tre subdiaconi caldei

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*è cresciuto con un ebreo, Guido Mendes, che era il suo più caro amico. Il Papa con lui mangiava kosher. E poi, il suo intervento, quando era nunzio in Germania, per salvare gli ebrei che erano stati arrestati in virtù delle leggi antisemite. Era intervenuto per sostenerli: un antisemita non lo avrebbe fatto. E poi, altri avvenimenti, quando diventò Papa: tutto questo sarà raccontato, ci sarà una grandiosa mole di informazioni, perché si può arrivare ad una sola conclusione, ed è la verità su quel pontificato: che quest'uomo, Pio XII, ha salvato nel mondo più ebrei di chiunque altro nella storia!*

*D. – Ma il problema è che lui faceva tutto dietro le quinte ...*

*R. – All behind the scenes ...*

*Tutto dietro le quinte e tutto in silenzio. Non solo perché lui sapeva che avrebbe sollevato sospetti o perché sapeva che Hitler aveva dato ordine che fosse rapito! Non aveva paura di questo, ma di quello che è successo – per esempio – quando si espresse con l'arcivescovo di Utrecht a favore degli ebrei olandesi. La reazione dei nazisti fu molto chiara, perché dissero: "Questo intervento della Chiesa romana non salverà nemmeno una vita ebraica. Infatti, noi intensificheremo gli arresti. Inoltre, finora non avevamo ancora considerato l'arresto degli ebrei convertiti alla Chiesa cattolica romana: ora saranno i primi ad essere arrestati". Quella fu l'epoca in cui fu arrestata Edith Stein, e il postulatore della Causa di beatificazione di Pio XII, il padre gesuita Peter Gumpel, che sarà con noi al Simposio, era in Olanda all'epoca di questi fatti ed è stato testimone di tutto questo!*

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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 defended his wartime predecessor Pius XII against accusations he did not do enough to help the Jews, saying Pius "spared no effort" 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," 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

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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)

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

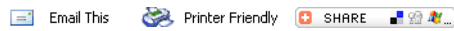
Historians have been calling on the Vatican to open up all its archives on the period.

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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## GENERAL AUDIENCE: WEDNESDAY, 18 JUNE

ments proper to a monk, and from the work pace demanded by a serious dedication to study.

Furthermore, Leander was concerned to have the wherewithal to confront the political and social situation of that time: in those decades in fact, the Visigoths, barbarians and Arians, had invaded the Iberian Peninsula and taken possession of territories that belonged to the Roman Empire. It was essential to regain them for the Roman world and for Catholicism. Leander and Isidore's home was furnished with a library richly endowed with classical, pagan and Christian works. Isidore, who felt simultaneously attracted to both, was therefore taught under the responsibility of his elder brother to develop a very strong discipline, in devoting himself to study with discretion and discernment.

Thus a calm and open atmosphere prevailed in the episcopal residence in Seville. We can deduce this from Isidore's cultural and spiritual interests, as they emerge from his works themselves which include an



**Pope Benedict XVI greets a group of Holocaust survivors at the General Audience, 18 June. The Audience, organized by Pave the Way Foundation, presented the Pope with the introduction of their Symposium to be held from 15-18 September 2008 to study the help offered to the Jews by Pope Pius XII. Gary Krupp, President of the Foundation, told Vatican Radio: "Pius XII has saved more Jews in the world than any other person in history". The gift and their presence express their gratitude as they wish to commemorate the 50th anniversary of Pope Pacelli's death (9 October 1958).**

man community and of our neighbour.

This synthesis is the lesson that the great Bishop of Seville has bequeathed to us, Christians of today, called to witness to Christ at the beginning of a new millennium.

### To special groups

I am pleased to welcome the Missionary Sisters of Our Lady of Apostles gathered in Rome for their General Chapter, and the participants in the Rome Seminar of the Association of Catholic Colleges and Universities. I also warmly greet a group of survivors of the Holocaust who are present at today's Audience. Upon all the English-speaking pilgrims, especially those from England, South Africa, Australia, Vietnam and the United States, I cordially invoke God's blessings of joy and peace.

Lastly my thoughts go to the *young people*, the *sick* and the *newly-weds*. We are on the threshold of the summer period, a season of tourism and of pilgrimages, of holidays and of rest. Dear *young people*, as I think of your *peers* who are of



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

# Pio XII: 11.000 ebrei in salvo ai Caraibi

DI LORENZO FAZZINI

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

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

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

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

Quali sono le principali «scoperte» di questa indagine?

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

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

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



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



L'ebreo Gary Krupp

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

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

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

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



EDITORIALE

## MA EVITIAMO STECCATI TRA DARWIN E DIO

FIorenzo FACCHINI

**E**voluzione e creazione. Dio e Darwin. Il dibattito su questi temi, mai sopito, sembra attizzarsi avvicinandoci agli anniversari darwiniani del prossimo anno (bicentenario della nascita di Darwin e 150 anni della pubblicazione della sua opera sull'origine delle specie). Piergiorgio Odifreddi anticipando su "Repubblica" di ieri il suo intervento al Festival della Mente di Sarzana ha richiamato alcuni momenti e personaggi del mondo cattolico dell'800 critici del darwinismo e più in generale dell'idea di una parentela tra l'uomo e le scimmie. E non ha risparmiato neppure personaggi del 900 e scienziati cattolici attuali. La maggiore preoccupazione sembra quella di evidenziare le opposizioni che nel mondo cattolico ha avuto la teoria evolutiva. Che ci siano state difficoltà e preoccupazioni nell'ambito cattolico per accogliere l'idea di evoluzione non sorprende, solo che si pensi che nel mondo scientifico e culturale dell'800, tolte poche eccezioni, l'evoluzione veniva presentata in opposizione o alternativa alla creazione, facendole assumere una connotazione antireligiosa. Si potrebbe mettere insieme un bel florilegio delle asserzioni fatte in nome della scienza, che tornano fuori anche oggi nel pensiero di scienziati viventi, tra cui l'articolista citato. Ma si potrebbero anche ricordare, a parte le vedute lungimiranti e antesignane di Wiseman e Newman, le aperture di personaggi come lo zoologo Filippo De Filippi, il vescovo Bonomelli, Antonio Fogazzaro, e soprattutto la coraggiosa visione di Pierre Teilhard de Chardin che tanto ha contribuito al dialogo tra scienza fede su questi temi. Che anche attualmente l'evoluzione possa suscitare nel mondo cattolico reazioni diverse e si registrino ritardi e paure è un dato di fatto. Occorre però distinguere tra le posizioni espresse dal magistero e quelle di singoli cattolici. Per quanto riguarda il magistero vanno ricordate le aperture di Pio XII, che con Giovanni Paolo II sono diventate strade aperte. A ciò hanno contribuito i moderni studi dell'ermeneutica biblica e le riflessioni dei teologi sulla creazione seguite al Concilio Vaticano II. Molto significativo e illuminante il documento «Comunione servizio» della Commissione Teologica Internazionale a firma del cardinale Ratzinger (2004). A questo punto ci si può chiedere: a quali condizioni è possibile un dialogo tra scienza e religione che superi le pastoie della polemica sterile e aiuti nella ricerca della verità? La prima condizione è che si riconosca che né l'orizzonte scientifico né quello teologico assorbito la totalità delle conoscenze, cioè possono rispondere a tutte le domande che si pongono sul tema delle origini. Se si volesse farlo la scienza scadrebbe nello scientismo e la teologia nel dogmatismo. Si avrebbero fondamentalismi di segno opposto. Assumere la visione evolutiva per escludere la trascendenza (nella linea di Dawkins e dello stesso Odifreddi) è pura ideologia. Un'altra condizione è il riconoscimento dell'autonomia della scienza e della teologia quando ciascuna si muove nel proprio ambito e con le specifiche metodologie. Ciò richiede rispetto delle idee e delle persone. Una terza condizione va rispettata: distinguere nelle diverse posizioni scientifiche e teologiche quanto è fondato e relativamente certo, dalle interpretazioni e le ipotesi che se ne traggono. Inoltre nei diversi aspetti e problemi che vengono affrontati dovrebbe essere lasciato adeguato spazio alla riflessione filosofica.

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GENESI, ALL'INIZIO  
FU LA BELLEZZA  
Sequeri, Vangi, Verdon

## LUOGHI DELL'INFINITO

In edicola da martedì 2 settembre  
con Avvenire

ANZITUTTO

## Bolzano, la rana crocifissa rimane esposta

♦ La rana in croce resterà in esposizione al nuovo Museo di Bolzano. Il comitato della fondazione del museo ha deciso ieri di non rimuovere la contestata opera dell'artista tedesco Martin Kippenberger. Nei giorni scorsi i rappresentanti nominati dalla Provincia avevano invece auspicato la rimozione dell'opera per evitare strumentalizzazioni politiche in campagna elettorale. Ma la polemica non si è affatto spenta. «L'arte non dovrebbe offendere i segni religiosi: cristiani, musulmani, buddisti, indu o ebraici, poco importa. Fedi e culture si possono sovvertire anche attraverso l'arte. Ed è un gioco pericoloso», lo ha detto ieri in un'intervista al "Messaggero" monsignor Amerigo Ciani, esperto d'arte e teologia. L'opera «ferisce il sentimento religioso di tante persone». In una nota il ministro per i Beni e le Attività Culturali Sandro Bondi ha poi commentato: «Credo che l'opera esposta al Museo di Bolzano non solo ferisca il sentimento religioso di tante persone che nella croce vedono il simbolo dell'amore di Dio ma che offenda il buon senso e la sensibilità anche di chi non si riconosce in quel simbolo». E ha poi aggiunto: «Perma restando la libertà creativa di ogni artista, sarei felice se le istituzioni pubbliche o comunque le istituzioni finanziate dal pubblico non esaltassero soltanto l'arte della dissacrazione, dell'inutile provocazione e del non senso, perché l'arte è anche ricerca del significato e della bellezza».

## Il Nordamerica cristiano a Gazzada (Va)

♦ Il Cristianesimo europeo nel continente nordamericano sarà al centro della XXX Settimana della Fondazione Ambrosiana Paolo VI, in programma dal 2 al 6 settembre a Villa Cagnola di Gazzada (Varese). Studiosi di istituti universitari di tutto il mondo approfondiranno gli sviluppi del Protestantismo americano, ripercorrendone i grandi momenti e le diverse esperienze storiche. Il professor Cesare Alzati dell'Università Cattolica e l'accademico dei Lincei Sante Gracioti coordineranno i lavori. Si comincerà con i Puritani, per poi proseguire con l'espansione battista fino ai più recenti orientamenti. Non minore attenzione sarà rivolta alla vita ecclesiale cattolica instaurata nelle colonie francesi del Québec e della Louisiana, nonché nei territori a settentrione del Messico, fino alla California, raggiunti dall'espansione ispanica. E non verrà trascurato neppure il riflesso che nel continente americano ha conosciuto l'"altro polmone" del Cristianesimo europeo: l'Ortodossia, inseritasi - a seguito dell'espansione russa - nelle isole Aleutine e nei territori del Nord-Ovest, a cominciare dall'Alaska, con rilevanti forme di inculturazione tra le locali popolazioni eskimesi e indiane. Mercoledì 3 settembre alle ore 19 una celebrazione eucaristica ricorderà Pasquale Macchi, che fu a lungo segretario personale di Paolo VI e presidente della Fondazione Ambrosiana.

## DIBATTITO. Anche gli ultimi documenti ritrovati testimoniano che vari esponenti del giudaismo a più riprese si mostrarono grati a Pio XII



Roma 1948: Pio XII benedice i rappresentanti dei Comitati Civici ricevuti in udienza

DI MATTEO LUIGI NAPOLITANO

**L**a vivida testimonianza di Gary L. Krupp, apparsa sulle colonne di questo giornale, è l'ennesima prova di come ci sia, all'interno dell'ebraismo internazionale (e soprattutto di quello americano), una profonda riconsiderazione del ruolo di Pio XII e della Chiesa cattolica nella seconda guerra mondiale. La Santa Sede ha pubblicato sul periodo 1939-1945 due pregevolissime opere: *gli Actes et Documents*, e *Inter Arma Caritas*, un corpus documentario in formato digitale (quasi tre milioni di schede dell'Ufficio Informazioni Vaticano per la ricerca dei dispersi e delle vittime), già liberamente consultabile dal 2004 per volere di Giovanni Paolo II e per l'opera feconda del Prefetto dell'Archivio Segreto Vaticano, monsignor Sergio Pagano. Ma il Vaticano non è l'unica fonte per studiare Pio XII. Archivi di altri Paesi (e in particolare modo dell'Italia, della Gran Bretagna e degli Stati Uniti; per citare solo quelli da noi più frequentati) documentano l'opera di Pacelli nella seconda guerra mondiale in modo del tutto soddisfacente. Andrebbe piuttosto avviato un dibattito sull'esplorazione di tutte queste fonti. Alcuni studiosi tuttavia elevano continue «grida» verso le «chiusure» del Vaticano, prima di aver bene esplorato ciò che è già consultabile altrove. La storia orale sulla seconda guerra mondiale può essere infatti un ottimo e valido supporto di quella documentaria. Ma nel caso di Pio XII i documenti ci sono e mai come in questo caso, le testimonianze orali sono un utilissimo corredo all'inda-

gine. Sulla vicenda dei visti agli Ebrei per i Paesi dell'America Latina, ad esempio, la documentazione è consistente. Ma studiando le carte vaticane, colpisce anche il fatto che gli Ebrei considerino la Santa Sede un costante riferimento nella lotta al razzismo nazista. Mentre è ancora Segretario di Stato di Pio XI, il cardinale Pacelli riceve un memoriale (n. prot. 1040/38) dall'Unione mondiale degli Israeliti ortodossi, «Agudat Israel», organizzazione ebraica con sede a Londra. Redatto in francese e intitolato *Le drame juif en Pologne*, il documento è opera del presidente del Comitato francese dell'organizzazione, Mathieu Muller, avvocato ebreo parigino. «Davanti alla calamità dell'antisemitismo in Polonia, vero pericolo per la pace sociale e religiosa del paese - si legge nel memoriale - gli alti dignitari del clero polacco, tranne rare eccezioni, fondando la loro ispirazione nei principi di carità, di pace di concordia della Chiesa, hanno reagito vigorosamente. Il giudaismo si ricorda con profonda e commossa riconoscenza che il Vaticano ha sempre condannato le manifestazioni di odio e tutti gli attacchi alla dignità della persona umana, senza mai far distinzione tra le religioni, le nazionalità o le razze». Ecco perché i rappresentanti di Agudat Israel sono incaricati «di trasmettere i più caldi ringraziamenti dell'Unione Mondiale degli Israeliti ortodossi per tutto quello che è stato fatto finora nei confronti degli israeliti polacchi». Un altro interessante documento appartiene a un periodo ancora «chiuso» agli studiosi. Il 15 aprile 1939 il Segretario

**Le organizzazioni ebraiche consideravano la Santa Sede un punto fermo contro il razzismo nazista: lo prova un memoriale sulla Polonia. E il rabbino Zaoui ringraziò il Papa per aver salvato gli ebrei di Roma**

di Stato di Pio XII, cardinal Maglione, invia al nunzio a Varsavia Cortesi, un dispaccio (n. prot. 1688/39) importantissimo per due ragioni: perché esso non appare negli *Actes et Documents* già editi; e perché, pur trovato casualmente in altri dossier, esso prova che anche quando alla Santa Sede «sfuggono» documenti storici «chiusi», non fuoriescono «scheletri» di sorta dai suoi armadi. Il dispaccio di Maglione riferisce di quattro ebrei polacchi, che chiedono a Pio XII aiuto per espatriare dal loro Paese. Maglione ricorda l'esistenza «di Comitati, il cui scopo è appunto quello di assistere ed aiutare gli Ebrei profughi». Gli ebrei polacchi potrebbero rivolgersi a quelli di Londra e di New York. Ma, prosegue Maglione, «anche fra i cattolici d'Inghilterra, d'America, d'Irlanda e d'Olanda si sono costituiti dei Comitati, ma di preferenza rivolgono la loro benefica attività assistenziale agli israeliti convertiti. Se però Vostra Eccellenza, dopo aver assunte opportune informazioni, ritenesse che qualcu-

no dei suddetti casi meriti l'interessamento della Santa Sede, questa Segreteria di Stato sarebbe disposta a prenderlo in benevola considerazione». Non solo interesse del Vaticano per gli ebrei battezzati, dunque, ma anche per gli ebrei tout court. Il che demolisce buona parte del castello accusatorio contro Pio XII. Sempre del «periodo chiuso» è l'ultimo documento che, menzionato da vari autori, è protocollato in Vaticano col n. 4647/44. È la lettera del 22 giugno 1944, che il rabbino André Zaoui, capitano del corpo di spedizione francese in Italia (e «cappellano» dei militari israeliti francesi) invia a Pio XII. Zaoui ricorda l'udienza concessa da papa Pacelli agli alleati, il martedì 6 giugno 1944, all'indomani della liberazione di Roma, durante la quale il rabbino aveva espresso «al Capo della Chiesa i sentimenti di profonda riconoscenza e di rispettosissima ammirazione, dei miei fratelli israeliti del Corpo di Spedizione francese, per l'immenso bene e la carità incomparabili che Vostra Santità ha prodigato agli ebrei d'Italia, specialmente ai bambini, alle donne e agli anziani della Comunità di Roma». Zaoui rievoca commosso anche la riapertura della sinagoga di Roma, l'8 giugno 1944, e l'entusiasmo con cui alla cerimonia è stato accolto il cappuccino Pierre-Marie Benoit, per i suoi «tanti indimenticabili servizi a numerose famiglie ebraiche di Roma». E gli esempi potrebbero proseguire. Ha ragione pertanto Krupp: «E assolutamente sbagliata l'idea che Pio XII fosse antisemita e collaborasse, o avesse qualche simpatia, con la Germania nazista».

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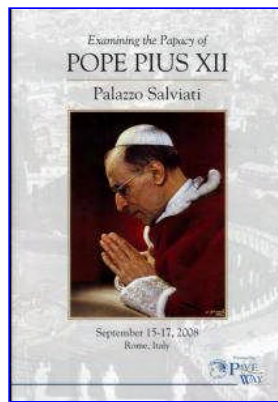
September 22nd, 2008

Rome looks at Pius XII papacy as death anniversary nears

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Posted by: Philip Pulella

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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.

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 Knight Commander of the Pontifical Equestrian Order of St Gregory the Great.

The title of the symposium was "Examining the Papacy of Pope Pius XII". It was attended by, among others, panelists 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 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 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 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.

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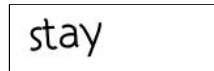
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I recently had two encounters in Rome which I thought you might be interested in hearing about. The first was with members of the cast of the film version of the novel *Angels and Demons* by Dan Brown, published in 2000 — the “prequel” to *The Da Vinci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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

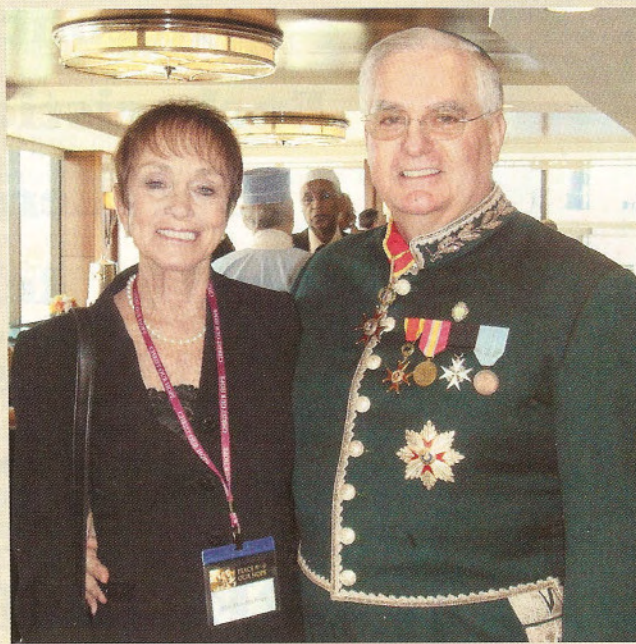
“It is more than many of us would have dared to hope just a few years back. It is a kind of revolution, and the colleges and universities, as well as the young, are on our side, too. Everywhere you turn the

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

The Rome diocese was prudent to declare its refusal.

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

## ANGELS AND DEMONS IN ROME



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

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

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

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

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

whatever the Foundation's current projects are.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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# FARÒ DIVENTARE BEATO PIO XII

È la proposta di Gary Krupp, ebreo newyorkese che con la sua fondazione "Pave The Way" vuole esaltare la figura di Papa Pacelli. Chiede che venga nominato "Giusto tra le Nazioni", titolo equiparabile a quello di santo per i cattolici: «Salvò molti perseguitati, aiutandoli a espatriare», dice



di Antonio Parisi

**I**l processo di beatificazione di Papa Pio XII è in corso da molti anni e, forse, si concluderà nel 2009. Un'accelerazione in tal senso potrebbe venire ora dalla straordinaria iniziativa di un ebreo di New York, secondo cui il pontefice, per la sua opera in favore degli ebrei perseguitati, andrebbe proclamato "Giusto tra le Nazioni", titolo equiparabile a quello di Santo per i cattolici. Il nuovo paladino di Pio XII è Gary Krupp, fondatore e presidente della potente fondazione "Pave The Way".

Eugenio Pacelli, questo il suo nome di battesimo, divenne pontefice nel 1939, mentre stava per scoppiare il secondo conflitto mondiale. È stato accusato, in diverse occasioni, da alcuni storiografi di essere stato antisemita e di aver nutrito simpatie per la Germania nazista. Queste insinuazioni hanno influenzato parte delle comunità ebraiche, suscitando in loro una palpabile antipatia nei confronti di Papa Pacelli. Una situazione che ha pesato negativamente, in più di un'occasione, nei rapporti tra Vaticano ed esponenti delle organizzazioni giudaiche. La Santa Sede ha da tempo messo a disposizione degli studiosi una grande mole di documentazione per testimoniare come Pio XII si prodigò personalmente al fine di sottrarre migliaia di ebrei alla furia nazi-

## DOCUMENTI ECCEZIONALI

**A destra, uno dei documenti conservati dalla fondazione di Krupp: è un falso certificato di battesimo, autorizzato da Papa Pio XII (nel tondo), che consentì a una giovane ebrea di essere liberata al cattolicesimo.**

sta. Eppure, nonostante le testimonianze in favore di Papa Pacelli e della sua politica contraria all'arroganza nazista, i luoghi comuni su Pio XII antisemita sono duri a morire.

Proprio la "Pave The Way" ha organizzato a Roma, dal 15 al 17 settembre, un convegno internazionale, con l'obiettivo di far conoscere agli studiosi e all'opinione pubblica una serie di inediti documenti e testimonianze, che comprovano come Pio XII non sia stato antisemita ma che abbia, al contrario, profuso ogni energia per portare in salvo migliaia di ebrei, op-

ponendosi a Hitler molto più di quanto fecero i leader politici dell'epoca.

«Credo fermamente», ha dichiarato Krupp a *Gente*, «che sia mio dovere mettere in atto ogni azione per difendere Pio XII. Non è corretto, né giusto infangare la memoria. Noi tutti gli dobbiamo molto per il suo impegno nel procurare visti per l'espatrio agli ebrei durante la seconda guerra mondiale. Ritengo che sia dovere di ogni uomo prodigarsi per l'affermazione della verità. È quello che intendo fare». «Sia io», continua il presidente della "Pave The Way", «sia mia moglie Meredith, sino





### DALL'AMERICA AL VATICANO

Roma. Gary Krupp, insieme con la moglie Meredith, in visita a San Pietro. «La simpatia verso la Chiesa cattolica», rivela Krupp, «è merito di Padre Pio: a San Giovanni Rotondo, rimasi ammirato della sua opera».

qualche anno fa, credevamo che Pio XII fosse stato di indole antisemita. Lascio immaginare a voi lettori di *Gente* quale è stato il nostro sconcerto quando abbiamo scoperto, nell'approfondimento di alcune tematiche storiche, che tutto quello che di negativo si raccontava su Pio XII era frutto di luoghi comuni, se non di deliberate menzogne».

«Basti pensare al caso testimoniati da monsignor Gianni Ferrofino, oggi novantenne: per ordine personale di

**«Ritengo che sia dovere di ogni uomo prodigarsi per la verità», dice Krupp**

Pio XII, insieme con il nunzio apostolico ad Haiti, monsignor Maurilio Silvani, intervenne per farsi rilasciare 1.600 visti all'anno per gli ebrei che dovevano fuggire dall'Europa. L'azione svolta, dal 1939 al 1945, dal nunzio e da Ferrofino, su disposizioni personali del pontefice, consentì di mettere in salvo non meno di 11 mila ebrei. Che dire poi dei certificati di battesimo falsi rilasciati agli ebrei per farli apparire cattolici? Come si concilia la presunta simpatia di Pio XII per Hitler

con le note riservate in possesso della diplomazia americana, che esplicitamente parlavano nel 1939 del disprezzo di Paccelli per il regime nazista e il suo capo? Che dire, poi, del telegramma di vibrata protesta, inviato dal Papa al reggente d'Ungheria e complice di Hitler, l'ammiraglio Horthy, per deplorare la deportazione degli ebrei? Gesti simili non furono fatti dalle autorità politiche dell'epoca».

«Vicende e documenti come quelli raccolti da Krupp», ci conferma Piero La Porta, responsabile della sezione italiana della «Pave The Way», «la dicono lunga ▶



## «FARÒ DIVENTARE BEATO PIO XII»

### RELIGIONI E AMICIZIA

**Gary Krupp stringe la mano a Papa Benedetto XVI, in presenza del cardinale Bertone. Krupp lavora da anni alle relazioni tra ebrei e cattolici.**

sull'impegno personale di Pio XII in favore degli ebrei, impegno che determinò rischi per lui e la Santa Sede. Non dobbiamo infatti dimenticare che, in più di una occasione, Hitler era stato tentato di occupare il Vaticano e fare prigioniero lo stesso pontefice».

Al termine della guerra, furono unanimi le dichiarazioni di ringraziamento delle comunità ebraiche verso Pio XII. Poi qualcosa cambiò. «Voglio ripristinare la verità storica», dice Krupp, «verso papa Piacelli. Dovrebbe essere proclamato "Giusto tra le Nazioni" e, così, portare nuova linfa al miglioramento delle relazioni tra ebrei e cattolici». Questo è un altro degli obiettivi di Krupp e dalla sua fondazione. Proprio

per favorire le relazioni tra le due religioni, Krupp organizzò in Vaticano nel 2005 il più affollato incontro tra rabbini e Giovanni Paolo II. Successivamente, si è adoperato, insieme con altri amici, per trovare i fondi e acquistare i "Bondmer Papyrus", importantissimi manoscritti dei Vangeli di San Giovanni e San Luca, pagati circa 10 milioni di euro e donati a Papa Benedetto XVI, che ha previsto di concedere a Krupp un'udienza privata il 18 settembre.

Ma a cosa è dovuta questa simpatia di Krupp verso la Chiesa cattolica che, tra l'altro, gli ha conferito l'onoreficenza di Commendatore di San Gregorio Magno? «La simpatia verso la Chiesa cattolica», ci rivela Krupp, «è forse merito di Padre Pio.

Circa trent'anni fa mi recai in visita a San Giovanni Rotondo e rimasi ammirato dell'opera del padre francescano. Da allora, io, ebreo, mi reputo amico di Padre Pio e collaboro per assicurare la fornitura, a costi sostenibili, di macchine ad alta tecnologia all'ospedale Casa Sollievo della Sofferenza: l'ultima apparecchiatura è stata la Pet-Tac consegnata a maggio dell'anno scorso». Secondo Krupp, Padre Pio gli ha portato una grande ricchezza spirituale, ma anche tanta fortuna: lui, scherzosamente, ci dice che nel suo portafoglio sono riposti insieme il santino di San Pio e la sua carta di credito American Express.

Krupp, dopo questo convegno, ha un sogno nel cassetto: «Sia io, sia mia moglie siamo appassionati di musical e appena possiamo andiamo a Broadway. Ci piacerebbe produrre una commedia musicale sull'opera di Pio XII: ci stiamo lavorando. Magari, con l'aiuto di "my friend Padre Pio", ci riusciremo».

**Antonio Parisi** 

**«Vorremmo produrre un musical su Pio XII»: questo il sogno di Krupp e sua moglie**



INTERVISTA Il presidente di "Pave the Way" ha più volte aiutato la Chiesa Cattolica

# Gary Krupp, un ebreo con Padre Pio nel cuore

di Antonio Parisi

Roma "Il migliore amico che io ho è Padre Pio". A parlarci così del frate innalzato agli onori dell'altare da Santa Romana Chiesa è un... ebreo osservante newyorkese, Gary Krupp, che in realtà non ha mai conosciuto San Padre Pio da vivo, ma, visitando San Giovanni Rotondo e le opere che il frate ha realizzato, ne è divenuto a tal punto estimatore, da considerarlo un amico che Krupp sente sempre al suo fianco. Krupp non è una persona ordinaria. Infatti è l'influente presidente della fondazione americana "Pave the Way" (Prepara la Strada) in stretti rapporti personali con tutti i potenti della Terra. La "Pave the Way" vuole promuovere il dialogo tra gli appartenenti alle diverse confessioni religiose, anche antagoniste tra di loro, che sono presenti sulla Terra. Progetto ambizioso, ma in cui c'entra, in qualche modo, Padre Pio. Proprio l'affetto verso il Santo di Pietrelcina ha spinto questo personaggio, che ribadisce la propria appartenenza alla religione ebraica, a contribuire con le proprie relazioni e le proprie conoscenze, alla realizzazione di alcuni progetti ed iniziative della Chiesa Cattolica. Nelle scorse settimane la collaborazione tra "Pave the Way" con la General Electric, ha consentito l'acquisto e l'installazione da parte della Casa Sollievo della Sofferenza di San Giovanni Rotondo, con un prezzo di favore, di una avveniristica Pet-Tac. La macchina, è stata ottenuta con uno sconto del sessanta per cento sul costo di mercato che si aggira sui cinque milioni di dollari. È riservato Krupp, ed è difficile farlo parla-



Gary Krupp con il Pontefice Benedetto XVI

re su quanto fatto da lui personalmente o dalla "Pave the Way" in favore della Chiesa. Nei mesi passati ha fatto scallone, negli ambienti degli studiosi, l'acquisto da parte di un membro cattolico della "Pave the Way", Frank Hanna, di alcuni papiri del primo secolo dopo Cristo contenenti il Vangelo di Luca. L'opera è stata comprata per nove milioni di Euro e donata al Vaticano nelle mani di Papa Benedetto XVI. Braccio destro di Gary Krupp è un cattolico italiano che vive a Roma ma che ha girato il mondo e continua, imperterrito nonostante i suoi ottanta anni, a saltare da un aereo all'altro. Si tratta di Rolando Clementoni. Proprio grazie ai buoni uffici di Clementoni e del nostro editorialista Piero

La-porta, Gary Krupp accetta di incontrare noi de "Il Meridiano". L'occasione è ghiotta per chiedergli come sia stato possibile per lui ebreo divenire "amico" di padre Pio. «Il merito - ci dice Krupp - è stato di Clementoni è di Monsignor Riccardo Ruotolo, allora Presidente della Fondazione Casa Sollievo della Sofferenza, con cui ci incontrammo, una trentina di anni fa, a New York. In quella occasione mi invitarono a visitare San Giovanni Rotondo. Accettai. Quando giunsi in Puglia e visitai i luoghi dove era vissuto Padre Pio, sentii subito il carisma di quella figura. Monsignor Ruotolo mi regalò una foto del frate. Quella foto è sempre con me, sul mio cuore e da allora ogni gior-

no ho avvertito al mio fianco la presenza di Padre Pio». Per dimostrare che non scherza Krupp tira fuori dal portafoglio l'amata immagine che in verità è sempre sovrapposta alla esclusiva carta Platino della American Express. «Torno spesso in Italia -continua il presidente della "Pave the Way"- ed ogni volta vado volentieri a San Giovanni Rotondo». Attualmente Krupp coadiuvato del sempre presente Clementoni sta lavorando ad un progetto per la pace nel mondo: un concerto in cui far cantare insieme artisti ebrei, musulmani sunniti e sciiti, cattolici e buddisti. Vuoi vedere che con l'aiuto di Padre Pio, Krupp ci riesce?

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## Hubble-Bubble Rehabilitating Pope Pius XII

Melik Kaylan 10.28.08, 12:01 AM ET



It has largely escaped the notice of Americans in a time of raucous internal news--though it surely concerns America more than any other country, since more Jews and Catholics share the same citizenship here than anywhere.

The Vatican has begun considering the canonization of Pope Pius XII (1876-1958), the wartime pope who, in recent decades, has been accused of doing little to prevent the destruction of Jewry by the Nazis. At the very least, he stands accused of not speaking out publicly as the Holocaust unfolded, and therefore of complicity by inaction.

Israeli newspapers have run editorials and passionate letters of outrage against the Vatican initiative; the Vatican has invited all concerned parties to scrutinize the record.

I should say upfront that I have no confessional predisposition to either side--a sensible reason, no doubt, for staying out of the controversy altogether, as much of our media have chosen to do. However, my friends at [Pave the Way Foundation](#) are involved.

I know these individuals for their tireless courage and probity in everything they do to generate critical outbreaks of peace between religions. That's their mission, and they've pulled off astonishing coups in the most unexpected ways. They've arranged the largest cultural loan from the Vatican to the state of Israel (the loan of original Maimonides commentaries); the donation to the Vatican of the earliest written version of the Lord's Prayer (ca. A.D.175-225); the donation of diapers and baby formula from Muslim charities to poor Jewish mothers in Israel; and on and on. They even interceded with Jerusalem to finally allow the Greek Orthodox patriarch in Jerusalem to get his official accreditation from the Israeli state.

The foundation is run by a Jewish Long Islander of immense energy and boisterous humor named Gary Krupp who never stops inventing madly and intervening precisely. As Gary says, he's not especially qualified to do this. He's a former industrial engineer who for many years built medical facilities in forgotten places around New York state ("I'm a nobody from Long Beach, but I can do it ..."). He has, though, a relentless innocence in the face of impossible odds. In short, if Pave the Way is involved, one should listen with an open heart.

In mid-September, the site ran a four-day symposium at the Vatican on the subject of Pius XII. (I was invited but, alas, couldn't make it.) The U.S. media has remained almost uniformly silent on the event. From the evidence presented there, and from what I've seen, it seems incontrovertible that Pius did all he could to save Jews and indeed saved countless thousands, some 860,000 lives according to one estimate.

Wherefore then the controversy? In the postwar years, Jewish leaders the world over--and many in Israel, including the Chief Rabbi of Israel--acclaimed Pius loudly for his wartime conduct. But everything began to change in 1963 with an eight-hour play called *The Deputy* by an unknown West German playwright named Rolf Hochhuth. The play, which made the rounds of the Eastern Bloc and then the world, portrayed Pius as a "cold-eyed" collaborator. It now turns out that Hochhuth was a KGB plant and the documents he used and cited were KGB forgeries. But the radical left of the time lapped it up, and its thesis seeped into the mainstream. The entire project even had a code name: Seat 12. The documentation on this is riveting, a seamless Cold War spy story worth perusing just for the quality of intrigue it unveils.

In truth, Hitler hated Pius and Pius deplored both National Socialism

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and Communism, as countless extant documents show. He struggled against both incessantly, but the Soviets outlasted him, and their revenge has endured even in the West, giving rise to a dubious branch of Holocaust studies devoted entirely to blackening Pius' reputation. It's worth citing a few incontestable instances of Pius' interventions on behalf of Jewish lives:

--The issuing of 1,600 visas per year from 1939 to 1945 for Jews to escape from Europe to the [Dominican Republic](#).

--Out of some 8,000 Roman Jews, some 7,000 survived by taking refuge in Vatican buildings.

--In Hungary, the Church gave an estimated 80,000 certificates to Jews showing they were baptized Catholics to exempt them from harm.

--The church helped countless thousands to escape to Romania; some 360,000 Jews would leave for Israel from Romania up to the year 1965.

Why then did the pope generally refrain from public denunciations of Nazism and the death camps during the war? That is the one central calumny that gives credence to the others and that, being true enough on the face of it, has been the hardest to counter. Yet it shouldn't be so hard. One-third of the Catholic clergy were killed during the war. The pope himself was manifestly under threat. As top German official Albrecht von Kessel said about the planned deportation of Roman Jewry: "If the pope were to oppose this measure, there was even a possibility that he would be killed while trying to escape." Yet he did oppose it, but he did so through diplomatic back-channels, as he did much else--because he had to.

There was good reason for the pope to refrain from public political displays against the Nazis. But there was one overriding consideration in the matter of protecting the Jews: Such a display inevitably harmed them because it led instantly to reprisals. In Holland for example, where the Catholic clergy united in public protest, the deportation of the Jews abruptly intensified. The pope in the end had no means to stop military action. As a result, 11,000 Dutch Jews were swiftly deported.

It should be remembered that none of the allied powers did anything to close the camps or save the Jews until very late in the war. Pope Pius saved more Jews over many more years than any international agency. It's time, at the very least, to give his defenders a hearing.

*Melik Kaylan, a writer based in New York, writes a weekly column for Forbes.com. His story "Georgia In The Time of Misha" is featured in The Best American Travel Writing 2008 .*

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## ROMAN REFLECTION

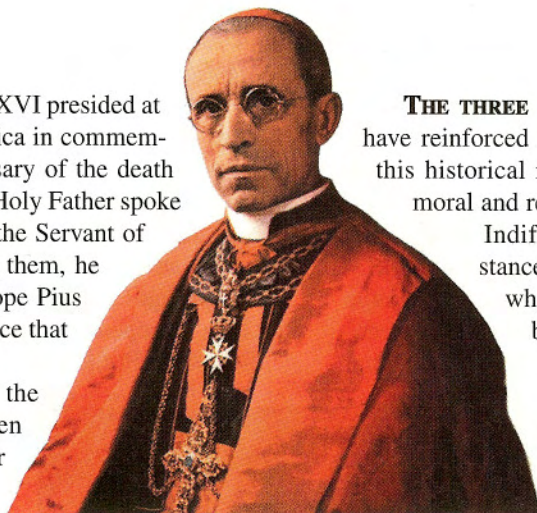
# RIGHTEOUSNESS UPHOLDS TRUTH: PIUS XII SYMPOSIUM ■ BY FR. BERNARD O'CONNOR

On October 9, Pope Benedict XVI presided at a liturgy in St. Peter's Basilica in commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the death of Pope Pius XII. In his homily, the Holy Father spoke of the many remarkable aspects of the Servant of God's papacy (1939-1958). Among them, he noted how, during World War II, Pope Pius refused to escape Rome despite advice that he do so.

With reference to the plight of the Jews at that time, Pope Pius "often acted secretly and silently" in order to avoid more severe retribution both upon them and upon the Church, Benedict said. When Pope Pius died, the Israeli foreign minister, Golda Meir, aptly summarized the countless expressions of gratitude by Jewish Holocaust survivors towards the Pontiff: "During the 10 years of Nazi terror, when our people went through the horrors of martyrdom, the Pope raised his voice to condemn the persecutors and commiserate with their victims."

**POPE BENEDICT CONTINUED BY REFERRING** to the modern controversy over the public role Pope Pius assumed on the Jewish question. It is an "historical debate (...) which has not always been the calmest, and which has prevented us shining a light" upon the broader significance of Pope Pacelli's pontificate, Benedict said.

In a recent edition of *Inside the Vatican*, I alerted readers to a symposium to be held in Rome's Palazzo Salviati from September 15 to 17. The event, entitled "Examining the Papacy of Pope Pius XII," was a marvelous success, one which involved Catholic and Jewish communities from across Europe, Israel and America. As a member of Europe's board of advisors for the Pave the Way Foundation, the primary organizer of the symposium, I was privileged to attend a briefing and reception on September 11th for some 50 guests (e.g. media, Parliamentarians and Vatican officials). As they mingled throughout the charming Villa Maria Regina Hotel, they felt sufficiently relaxed to be candid about their anxieties. I met Jewish representatives, for example, who spoke of the courage required to participate in the symposium. There was some pressure exerted upon some Jewish scholars and observers, they said, to boycott the symposium. These scholars grew fearful of appearing to compromise their colleagues' positions and their own professional reputation. For many who have embraced the myth of Pope Pius' anti-Semitism and Nazi collaboration, it is untenable to expect any reconsideration of his "villainy." Their attitude has become entrenched, and certainly not inclined to evaluate the overwhelming evidence disproving their preconceived mindset.



**THE THREE DAYS OF THE SYMPOSIUM**, however, seem to have reinforced the conviction that witnessing to the truth of this historical record is no mere academic exercise; it is a moral and religious obligation.

Indifference to Jewish suffering was never the stance of Pope Pius. Quite the opposite. But those who would be silent today before the reprehensible assassination of his character risk sharing in an action which defiles Torah, New Testament and Koran alike. The *International Herald Tribune* reported on the symposium's distribution of "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 repeatedly thanked by Jewish leaders and Holocaust survivors.

**THIS WAS THE CLEAR SCENARIO PRIOR TO 1963.** In that year, Rolf Hochhuth, a German playwright, published a play, *The Deputy*, which portrayed Pope Pius as bereft of all human decency and as opportunistic, ruthless and cowardly amidst the Jewish crisis. Scholarly consensus denounces the work as "ludicrous." But it came to pervade popular consciousness, directly contributing to the denial of Pope Pius' countless efforts on behalf of the victims of Nazi atrocity. What was behind Hochhuth's fabrication? Because the Soviet government was enraged by Pope Pius' condemnation of Communism, the KGB conspired to undermine the credibility of the Pope and to obliterate the reality of his generosity, indeed heroism. Hochhuth has been numbered among the willing accomplices. Post-1963, the world bought into a strategic and well-publicized lie. Sadly, that fallacy still thrives, as seen in the serious anti-Pius comments which have been attributed to Rabbi Cohen, the first rabbi to be invited to address the Synod of Bishops (*La Repubblica*, October 7, 2008, p. 18).

**THE DAY FOLLOWING, THE SYMPOSIUM PARTICIPANTS** were received by Pope Benedict. The Jewish founder of Pave the Way, Gary Krupp, spoke on their behalf.

He told the Holy Father that Pave the Way had conducted an extensive and objective investigation of the Pope Pius issue. The results have been "stunning" and in total contradiction to the prevalent misperception, he said. The acquired data will be made available "for further study." It attests that "Pius XII was instrumental in saving the lives of as many as 860,000 Jews from certain death at Nazi hands."

In turn, Pope Benedict expressed profound gratitude that the symposium and Pave the Way have had the integrity to counter "ideological prejudices" and to advocate that Pope Pius' actual legacy be examined with a view to justice. ●



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# Pave The Way Foundation

**Pave the Way Foundation** "is dedicated to achieving peace by closing the gap in tolerance, education and the practical relations between religions, through cultural, technological and intellectual exchanges. We strive to eliminate the use of religion as a tool which, historically has been used, by some, to achieve personal agendas and to cause conflicts." <sup>[1]</sup>

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...processati. Chiusa una Guantanamo se ne può creare un'altra. Comodo ma imbarazzante per Barack. E se poi dicono che fa come Bush? Obama agli ideali dice di tenere parecchio. Almeno quanto Hillary Clinton all'intelligenza. E poi, comunque, come li processiamo? Tribunale militare? Corte federale? Dal 20 gennaio si inizia, e "Flip - Flop Obama", maestro del «ma anche» all'americana, qualche decisione dovrà iniziare a prenderla. La campagna elettorale è finita da un pezzo. E il piccolo leone lo aspetta.



**INTERVISTA.** PIERO LAPORTA, DELLA FONDAZIONE PAY THE WAY, SULLA DENUNCIA DEL RABBINO CAPO DI VENEZIA

## «I cattolici non comprendono Gaza»

DI PAOLO RODARI

■ **Piero Laporta, presidente per l'Italia della Pay The Way Foundation - fondata negli Stati Uniti dall'ebreo Gary Krupp, si batte per promuovere la collaborazione tra le diverse fedi -, conosce bene il rabbino capo di Venezia, Rav Elia Enrico Ricetti. Come vanno lette le parole di Ricetti secondo le quali con Benedetto XVI si stanno cancellando cinquanta anni di dialogo?**

Vanno lette alla luce del conflitto corrente, che costringe a posizioni massimaliste affinché Israele non si senta isolata. Con molta probabilità, in altri momenti, i toni sarebbero stati differenti. Siamo rammaricati che da parte cattolica siano giunte parole non sempre appropriate e non sempre tempestive sulle cause dello scontro attuale, cominciato con il lancio di razzi da parte di Hamas sulle città israeliane.

**La questione della preghiera del Venerdì Santo, dunque, non interessa più di tanto agli ebrei?**

Senz'altro interessa. Ma lo sanno tutti che diverse preghiere ebraiche sono contro i cattolici. Mentre altri salmi e passi di preghiera cattoliche sono addirittura più duri verso gli ebrei della preghiera del Venerdì Santo. Voglio dire: a mio avviso il centro del

problema è soprattutto l'escalation del conflitto e le parole di alcuni cattolici in merito.

**Quando parla delle parole dei cattolici pensa al Papa?**

Parlo del mondo cattolico. E mi domando: perché il mondo cattolico non ha parlato quando Hamas lanciava razzi su Israele? Se, tanto per fare un esempio, una bomba a mano fosse stata fatta esplodere in Italia uccidendo innocenti, cosa sarebbe successo? Tutti avrebbero condannato l'episodio. Cattolici in testa. E, invece, quando Hamas lanciava razzi su Israele nessuno diceva nulla. Mentre oggi che Israele risponde tutti si dichiarano costernati.

**Pay The Way è conosciuta in Italia come fondazione ebraica molto vicina al Vaticano. Recentemente ha promosso un Simposio per parlare di quanto fece Pio XII per gli ebrei. Pensa che un viaggio del Papa in Israele possa aiutare il dialogo tra Vaticano e mondo ebraico?**

Auspichiamo vivamente che le ragioni del conflitto e le sue conseguenze siano presto superate affinché il dialogo fra le parti riprenda. Il prossimo viaggio in Israele di Benedetto XVI potrebbe essere una eccellente occasione per contribuire a comporre i problemi sul tappeto. Personalmente ritengo che sia innanzitutto

to la comunità internazionale a dover fare una seria riflessione e a capire che in situazioni simili occorre intervenire tempestivamente su qualunque minaccia alla pace, da qualunque parte provenga, perché gli enormi sacrifici della popolazione di Gaza oggi non ripagano quelli altrettanto acuti e tragici della popolazione israeliana quando è stata obiettivo di migliaia di razzi e bombe di mortaio.

**Da cosa è stata motivata la decisione di sospendere la giornata di dialogo ebraico-cristiano?**

Crede che molto dipenda dal clima attuale, anche quindi dal conflitto. In questa situazione è impossibile che il collegio rabbinico italiano non partecipi a un evento simile. Perché significherebbe in qualche modo tradire le sofferenze di Israele. Tra l'altro anche noi abbiamo dovuto rinunciare a qualcosa. La Pay the Way, in particolare, a causa di questo conflitto, ha dovuto rinunciare al progetto di finanziare il pellegrinaggio in Terra Santa di dodici leader religiosi - cattolici, ebrei e mussulmani - i quali, partendo da Lione, grazie agli auspici del primate di quella città, il cardinale Philippe Barbarin, avrebbero raggiunto Gerusalemme tutti insieme, dando un segno di grande e significativa fratellanza.





dpa

Berliner Ausstellung über Papst Pius XII. und dessen Rolle im dritten Reich

## aspekte

### Stille Taten von "Hitler's Pope"?

#### Wird Pius XII. rehabilitiert?

Das Bild von Pius XII. ist zwiespältig. Er galt bisher als der Papst, der zum Holocaust geschwiegen hat, der zu wenig für die Juden tat, sogar Antisemit war. Doch wer erinnert sich noch daran, dass nach dem Krieg viele, auch jüdische Stimmen, Pius lobten? Einstein nannte die Kirche die einzige mutige Verteidigerin der moralischen Freiheit. Golda Meir dankte Pius dafür, dass er für die verfolgten Juden eintrat.

Der Umschwung kam 1963, mit Rolf Hochhuths Theaterstück "Der Stellvertreter", das den Papst als einen berechnenden Zyniker darstellt, der mit Hitler paktierte. Das Stück sorgte weltweit für Proteste, blieb in den USA und sogar in Israel lange verboten. Den Autor machte es weltberühmt - die Kritik am schweigenden Papst wurde zu Hochhuths Lebenswerk. Der britische Autor John Cornwell ging noch einen Schritt weiter, nannte Pius "Hitler's Pope". So kommt es, dass Pius heute in der Holocaust- Gedenkstätte Yad Vashem in der Halle der Schande hängt. Eine Inschrift dort sagt, er habe geschwiegen.

### Bedrohung der Nazi-Pläne

Im Zentrum der Kritik steht die Weihnachtsansprache von 1943, wo Pius in seiner Fürbitte nicht explizit von "den Juden" sprach, sondern von "Hunderttausende(n), die ohne eigenes Verschulden, bisweilen nur aufgrund ihrer Nationalität oder Rasse dem Tod oder fortschreitender Vernichtung preisgegeben sind." War dies ein Schweigen? Nein, sagt der Historiker Sir Martin Gilbert: "In Berlin waren die Nazi-Chefs, Eichmann und Gestapo-Chef Müller, außer sich über das, was der Papst da sagte. Sie warteten all ihre Vertreter in den Staaten, in die sie Juden deportieren wollten, davor, dass der Papst sich nun mit der jüdisch- bolschewikischen Verschwörung verbündet hätte. Aus der Nazi-Perspektive waren diese Worte, die ihm immer als Schweigen vorgehalten wurden, also eine direkte Bedrohung ihrer Pläne."

Wie sehr Pius eine Bedrohung war, zeigt Hitlers Geheimplan von 1943, den Papst aus dem Vatikan zu entführen. Ausführen sollte es Himmlers Adjutant, SS-General Karl Wolff, der dann aber, wie die Dokumente zeigen, Hitler überredete, es nicht zu tun. Mehr und mehr Dokumente beweisen Pius' Eintreten für die Juden: Er organisiert die Flucht von 12.000 Juden aus ganz Europa nach Haiti. Er protestiert gegen die Deportationen in Frankreich, gegen die Deportationen der Juden in Ungarn. In Rom versteckte die Kirche Juden in Klöstern, Kirchen - und im Vatikan. In keiner anderen Stadt wurden so viele Juden gerettet. Zuletzt sind sogar Dokumente aufgetaucht, die beweisen, dass Pius Mittelsmann zwischen der englischen Regierung und den Verschwörern gegen Hitler um Admiral Canaris war.

### Leistungen anerkennen

All diese Belege hat eine jüdisch-amerikanische Stiftung zusammengetragen. Sie will Pius rehabilitieren. Gary Krupp von der "Pave-the-Way"-Stiftung erklärt: "Meine Frau und ich wuchsen auf und hassten diesen Mann. Wir dachten, er sei Hitlers Papst gewesen. Dann aber entdeckten wir Dinge, die dem völlig entgegenstanden. Mir erscheint es daher als eine jüdische Pflicht, die Leistungen dieses Mannes anzuerkennen, der - mehr als alle anderen Staatshäupter zusammen - Juden das Leben rettete. Ob er es still tat oder nicht - die Hauptsache ist, er tat es."

Für Rolf Hochhuth haben diese Dokumente kein Gewicht. Für ihn bleibt Pius ein, wie er sagt, "durch und durch schlechter Mensch". Ein Interview lehnte er ab. Sir Martin Gilbert widerspricht: "Wir sind schon viel weiter als Hochhuth und auch als Cornwell. Wir wissen jetzt, es gibt einen 'Fall Pius'. Wir wissen, dass er viel tat, von dem wir zurzeit noch nichts wissen."

### Beweise müssen her

Historiker fordern deshalb die Öffnung der vatikanischen Archive, die ursprünglich für 2028 vorgesehen war. Nun soll sie schon in wenigen Jahren vollzogen werden, denn, wie Sir Martin Gilbert betont: "Wir brauchen diese Beweise, die Öffnung der Archive. Es wird erstaunlich sein, Dinge zu finden, durch die wir Hochhuth, Cornwell und all die anderen dann in die Mülltonne verfrachten können." von Christoph Spielberger

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### Il Papa riceve ebrei sopravvissuti all'Olocausto grazie alla Chiesa

**Ursula Selig parla ancora per telefono con il sacerdote che la salvò**

di *Jesús Colina*

CITTA' DEL VATICANO, mercoledì, 18 giugno 2008 (ZENIT.org).- Benedetto XVI ha ricevuto questo mercoledì un gruppo di quattro sopravvissuti all'Olocausto in un incontro promosso dalla Fondazione *Pave the Way* (PTWF).

"I sopravvissuti ebrei erano tutti molto grati per l'opportunità di salutare il Papa in tedesco e in italiano e di ringraziarlo per l'intervento della Chiesa cattolica romana nel salvare la loro vita durante la II Guerra Mondiale", ha spiegato a ZENIT Gary L. Krupp, presidente della Fondazione.

Ursula Selig ha detto che monsignor Beniamino Schivo, a quell'epoca rettore di un seminario a Città di Castello (Perugia) e oggi 97enne, l'ha salvata insieme a suo padre e a sua madre.

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"Ha detto che lei e la madre erano vestite come suore e stavano in un convento - ha spiegato Krupp -. Suo padre si trovava in una piccola fattoria a 8 ore di distanza. Ursula parla ancora con monsignor Schivo due volte a settimana. Doveva venire anche lui ma è troppo fragile".

Monsignor Schivo è stato insignito del titolo di "Giusto delle Genti" dalla Fondazione "Yad Vashem" di Gerusalemme.

Horst Stein ha detto al Papa che le uniche visite che hanno ricevuto mentre si trovavano in campo di concentramento sono state del Vaticano e hanno dato loro speranza e forza.

George Adam lavorava invece a Budapest con il Nunzio per difendere gli ebrei e ha parlato di questo con il Papa.

Da parte sua, Krupp ha presentato al Papa il Simposio speciale che sta organizzando sul papato di Pio XII, previsto a Roma dal 15 al 18 settembre.

La preparazione dell'iniziativa, ha aggiunto il presidente della Fondazione, sta "rivelando la vera storia nascosta dei giorni oscuri dell'Olocausto".

Secondo il presidente, la Fondazione presenterà registrazioni in cui si raccolgono testimonianze che scoprono le attività segrete di Papa Pio XII e di membri della casa pontificia per salvare la vita degli ebrei durante la guerra.

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## Semitic Bishop? He Didn't

New York 2/03/2009 09:17 PM GMT (TransWorldNews)

It was widely reported that Pope Benedict XVI lifted the ban of ex-communication with the Society of St. Pius X and its four Bishops. Yet, the full story has not been told. As sometimes happens, the media got it wrong. The media often focuses on one action without researching the details. This omission has made headlines, fueled a controversy, and promoted negativity.

Without question, public statements made by Bishop Richard Williamson, are holocaust-denial of an absurdly extreme nature, revolting to any normal person, and ill suiting any position as a minister of any religion, let alone a Catholic Bishop. With this in mind, when we heard that Pope Benedict XVI had lifted the ban of excommunication, as with others, we were initially shocked. How could it be possible that a Pope who has made so many positive advances in Jewish-Catholic relations could do this? Yet, rather than simply condemning this act as many others, Pave the Way Foundation researched this matter in depth, and inquired with Vatican officials in Rome and knowledgeable experts in canon law, in order to have a clear picture of what was done and why it was done. The full story will surprise many who listened only to the sensationalized and incomplete story in the news media.

First, one must realize that Vatican actions typically do not concern themselves with years, but rather with centuries. History has shown that past schisms from excommunications and defections from the Catholic Church have spawned new religious communities and faiths. The Pope's lifting the ban of excommunication has effectively only opened a door whereby this radical right wing conservative group, (with an estimated over 1,000,000 devotees in number), may only just begin to talk to Vatican officials to eventually be brought back to the mainstream Catholic beliefs. These beliefs include the acceptance of the conclusions of the Second Vatican Council and the declaration *Nostra Aetate*. This also includes the declaration that anti-Semitism is a sin. If the Pope did not take action to begin to close this schism, our children, and grandchildren might one day see a new virulent right wing religion spring up.

Why did Benedict act now? It was timed to coincide the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary commemoration of the Second Vatican council. This was the event, which caused the *split* with French Archbishop Marcel Lefebvre, founder of this group. However, the lifting of the excommunication definitely does not mean that these bishops are welcomed back into the church with open arms. Far from it. These Bishops have been invited just to be able to speak to church officials only just the first step in beginning the long road back to full

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communion. There remains a long list of obligations to which they have to conform and to answer multiple charges and violations according to canon law.

Unfortunately, it was only after the excommunication was lifted, that the Swedish interviewed of his outrageous remarks surfaced. Since this lifting of the excommunication, the Vatican ordered Williamson silenced though his superior who also issued a public apology. It is important to note that Catholic clergy around the world have universally condemned Bishop Richard Williamson's outrageous statements.

Should we allow the bizarre statements and beliefs of this one-man, and media omissions, damage Jewish-Catholic dialogue, which has consistently been highlighted as a major focus for the Catholic Church and this papacy? We say No!

#### About Pave the Way Foundation

Pave the Way Foundation is dedicated to bridging the non-theological 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 true faithful embracing their similarities and savoring their differences. More information on the Foundation can be found at [www.ptwf.org](http://www.ptwf.org).

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## DER GRÜNDER DER JÜDISCHEN STIFTUNG „PAVE THE WAY“ VERTEIDIGT PAPST BENEDIKT XVI.

ROM, 4. Februar 2009 (ZENIT.org).- „Die Medien konzentrieren sich manchmal auf ein Ereignis, ohne sich mit den näheren Details zu beschäftigen“, kritisiert Gary L. Krupp, Gründer und Präsident der jüdischen Stiftung *Pave the Way*, einer Organisation, die nicht-theologische Hindernisse zwischen den Religionen durch kulturelle und intellektuelle Gesten überwinden möchte. Krupp bezieht sich in einer heute veröffentlichten Presseerklärung auf die aus seiner Sicht „verkürzten“ öffentlichen Berichte über die Aufhebung der Exkommunikation der vier Bischöfe der Piusbruderschaft.

Die Nachricht über Papst Benedikts Entscheidung sei zunächst ein Schock gewesen, berichtet Krupp. „Wie konnte das ein Papst tun, der so viele positive Fortschritte in den jüdisch-katholischen Beziehungen erzielt hat?“ Ohne Frage sei die Holocaust-Leugnung von Bischof Richard Williamson „abscheuerregend für jeden normalen Menschen“. Doch die „Pave the Way“-Foundation sei dem Ereignis tiefgehend nachgegangen und habe durch Nachfragen bei offiziellen Kreisen im Vatikan und anerkannten Kirchenexperten ein „klares Bild über das bekommen, was getan wurde und warum es getan wurde. Die ganze Geschichte wird viele überraschen, die nur auf die Medien gehört haben.“

Zunächst einmal denke der Vatikan in Jahrhunderten. In der Vergangenheit hätten die durch Exkommunikationen verursachten Schismen zur Entstehung neuer religiöser Gemeinschaften geführt. Im Falle der Piusbruderschaft handle es sich immerhin um eine Gruppierung, die über schätzungsweise eine Million Anhänger verfüge. Durch die Aufhebung der Exkommunikation würde nun eine Tür geöffnet, durch die diese „radikal rechts-konservative Gruppe“ zu den katholischen Grundüberzeugungen zurückgebracht werden könne. „Diese Überzeugungen beinhalten auch die Annahme der Beschlüsse des Zweiten Vatikanischen Konzils und der Erklärung ‚Nostra Aetate‘. Sie beinhalten auch die Deklaration, dass Antisemitismus eine Sünde ist.“ Hätte der Papst jetzt nicht Initiative ergriffen, um dieses Schisma zu beenden, „könnten eines Tages unsere Kinder und Enkelkinder eine bösertige rechts gerichtete Religion hervorkommen sehen“.

Die Aufhebung der Kommunikation bedeute aber keineswegs, dass die vier Bischöfe nun mit offenen Armen in der katholischen Kirche empfangen würden. Vielmehr seien die Bischöfe nur dazu eingeladen worden, mit der offiziellen Kirche in Gespräche einzutreten. Es stehe aber noch ein langer Weg bevor, auf dem die Piusbruderschaft viele Verpflichtungen übernehmen müsse.

Dass die Entscheidung zur Aufhebung der Exkommunikation ausgerechnet jetzt gefallen sei, hänge mit dem 50-Jahr-Jubiläum des II. Vatikanums zusammen, das die Spaltung mit Kardinal Lefebvre verursachte. Unglücklicherweise sei nach der Aufhebung der Exkommunikation das Interview mit Williamson in der Öffentlichkeit aufgetaucht. Krupp betont diesbezüglich aber, dass der katholische Klerus weltweit die Aussagen von Bischof Williamson einhellig verurteilt hat. Er schließt mit folgenden Worten: „Sollen wir es zulassen, dass bizarre Aussagen und Überzeugungen dieses einen Mannes den jüdisch-katholischen Dialog schädigen, der dauernd als Hauptschwerpunkt der Kirche und dieses Pontifikats behandelt wurde? Wir sagen Nein!“

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ZE09020402 - 2009-02-04

Permalink: <http://www.zenit.org/article-24999?l=english>**ON JEWISH-CATHOLIC RELATIONS: PRESS "GOT IT WRONG"****Jewish Leader Considers Future If Schism Isn't Healed**

NEW YORK, FEB. 4, 2009 ([Zenit.org](#)).- The full story about Benedict XVI's reconciliation with excommunicated bishops, contrary to the media's portrayal, can reaffirm Jewish-Catholic relations, stated the president of an interreligious foundation.

Gary Krupp, founder and president of the Pave the Way Foundation, an organization dedicated to bridging gaps between religions, affirmed that "the full story has not been told [...] the media got it wrong."

In a statement today from the foundation, he acknowledged the initial shock of the widely reported news "that Pope Benedict XVI lifted the ban of excommunication with the Society of St. Pius X and its four bishops."

Krupp observed: "The media often focuses on one action without researching the details. This omission has made headlines, fueled a controversy and promoted negativity."

He affirmed that the public Holocaust-denial of Bishop Richard Williamson, one of the reconciled prelates, seemed to imply an affront against Jewish-Catholic relations.

But, the Jewish founder explained that his organization researched the matter "in depth, and inquired with Vatican officials in Rome and knowledgeable experts in canon law, in order to have a clear picture of what was done and why it was done."

**Vatican history**

Krupp said he found that Vatican actions "typically do not concern themselves with years, but rather with centuries."

He continued: "History has shown that past schisms from excommunications and defections from the Catholic Church have spawned new religious communities and faiths.

"The Pope's lifting the ban of excommunication has effectively only opened a door whereby this radical right wing conservative group -- with an estimated over 1,000,000 devotees in number -- may only just begin to talk to Vatican officials to eventually be brought back to the mainstream Catholic beliefs [...].

"This also includes the declaration that anti-Semitism is a sin. If the Pope did not take action to begin to close this schism, our children and grandchildren might one day see a new virulent right wing religion spring up."

Krupp observed that Benedict XVI's action is only the first step toward full communion.

And he said, "It is important to note that Catholic clergy around the world have universally condemned Bishop Richard Williamson's outrageous statements."

Krupp concluded by asking, "Should we allow the bizarre statements and beliefs of this one man, and media omissions, [to] damage Jewish-Catholic dialogue, which has consistently been highlighted as a major focus for the Catholic Church and this papacy?"

He answered, "We say no!"

--- --- ---

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05/02/2009 16.46.27

## Dialog katolicko-żydowski jednak trwa

Niewłaściwe przedstawienie zdjęcia ekskomuniki z czterech biskupów lefebrystów jako szkodliwego dla dialogu żydów z katolikami zarzucił mediom Gary Krupp. Ten amerykański żyd jest założycielem i prezesem mającej siedzibę w Nowym Jorku fundacji „Pave the Way”. Zgodnie ze swą nazwą ma ona „torować drogę” dialogowi międzyreligijnemu.

Sam byłem w pierwszej chwili zaszokowany zdjęciem ekskomuniki z negującego holokaust bp. Richarda Williamsona – przyznaje w swoim komunikacie Gary Krupp. Kierowana przez niego fundacja zasięgnęła jednak zasięgnęła jednak informacji w Watykanie i u znawców prawa kanonicznego. Pozwoliło to zrozumieć, że decyzja Papieża jest dopiero pierwszym krokiem dialogu z konserwatywnym ugrupowaniem, którego zwolenników oblicza się na ponad milion wiernych. Dialog ma ich ostatecznie doprowadzić do włączenia w główny nurt katolicyzmu, w którym antysemityzm uważa się za grzech. Zdaniem prezesa fundacji „Pave the Way” papieska decyzja ma zapobiec radykalizacji poglądów konserwatywnej grupy. Podkreśla on też znaczenie, jakie miało powszechne w tych dniach w świecie katolickim potępienie zaprzeczających zagładzie poglądów bp. Williamsona.

Wspomniana fundacja podjęła szereg inicjatyw zbliżenia z Kościołem katolickim. We wrześniu ub. r. urządziła w Rzymie międzynarodowe sympozjum o Piusie XII z udziałem Żydów uważających, że jemu zawdzięczają ocalenie. Głos Gary Kruppa nie jest zresztą w tych dniach całkiem odosobniony. Rabin Irwin Kula na łamach Washington Post skrytykował czołowe amerykańskie organizacje żydowskie za nadanie nieproporcjonalnego rozgłosu sprawie bp. Williamsona. Jego poglądy są mało znaczące wobec rewolucyjnych zmian w nauczaniu Kościoła o żydach po Soborze Watykańskim II i nie mogą spowodować kryzysu w relacjach żydowsko-katolickich – uważa rabin Kula. Podkreśla, że Benedykt XVI, podobnie jak Jan Paweł II, należy do papieży najbardziej wrażliwych na sprawy antysemityzmu, holokaustu i relacji z judaizmem.

Należy też odnotować zmianę opinii Centralnej Rady Żydów w Niemczech, która zawiesiła dialog z katolikami po zdjęciu ekskomuniki z biskupów lefebrystów. Wyraziła ona obecnie zadowolenie, że Watykan wymaga od bp. Williamsona publicznego odwołania wypowiedzi negującej zagładę. Także Światowy Kongres Żydowski ocenił pozytywnie tę ostatnią watykańską decyzję, choć podtrzymuje opinię, że antysemityzm biskupa tradycjonalisty nie jest przypadkiem odosobnionym.

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## Religie i Dialog

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**Der Präsident der jüdischen Stiftung „Pave the Way“ stellt sich gegen die Kritik an Papst Benedikt XVI.**

Rom (www.kath.net/[Zenit](#))

„Die Medien konzentrieren sich manchmal auf ein Ereignis, ohne sich mit den näheren Details zu beschäftigen“, kritisiert Gary L. Krupp, Gründer und Präsident der jüdischen Stiftung Pave the Way, einer Organisation, die nicht-theologische Hindernisse zwischen den Religionen durch kulturelle und intellektuelle Gasten überwinden möchte. Krupp bezieht sich in einer heute veröffentlichten Presseerklärung auf die aus seiner Sicht „verkürzten“ öffentlichen Berichte über die Aufhebung der Exkommunikation der vier Bischöfe der Piusbruderschaft.

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Zunächst einmal denke der Vatikan in Jahrhunderten. In der Vergangenheit hätten die durch Exkommunikationen verursachten Schismen zur Entstehung neuer religiöser Gemeinschaften geführt. Im Falle der Piusbruderschaft handle es sich immerhin um eine Gruppierung, die über schätzungsweise eine Million Anhänger verfüge. Durch die Aufhebung der Exkommunikation würde nun eine Tür geöffnet, durch die diese „radikal rechts-konservative Gruppe“ zu den katholischen Grundüberzeugungen zurückgebracht werden könne. „Diese Überzeugungen beinhalten auch die Annahme der Beschlüsse des Zweiten Vatikanischen Konzils und der Erklärung ‚Nostra Aetate‘. Sie beinhalten auch die Deklaration, dass Antisemitismus eine Sünde ist.“ Hätte der Papst jetzt nicht Initiative ergriffen, um dieses Schisma zu beenden, „könnten eines Tages unsere Kinder und Enkelkinder eine bösartige rechts gerichtete Religion hervorkommen sehen“.

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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 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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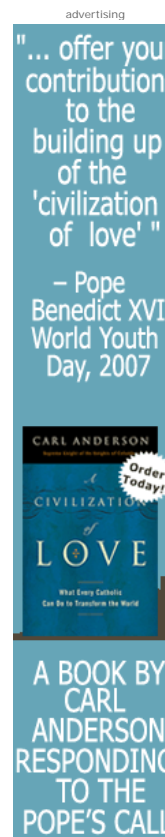


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2009. február 18. szerda  
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Életige – 2009. február

(Chiara Lubich)

## Homíliaavizlat

## Napi sajtószemle

február 18. 8:57

## Külföldi hírek

A **Magyar Nemzet** (*Napi...* 8.o.) néhány sorban beszámol arról, hogy a katolikusokhoz közel áll, belga La Libre Az integristák integristája címmel ír Richard Williamson püspökről, kiemelve: „A püspök a pápa akarata ellenére sem változtatja meg véleményét arról, hogy Auschwitzban nem voltak gázkamrák. Sőt, legutóbbi blogbejegyzésében (dinoscopus.blogspot.com) nemhogy ezzel a kérdéssel foglalkozna, de Beethoven harmadik szimfóniája szépségéről értekezik.”

A **Magyar Demokratában** (50.o.) Hankó Ildikó *Egyházfő keresztútjában* címmel a Willamson-ügy kapcsán fölteszi a kérdést: „De miért került célkeresztbe a katolikus egyházfő? A XVI. Benedek pápa elleni támadások megválasztása után szinte azonnal elkezdődtek. Részben mert a Hittani Kongregáció vezetőjeként kellő keménységet mutatott a lázítók ellen, részben német származása okán. Rendre a természetjog törvényeivel ellenkező biológiai manipulációk ellen foglal állást, tavaly decemberben pedig felemelte szavát a gázai áldozatokért, békére szólítva fel a híveket. Igazi 'bűne' azonban, hogy elindította a második világháború alatt az egyházfői tisztséget betöltő XII. Pius pápa boldoggáavatási procedúráját. Pius tevékenységét többféle módon ítélik meg, de a 2008-ban megtartott, XII. Pius pápaságáról szóló szimpóziumon Gary Krupp zsidó alapítványi elnök szerint 'pontatlan és hiányos beszámoló alapján bélyegezték meg XII. Pius pápát és hamisították meg a második világháború alatti zsidómentő tevékenységének örökségét.” A cikkíró leszögezi: „A XVI. Benedek elleni hadjárat újbóli felerősítésének időzítése természetesen nem véletlen. Miközben szinte mindenütt a világon föl-fölbukkan a keresztények diszkriminációja, üldözése, sőt bizonyos kultúrákban a megölése, s az agresszív vallások egyre inkább teret hódítanak, a kereszténység reneszánszát éli. Japánban jelenleg katolikus miniszterelnök irányítja az országot és ezen nem akad föl egy politikai erő sem. Kínában hivatalosan 21 millió keresztényt tartanak számon, de amerikai kutatók 70-80 millióra becsülik számukat. Egy idős misszionárius szerint Kínában ma már minden tíz emberből egy kereszténynek valja magát.”

Ugyancsak a **Magyar Demokratában** (51.o.) és szintén Hankó Ildikó *Kirill, az utód* címmel úgy véli, hogy az új orosz pátriárka „ődzkodni fog a keresztény egyházakkal, különösen a katolikusokkal való tárgyalástól. Valószínűleg hosszú időnek kell eltelnie ahhoz, hogy legalább annyira hajlandóságot mutasson a megbékéléshez, mint II. Alekszj. Az új egyházfő ugyanis eleget akar tenni a konzervatív orosz püspököknek is, így vélhetően tovább várta magára a Vatikánnal való kapcsolatok fejlődése.” A szerző szerint azt, hogy Kirill messzemenően élvezi az orosz politika támogatását, mindennél jobban jelezte, hogy Dmitrij Medvegyev orosz elnök személyesen vett részt a metropolita karácsonyi istentiszteletén, ő pedig megjelent a Kremben tartott újevi fogadáson, ahol Medvegyev elnök asztalánál foglalt helyet.

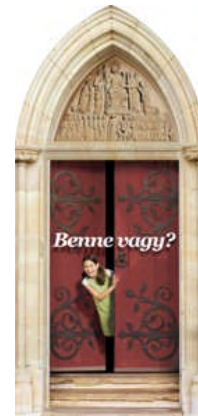
## Hazai hírek

A **Magyar Hírlap** (*Húsz éve...* 9.o.) néhány sorban beszámol arról a hálaadó szentmiséről, amelyet arra emlékeztet tartottak a székesfehérvári bazilikában, hogy húsz éve szentelték püspökké Takács Nándort, Mayer Mihályt és Várszegi Asztrikot.

A **Magyar Nemzet** (*Új...* 14.o.) közli, hogy a Pilinszky János Kávéházban (Budapest V. ker., Váci u. 33.) holnap este hatkor kezdődik az Új evangélikus templomok című könyv bemutatója a Protestáns Újságírók Szövetsége rendezésében. A kötetet bemutatja Csályog Ferenc Kossuth-díjas építész, egyetemi tanár.

Magyar Kurír

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## Education News

### Newly Discovered Documents Prove Pope Pius XII was a Friend to the Jewish People Before, During and After WWII

New York 2/20/2009 01:01 AM GMT (TransWorldNews)

Pave the Way Foundation (PTWF), a non-sectarian organization whose mission is to identify and eliminate non-theological obstacles between religions, announced the discovery of new documents which prove, by his actions, that Pope Pius XII was in reality a friend of the Jewish people before, during and after World War II.

[New documents discovered in the Vatican Secret Archives](#), by Dr. Michael Hesemann,\* reveal that Archbishop Eugenio Pacelli, future Pius XII, [intervened in 1917, through the German government](#), to assure the Jews of Palestine that they would be protected from any harm from the Ottoman Turks. Dr. Hesemann further stated that Pacelli also directly intervened with the World Zionist Organization representative Nachum Sokolov, and used his influence to arrange for Mr. Sokolov to meet directly with the Benedict XV in 1917 to discuss a Jewish homeland in Palestine. In 1926, Pacelli also encouraged Catholics in Germany to join the *Committee Pro Palestina*, which supported Jewish settlements in Palestine.

Gary Krupp, President of PTWF stated that since the PTWF Symposium on the Pius XII Papacy in Rome in September, over 300 new pages of original documents have come to light and can be downloaded at [www.ptwf.org](http://www.ptwf.org). Among these documents, is the hand written [archive entry of a Catholic nun](#), who details the 1943 order received directly from Pope Pius XII to help hide the Jews in Rome. The entry also lists names of the Jews who were sheltered. There is also a [1939 US Foreign service document](#) in which the US Consul General to Cologne, Germany, reports to Washington on the "New Pope." The diplomat states that Pacelli surprised him by his extreme hatred of the Nazi regime and Hitler and how Pacelli supported German Bishop's opposition to National Socialism even at the cost of losing the support of young German Catholics. Another 1938 [document signed by Cardinal Pacelli](#), then Vatican Secretary of State, opposed and helped defeat a planned Polish law, which would have made Kosher slaughtering illegal. Cardinal Pacelli opposed this law because it would have inflicted grave persecution on the Jewish people.

These documents, along with numerous video interviews, have been posted on the Pave the Way Foundation website. One [interview with Msgr Ferrofino](#) details how Pius XII smuggled over 12,000 Jews out of Europe into the US through General Trujillo's Dominican Republic. Another series of documents shows how [Pope Pius XII arranged for the Brazilian government to accept 3000 "non Aryans."](#) When Jews were not welcome in most countries, the Vatican secretly issued false baptismal papers in order to allow them to emigrate as "Catholics."

Mr. Krupp, who is Jewish and grew up despising Pope Pius XII, decided to begin this investigation when he discovered, through Dan Kurzman's book, [A Special Mission: Hitler's Secret Plot to Seize the Vatican and Kidnap Pope Pius the XII](#), detailed testimony from


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General Karl Wolff describing how Hitler ordered him to develop a plan to seize the Vatican and kidnap the Pope. The Pope's restrained caution, with regard to public statements, which has been a source of criticism of Pius XII, was justified in light of the testimony of concentration camp inmates who faced increased punishments whenever church leaders spoke. There were spies within the Vatican itself, and German rifles less than 200 yards from the Pope's very windows.

Our research shows a decisive change in international sentiment towards Pius XII, which came five years after his death with the play "The Deputy", written by a German Communist Rolf Hochhuth, the life-long friend and defender of Holocaust denier David Irving. PTWF now has testimony that this play was financed, edited and sustained by doctored Vatican documents. This was part of a secret KGB plot to discredit the Vatican. This information was revealed by Lt. General Ion Mihai Pacepa, the highest ranking KGB agent ever to defect.

Mr. Krupp stated "I was surprised when I personally researched archived news stories from the *NY Times* and the *Palestine Post* from 1939-1958. I could not find one negative article about Pius XII. After two years of research, I decided that exposure of this information should be a project of Pave the Way Foundation in order to eliminate an obstacle, which impacts over one billion people. Personally, as a Jew, I find that correcting this revision of history, according to documented proof has really nothing to do with the Catholic Church. In the interest of Jewish justice we must acknowledge the efforts of one man during a period when as a people we were abandoned by the rest of the world. It's time to recognize Pope Pius XII for what really did rather than what he didn't say."

Mr. Krupp attributes the lack of dissemination of this significant information to the refusal of the critics of Pius XII to actually physically visit and study the documentation in the recently opened Vatican Secret Archives. There has also been a refusal on the part of the media to give any coverage to the continuous positive information being publicized by the defenders of Pius XII.

\*PTWF Advisor in Germany, Dr. Michael Hesemann, is a German historian and author who has written over 28 books including, [The Pope Who Defied Hitler](#). [The Truth About Pius XII](#).

About Pave the Way Foundation

[Pave the Way Foundation](#) is dedicated to bridging the non-theological 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 true faithful embracing their similarities and savoring their differences. More information on the Foundation can be found at [www.ptwf.org](http://www.ptwf.org).

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###

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## Press Review : Newly Discovered Documents Prove Pope Pius XII was a Friend to the Jewish People Before, During and After WWII

Trans World News

Mis en ligne le vendredi 20 février 2009 à 06h28


Par [Eugenio](#) [envoyer par mail](#)

... Mr. Gary Krupp, President of PTWF, who is Jewish and grew up despising Pope Pius XII, decided to begin this investigation when he discovered, through Dan Kurzman's book, A Special Mission : Hitler's Secret Plot to Seize the Vatican and Kidnap Pope Pius the XII, detailed testimony from General Karl Wolff describing how Hitler ordered him to develop a plan to seize the Vatican and kidnap the Pope. The Pope's restrained caution, with regard to public statements, which has been a source of criticism of Pius XII, was justified in light of the testimony of concentration camp inmates who faced increased punishments whenever church leaders spoke. There were spies within the Vatican itself, and German rifles less than 200 yards from the Pope's very windows.

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## Nuevos documentos prueban la amistad del papa Pío XII hacia los judíos

Reciente descubrimiento de la Pave The Way Foundation

NUEVA YORK, viernes 20 de febrero de 2009 (ZENIT.org).- Documentos descubiertos recientemente prueban que Pío XII tuvo gestos de amistad y protección hacia el pueblo judío antes, durante y después de la Segunda Guerra Mundial. Así lo ha hecho público ayer a través de un comunicado la Fundación *Pave The Way* (PWTF), que se dedica a promover el diálogo entre las religiones.

Los descubrimientos han sido realizados por el historiador alemán Michael Hesemann, autor entre otros de la obra *The Pope Who Defied Hitler. The Truth About Pius XII*. Hesemann, asesor de la PWTF, revela haber hallado una serie de documentos en el Archivo Secreto Vaticano que acreditan numerosas intervenciones del Papa Pacelli en favor de los judíos.

Uno de los hallazgos es el de una intervención del arzobispo Pacelli, entonces nuncio apostólico en Baviera, fechada en 1917, a través del Gobierno alemán, para pedir que los judíos de Palestina fueran protegidos ante el Imperio Otomano de Turquía.

El doctor Hesemann muestra también que en 1917, el futuro Pío XII utilizó su personal influencia para que el entonces representante de la Organización Sionista Mundial, Nachum Sokolov, fuese recibido personalmente por Benedicto XV para hablar sobre una patria judía en Palestina.

En 1926, monseñor Pacelli animó a los católicos alemanes a apoyar el Comité Pro Palestina, que apoyaba los asentamientos judíos en Tierra Santa.

Estos descubrimientos se unen a las pruebas aportadas por el propio presidente de la PTWF, Gary Krupp, quien en el congreso sobre Pío XII celebrado en septiembre de 2008 en Roma, presentó más de 300 páginas de documentos originales, que contienen detalles de cómo se llevó a cabo la orden del Papa, durante la guerra, de esconder a los judíos en Roma.

Estos documentos, que pueden descargarse en la página web de la fundación, recoge entre otros un manuscrito de una monja, fechado en 1943, que detalla las instrucciones recibidas del Papa, así como una lista de judíos protegidos.

Otro de los documentos aportados es un informe del *US Foreign Service*, del cónsul americano en Colonia, quien informa sobre el "nuevo Papa" en 1939. El diplomático se muestra sorprendido por la "extrema aversión" de Pacelli hacia Hitler y el régimen nazi, y su apoyo a los obispos alemanes en su oposición al nacionalsocialismo, aún al coste de la supresión de las Juventudes Católicas alemanas.

También se aporta un documento de 1938, firmado por el entonces Secretario de Estado Eugenio Pacelli, en el que se opone al proyecto de ley polaco de declarar ilegal el sacrificio *kosher*, al entender que esta ley "supondría una grave persecución contra el pueblo judío".

Ya como Papa, durante la guerra, Pío XII escribió un telegrama al entonces regente de Hungría, almirante Miklós Horthy, para que evitara la deportación de los judíos y éste accedió, lo que se estima que salvó unas 80.000 vidas. Al Gobierno brasileño le pidió que aceptara a 3.000 "no arios".

Otro de los documentos que aporta la PTWF es una entrevista a monseñor Giovanni Ferrofino, secretario del nuncio en Haití, monseñor Maurilio Silvani. El prelado afirma que dos veces al año recibía telegramas cifrados de parte de Pío XII que remitía al general Trujillo, presidente de la República Dominicana, para pedirle en nombre del Papa 800 visados para los judíos, con lo que se estima que al menos 11.000 judíos fueron salvados por esta vía.

También se aportan pruebas de que el Vaticano falsificó secretamente partidas de bautismo para permitir a muchos judíos emigrar como "católicos".

### Un descubrimiento personal

El empeño de la PWTF obedece a la propia determinación de su presidente, Gary Krupp, judío americano, quien reconoce que creció "despreciando a Pío XII", hasta que leyó el libro de Dan Kurzman *A Special*



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*Mission: Hitler's Secret Plot to Seize the Vatican and Kidnap Pope Pius the XII.* En él se recoge el testimonio del general Karl Wolff, quien detalla el plan de Hitler de asaltar el Vaticano y raptar al Papa Pío XII. Se sabe que había espías en el Vaticano, y francotiradores alemanes a menos de 200 yardas de las ventanas papales.

La misma restricción de las declaraciones públicas del Papa, que ha sido fuente de críticas contra él, se explica por el aumento de los castigos en los campos de concentración, atestiguado por ex prisioneros, cada vez que hablaban altos cargos eclesiásticos contra el régimen nazi.

Otro descubrimiento que hizo a Krupp cambiar de sentimientos, según sus propias declaraciones, fue la prueba de que "El Vicario", la famosa obra del comunista alemán Rolf Hochhuth, se apoyó en documentos vaticanos manipulados, como parte de un complot secreto del KGB para desacreditar a la Santa Sede. Esta información fue revelada por el Teniente General Ion Mihai Pacepa, el agente de KGB de más alto rango que haya desertado alguna vez.






Gary Krupp aseguró estar "sorprendido al buscar personalmente en artículos del NY Times y del Palestine Post entre 1939 y 1958. No pude encontrar ni un solo artículo negativo sobre Pío XII".

La clarificación de la figura de Pío XII fue asumida como objetivo por la PWTf de cara a "eliminar un obstáculo, que afecta a un billón de personas" para el entendimiento entre judíos y católicos. "En interés de la justicia, los judíos debemos ser conscientes de los esfuerzos de un hombre, en un periodo en que nos había abandonado el resto del mundo".

"Es el momento de reconocer a Pío XII por lo que hizo, no por lo que no dijo", añade Krupp, quien considera que la causa de que esta "leyenda negra" permanezca es, por un lado, "el rechazo de los críticos de Pío XII a consultar y revisar la documentación recientemente desclasificada del Archivo Secreto Vaticano", y por otra, "la negativa de la mayor parte de los medios de comunicación a dar cobertura a las informaciones positivas sobre Pío XII".

[Por Inma Álvarez]

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Z109022008 - 20/02/2009

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## NUOVI DOCUMENTI TESTIMONIANO L'AFFETTO DI PIO XII PER GLI EBREI

### A scoprirli di recente è stata la Fondazione Pave the Way

di *Inma Álvarez*

NEW YORK, venerdì, 20 febbraio 2009 (ZENIT.org). - Alcuni documenti scoperti di recente provano che Papa Pio XII ha avuto gesti di amicizia e protezione nei confronti del popolo ebraico prima, durante e dopo la Seconda Guerra Mondiale. Lo ha reso pubblico questo giovedì attraverso un comunicato la Fondazione Pave The Way (PWTF), che si dedica a promuovere il dialogo tra le religioni.

Le scoperte sono state compiute dallo storico tedesco Michael Hesemann, autore dell'opera "The Pope Who Defied Hitler. The Truth About Pius XII" ("Il Papa che sfidò Hitler. La verità su Pio XII"). Hesemann rivela di aver trovato una serie di documenti nell'Archivio Segreto Vaticano che accreditano numerosi interventi di Papa Pacelli a favore degli ebrei.

Uno di questi è quello dell'Arcivescovo Pacelli, allora Nunzio Apostolico in Baviera, datato 1917, attraverso il Governo tedesco, per chiedere che gli ebrei della Palestina fossero protetti davanti all'Impero Ottomano della Turchia.

Il dottor Hesemann spiega anche che nel 1917 il futuro Pio XII sfruttò la sua influenza perché l'allora rappresentante dell'Organizzazione Sionista Mondiale Nachum Sokolov fosse ricevuto personalmente da Papa Benedetto XV per parlare di una patria ebraica in Palestina.

Nel 1926, monsignor Pacelli esortò i cattolici tedeschi a sostenere il Comitato Pro Palestina, che appoggiava gli insediamenti ebraici in Terra Santa.

Queste scoperte si uniscono alle prove apportate dallo stesso presidente della Fondazione, Gary Krupp, che al congresso su Pio XII celebrato a Roma nel settembre 2008 ha presentato oltre 300 pagine di documenti originali che contengono dettagli su come siano stati attuati gli ordini del Papa durante la guerra di nascondere gli ebrei a Roma.

I documenti, che possono essere scaricati dalla pagina web della Fondazione, comprendono un manoscritto di una monaca, datato 1943, che spiega dettagliatamente le istruzioni ricevute dal Papa, così come una lista di ebrei protetti.

Un altro documento è un rapporto dello US Foreign Service del console americano a Colonia, che informa sul "nuovo Papa" nel 1939. Il diplomatico si mostra sorpreso per l'"estrema avversione" di Pacelli nei confronti di Hitler e del regime nazista, e per il suo sostegno ai Vescovi tedeschi nella loro opposizione al nazionalsocialismo, anche a costo della soppressione delle Gioventù Cattoliche tedesche.

Viene inoltre riportato un documento del 1938, firmato dall'allora Segretario di Stato Eugenio Pacelli, in cui si oppone al disegno di legge polacco di dichiarare illegale il sacrificio kosher, visto che questa legge "presupporrebbe una grave persecuzione contro il popolo ebraico".

Come Papa, durante la guerra, Pio XII scrisse un telegramma all'allora reggente dell'Ungheria, l'ammiraglio Miklós Horthy, perché evitasse la deportazione degli ebrei, e questi acconsentì, il che si stima abbia salvato circa 80.000 vite umane. Al Governo brasiliano chiese di accettare 3.000 "non ariani".

Un altro documento è un'intervista a monsignor Giovanni Ferrofino, segretario del Nunzio a Haiti, monsignor Maurilio Silvani. Il presule afferma che due volte l'anno riceveva telegrammi cifrati da parte di Pio XII che inoltrava al generale Trujillo, Presidente della Repubblica Dominicana, per chiedergli a nome del Papa 800 visti per gli ebrei, con cui si stima che si siano salvati almeno 11.000 persone.

Si apportano anche prove che il Vaticano falsificò segretamente i certificati di Battesimo per permettere a molti ebrei di emigrare come cattolici.

### Una scoperta personale

L'impegno della Fondazione Pave the Way obbedisce alla determinazione del suo presidente, Gary Krupp, ebreo americano, che riconosce di essere cresciuto "disprezzando Pio XII" fino a quando ha letto il libro di Dan Kurzman "A Special Mission: Hitler's Secret Plot to Seize the Vatican and Kidnap Pope Pius the XII" ("Una missione speciale: il piano segreto di Hitler per impossessarsi del Vaticano e rapire Papa Pio XII").

Nel testo si raccoglie la testimonianza del generale Karl Wolff, che parla dettagliatamente del piano di Hitler di attaccare il Vaticano e sequestrare il Pontefice. Si sa che c'erano spie in Vaticano, e franchi tiratori tedeschi a 200 metri dalle finestre papali.

La stessa limitazione delle dichiarazioni pubbliche del Papa, che ha suscitato molte critiche nei suoi confronti, si spiega per l'aumento delle pene nei campi di concentramento, testimoniata da ex prigionieri, ogni volta che alte cariche ecclesiastiche parlavano contro il regime nazista.

Un'altra scoperta che ha fatto cambiare idea a Krupp, secondo quanto egli stesso ha dichiarato, è

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su documenti vaticani manipolati, come parte di un complotto segreto del KGB per screditare la Santa Sede. Queste informazioni sono state rivelate dal Tenente Generale Ion Mihai Pacepa, l'agente del KGB di più alto rango ad aver disertato.

Gary Krupp afferma di essere rimasto "sorpreso cercando personalmente gli articoli del NY Times e del Palestine Post tra il 1939 e il 1958. Non sono riuscito a trovare neanche un solo articolo negativo su Pio XII".

La chiarificazione della figura del Pontefice è stata assunta come obiettivo dalla PWTf per "eliminare un ostacolo" alla comprensione tra ebrei e cattolici. "Nell'interesse della giustizia, noi ebrei dobbiamo essere consapevoli degli sforzi di quest'uomo in un periodo in cui il resto del mondo ci aveva abbandonato".

"E' il momento di riconoscere Pio XII per ciò che ha fatto, non per ciò che non ha detto", ha aggiunto Krupp, per il quale il motivo della persistenza di questa "leggenda nera" è, da un lato, "il rifiuto da parte dei critici di Pio XII a consultare e rivedere i documenti recentemente tratti dall'Archivio Segreto Vaticano", dall'altro "la mancanza di disponibilità della maggior parte dei mezzi di comunicazione a dare copertura alle informazioni positive su Pio XII".

*[Traduzione dallo spagnolo di Roberta Sciamplicotti]*

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## GROUP GIVES NEW PROOF OF PIUS XII'S HELP FOR JEWS

### Says Pope Worked to Save Lives Before, During, After War

NEW YORK, FEB. 20, 2009 (Zenit.org). - Recently uncovered documents show gestures of friendship and protection that Pius XII showed to Jews before, during and after World War II.

The Pave the Way Foundation, which works to promote dialogue between religions, publicized this Thursday.

The discoveries were made by the German historian and advisor of the foundation Michael Hesemann, author of the books "The Pope Who Defied Hitler" and "The Truth About Pius XII." Hesemann found a number of documents in the Vatican Secret Archives that certified Pope Pacelli's numerous interventions in favor of Jews.

He noted that Archbishop Pacelli intervened in 1917 while papal nuncio in Bavaria, going through the German government to demand that Palestine Jews be protected from the Turkish Ottoman Empire.

Hesemann also shows that in 1917, the future Pius XII used his personal influence to enable the World Zionist Organization representative, Nachum Sokolov, to meet personally with Benedict XV to talk about a Jewish homeland in Palestine.

In 1926, Archbishop Pacelli urged German Catholics to support the Committee for Palestine, which supported Jewish settlements in the Holy Land.

The foundation's president, Gary Krupp, added these findings to the evidence he already had compiled for a Pius XII symposium last September in Rome. Since this event, 300 new pages of original documents have been uncovered.

These documents, available for downloading from the foundation's Web site, include a nun's manuscript from 1943, detailing the Pope's order to hide Jews in Rome and a list of protected Jews.

Another document is a 1939 report on the "new Pope" by the U.S. Foreign Service, from the American consul in Cologne. The diplomat reported surprise at the "extreme dislike" of Pacelli toward Hitler and the Nazi regime, and his support to the German bishops in their opposition to Nazism, even at the cost of losing German Catholic youth.

The foundation also provides a 1938 document, signed by then Secretary of State Eugenio Pacelli, in which he opposes the Polish bill outlawing kosher slaughter because he understood that this law would be a "grave persecution" against the Jewish people.

During the war, Pius XII saved 80,000 lives by persuading the Hungarian regent to prevent the deportation of the Jews. He also requested the Brazilian government to receive 3,000 "non-Aryans."

Another document provided by the foundation is an interview with Monsignor Giovanni Ferrofino, secretary of the nuncio in Haiti. The priest said 11,000 Jews were saved by Pius XII's continual requests for visas from General Trujillo, president of the Dominican Republic.

There is also evidence that the Vatican secretly issued baptismal papers to allow Jews to emigrate to many countries as "Catholics."

#### Personal discovery

The commitment of the Pave the Way foundation reflects that of its president, a Jewish American, who acknowledges that he grew up "despising Pius XII." This changed when he read Dan Kurzman's book, "A Special Mission: Hitler's Secret Plot to Seize the Vatican and Kidnap Pope Pius XII."

The foundation acknowledged that there were spies in the Vatican and German snipers less than 200 yards from the papal windows.

The foundation stated that the lack of public statements by the Pope, which has been a source of criticism against him, is explained by the increased punishment in concentration camps, witnessed by former prisoners, when Church leaders spoke openly against the Nazi regime.

Krupp also discovered a secret plot of the Communist KGB, revealed by Lieutenant General Ion Mihai Pacepa, to manipulate Vatican documents and discredit the Holy See in international public opinion.

Krupp said: "I was surprised when I personally researched archived news stories from the New York Times and the Palestine Post from 1939-1958. I could not find one negative article about Pius XII."

The foundation undertakes the correction of Pius XII's image in order to "eliminate an obstacle" to understanding between Jews and Catholics, "which impacts over one billion people."

Krupp added: "In the interest of Jewish justice we must acknowledge the efforts of one man

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# Pave the Way Foundation

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**Pave the Way Foundation** (PTWF) is a non-sectarian organization whose mission is to identify and eliminate non-theological obstacles between religions, headed by Gary Krupp. It has done considerable research on the papacy of Pius XII and has sought to deconstruct negative stereotypes such as Hitler's Pope.

## External links

- PTWF
- Newly Discovered Documents Prove Pope Pius XII was a Friend to the Jewish People Before, During and After WWII

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## NOVOS DOCUMENTOS PROVAM AMIZADE DO PAPA PIO XII COM JUDEUS

### Descobertas recentes da Pave The Way Foundation

NOVA YORK, sexta-feira, 20 de fevereiro de 2009 ([ZENIT.org](#)). - Documentos descobertos recentemente provam que Pio XII teve gestos de amizade e proteção para com o povo judeu antes, durante e depois da 2ª Guerra Mundial. Assim divulgou ontem, através de um comunicado, a Fundação *Pave The Way* (PWTF), que se dedica a promover o diálogo entre as religiões.

As descobertas foram realizadas pelo historiador alemão Michael Hesemann, autor da obra *The Pope Who Defied Hitler. The Truth About Pius XII* («O Papa que desafiou Hitler. A verdade sobre Pio XII»). Hesemann, assessor da PWTF, revela ter encontrado uma série de documentos no Arquivo Secreto Vaticano que acreditam numerosas intervenções do Papa Pacelli a favor dos judeus.

Uma das descobertas é a de uma intervenção do arcebispo Pacelli, então nuncio apostólico na Baviera, datada de 1917, através do governo alemão, para pedir que os judeus da Palestina fossem protegidos frente ao Império Otomano da Turquia.

O Dr. Hesemann mostra também que em 1917, o futuro Pio XII utilizou sua influência pessoal para que o então representante da Organização Sionista Mundial, Nachum Sokolov, fosse recebido pessoalmente por Bento XVI para falar sobre uma pátria judaica na Palestina.

Em 1926, Dom Pacelli animou os católicos alemães a apoiarem o Comitê Pró Palestina, que apoiava os assentamentos judaicos na Terra Santa.

Estas descobertas se unem às provas oferecidas pelo próprio presidente da PTWF, Gary Krupp, das quais o congresso sobre Pio XII celebrado em setembro de 2008 em Roma apresentou mais de 300 páginas de documentos originais, que contêm detalhes de como se levou a cabo a ordem do Papa, durante a guerra, de esconder os judeus em Roma.

Estes documentos, que podem ser baixados no site da fundação, recolhem, entre outros, um manuscrito de uma freira, datado de 1943, que detalha as instruções recebidas do Papa, assim como uma lista de judeus protegidos.

Outro dos documentos é um informe da *US Foreign Service*, do cônsul americano em Colônia, que informa sobre o «novo Papa» em 1939. O diplomata se mostra surpreso pela «extrema aversão» de Pacelli a Hitler e ao regime nazista, e seu apoio aos bispos alemães em sua oposição ao nacional-socialismo, ainda à custa da supressão das Juventudes Católicas alemãs.

Também se oferece um documento de 1938, assinado pelo então Secretário de Estado Eugenio Pacelli, no qual ele se opõe ao projeto de lei polonesa de declarar ilegal o sacrifício *kosher*, ao entender que esta lei «suporia uma grave perseguição contra o povo judeu».

Já como Papa, durante a guerra, Pio XII escreveu um telegrama ao então regente da Hungria, almirante Miklós Horthy, para que evitasse a deportação dos judeus, e este acedeu, o que se estima que salvou cerca de 80 mil vidas. Ao governo brasileiro pediu que aceitasse a 3 mil «não arianos».

Outro dos documentos que PTWF oferece é uma entrevista com Dom Giovanni Ferrofino, secretário do nuncio no Haiti, Dom Maurilio Silvani. O prelado afirma que duas vezes por ano recebia telegrama cifrado da parte de Pio XII que remetia ao general Trujillo, presidente da República Dominicana, para pedir-lhe em nome do Papa 800 vistos para os judeus, com o qual se estima que pelo menos 11 mil judeus foram salvos por esta via.

Também se ofereceram provas de que o Vaticano falsificou secretamente certidões de batismo para permitir que muitos judeus migrassem como «católicos».

### Uma descoberta pessoal

O empenho da PWTF obedece à própria determinação de seu presidente, Gary Krupp, judeu americano, que reconhece que cresceu «desprezando Pio XII», até que leu o livro de Dan Kurzman, *A Special Mission: Hitler's Secret Plot to Seize the Vatican and Kidnap Pope Pius the XII*. Nele se recolhe o testemunho do general Karl Wolff, que detalha o plano de Hitler de assaltar o Vaticano e raptar o Papa Pio XII. Sabe-se que havia espíões no Vaticano e franco atiradores alemães a menos de 200 jardas das janelas papais.

A mesma restrição das declarações públicas do Papa, que foi fonte de críticas contra ele, explica-se pelo aumento dos castigos nos campos de concentração, testificado por ex-prisioneiros, cada vez que altos cargos eclesiais falavam contra o regime nazista.

Outra descoberta que fez Krupp mudar de sentimentos, segundo suas próprias declarações, foi a prova de que «O Vigário», a famosa obra do comunista alemão Rolf Hochhuth, apoiou-se em documentos vaticanos manipulados, como parte de um complô secreto da KGB para desacreditar a Santa Sé. Esta informação foi revelada pelo Tenente General Ion Mihai Pacepa, o agente da KGB de mais alto escalão que desertou.

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do *Palestine Post* entre 1939 e 1958. Não pude encontrar nem um só artigo negativo sobre Pio XII».

O esclarecimento sobre a figura de Pio XII foi assumido como objetivo pela PWTf para «eliminar um obstáculo que afeta 1 bilhão de pessoas» para o entendimento entre judeus e católicos. «Por justiça, nós, judeus, devemos ser conscientes dos esforços desse homem, em um período em que o resto do mundo havia nos abandonado».

«É o momento de reconhecer Pio XII pelo que fez, não pelo que não disse», acrescenta Krupp, que considera que a causa de que esta «lenda negra» permaneça é, por um lado, «a rejeição dos críticos de Pio XII de consultar e revisar a documentação recentemente desclassificada do Arquivo Secreto Vaticano», e por outro, «a negativa da maior parte dos meios de comunicação de dar cobertura às informações positivas sobre Pio XII».

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## Novas revelações sobre o relacionamento de Pio XII com os judeus

Documentos descobertos recentemente provam que Pio XII teve gestos de amizade e protecção para com o povo judeu antes, durante e depois da II Guerra Mundial. A revelação foi feita pela Fundação Pave The Way (PWTF), que se dedica a promover o diálogo entre as religiões.

O historiador alemão Michael Hesemann, autor da obra "The Pope Who Defied Hitler. The Truth About Pius XII" (O Papa que desafiou Hitler. A verdade sobre Pio XII) e assessor da PWTF, revela ter encontrado uma série de documentos no Arquivo Secreto Vaticano com numerosas intervenções do Papa Pacelli em favor dos judeus.

Uma das descobertas é a intervenção do Arcebispo Pacelli, então nuncio apostólico na Baviera, datada de 1917, através do governo alemão, para pedir que os judeus da Palestina fossem protegidos frente ao Império Otomano da Turquia.

Hesemann mostra também que, em 1917, o futuro Papa Pio XII utilizou a sua influência pessoal para que o então representante da Organização Sionista Mundial, Nachum Sokolov, fosse recebido pessoalmente por Bento XV para falar sobre a criação de uma pátria judaica na Palestina.

O próprio presidente da PTWF, Gary Krupp, apresentou em 2008 mais de 300 páginas de documentos originais, que contêm detalhes de como se colocou em prática a ordem do Papa, durante a Guerra, de esconder os judeus em Roma.

Já como Papa, durante a guerra, Pio XII escreveu um telegrama ao então regente da Hungria, Almirante Miklós Horthy, para que evitasse a deportação dos judeus, e este acedeu, o que terá salvo cerca de 80 mil vidas. Ao governo brasileiro pediu que aceitasse a 3 mil "não arianos".

Também se apresentam provas de que o Vaticano falsificou secretamente certidões de baptismo para permitir que muitos judeus migrassem como "católicos".

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### **Says Pope Worked to Save Lives Before, During, After War**

NEW YORK, FEB. 20, 2009 ([Zenit.org](http://www.zenit.org)).- Recently uncovered documents show gestures of friendship and protection that Pius XII showed to Jews before, during and after World War II.

The Pave the Way Foundation, which works to promote dialogue between religions, publicized this Thursday.

The discoveries were made by the German historian and advisor of the foundation Michael Hesemann, author of the books "The Pope Who Defied Hitler" and "The Truth About Pius XII." Hesemann found a number of documents in the Vatican Secret Archives that certified Pope Pacelli's numerous interventions in favor of Jews.

He noted that Archbishop Pacelli intervened in 1917 while papal nuncio in Bavaria, going through the German government to demand that Palestine Jews be protected from the Turkish Ottoman Empire.

Hesemann also shows that in 1917, the future Pius XII used his personal influence to enable the World Zionist Organization representative, Nachum Sokolov, to meet personally with Benedict XV to talk about a Jewish homeland in Palestine.

In 1926, Archbishop Pacelli urged German Catholics to support the Committee for Palestine, which supported Jewish settlements in the Holy Land.

The foundation's president, Gary Krupp, added these findings to the evidence he already had compiled for a Pius XII symposium last September in Rome. Since this event, 300 new pages of original

documents have been uncovered.

These documents, available for downloading from the foundation's Web site, include a nun's manuscript from 1943, detailing the Pope's order to hide Jews in Rome and a list of protected Jews.

Another document is a 1939 report on the "new Pope" by the U.S. Foreign Service, from the American consul in Cologne. The diplomat reported surprise at the "extreme dislike" of Pacelli toward Hitler and the Nazi regime, and his support to the German bishops in their opposition to Nazism, even at the cost of losing German Catholic youth.

The foundation also provides a 1938 document, signed by then Secretary of State Eugenio Pacelli, in which he opposes the Polish bill outlawing kosher slaughter because he understood that this law would be a "grave persecution" against the Jewish people.

During the war, Pius XII saved 80,000 lives by persuading the Hungarian regent to prevent the deportation of the Jews. He also requested the Brazilian government to receive 3,000 "non-Aryans."

[Click here for more, courtesy of Zenit News Agency](#)

**Submitted by Doria2**

February 24, 2009

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## Documents show Pius saved Jews from Nazis

By Ed West  
27 February 2009

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Gary Krupp says evidence suggests that Pius was among the few world leaders who did not abandon the Jews (CNS)

Documents discovered in the Vatican Secret Archives prove that Pope Pius XII helped to save thousands of Jews during the Second World War and firmly opposed anti-Semitism before he became pope, it emerged this week.

The 300 pages of documentation, posted online last week, suggest that Pius saved 80,000 lives by persuading the Hungarian regent to prevent deportation of the Jews, and that he saved a further 12,000 by securing visas for them to leave Europe for the Caribbean.

The documents, discovered by Dr Michael Hesemann, a German historian, show that, as Archbishop Eugenio Pacelli, the future pope intervened with the German government to assure that their Turkish allies would not harm the Jews living in the Ottoman province of Palestine.

As nuncio to Bavaria, Pacelli personally helped World Zionist Organisation representative Nachum Sokolov to meet Pope Benedict XV in 1917 to discuss a Jewish homeland in Palestine. And in 1926 Cardinal Pacelli encouraged German Catholics to join the Committee Pro Palestina, which supported Jewish settlements in Palestine.

Other documents include an entry written by a nun detailing Pope Pius XII's order of 1943 to hide the Jews of Rome in religious houses, and listing the names of Jews sheltered.

Furthermore, they show that Pius's anti-Nazi tendencies went back to before the war. A 1939 US Foreign Service document in which the US Consul General to Cologne reports to Washington on the "new Pope", stating that he surprised him by his hatred of Hitler and the Nazi regime, and how Pope Pius supported the German hierarchy's opposition to Nazism, even if it meant losing the support of German Catholics.

A 1938 document, signed by Cardinal Pacelli during his last months as Vatican Secretary of State, declare the Vatican's opposition to a planned Polish law to make Kosher slaughtering illegal. The anti-Semitic bill was defeated. Other documents show that Pius XII convinced the Brazilian government to accept 3,000 Jews and helped to forge baptismal papers to



**The 'Protestant Joan of Arc' who reigned for a fortnight**

John Hinton

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allow Jews to pass as "Aryans".

The Pave the Way Foundation, invited by Yad Vashem to carry out research into the conducted of a man vilified as "Hitler's Pope", has also posted several video interviews on its website ([www.ptwf.org](http://www.ptwf.org)), including an interview with an elderly priest who describes how Pope Pius helped 12,000 Jews to escape to the Dominican Republic.

Pius XII died in 1958 but his wartime reputation became a source of controversy five years later, when German Communist Rolf Hochhuth wrote *The Deputy*, a fictional play that indicts Pius for his failure to speak out against the Holocaust.

Pave the Way now has testimony from Lt General Ion Mihai Pacepa, the highest-ranking KGB agent ever to defect to the West, that *The Deputy* was financed and edited by the Soviets, and sustained by doctored Vatican documents as part of a KGB plot to discredit the Vatican.

Gary Krupp, the president of Pave the Way Foundation said: "Personally, as a Jew, I find that correcting this revision of history according to documented proof has really nothing to do with the Catholic Church. In the interest of Jewish justice we must acknowledge the efforts of one man during a period when as a people we were abandoned by the rest of the world. It's time to recognise Pope Pius XII for what he really did rather than what he didn't say."

Some scholars, including Pinchas Lapide, the Jewish diplomat and historian, estimate that the Catholic Church under Pius saved between 700,000 and 850,000 Jews from the Nazis, mostly by either providing sanctuary or passage to safe countries but also by intervening, when practicable, to stop their round-up in occupied countries.

But John Cornwell, author of *Hitler's Pope*, a critical biography of Pius, said: "If Pius is to take credit for non-Aryans given safe passage to Brazil via Rome during the war, then he should take responsibility, by the same token, for Nazis given safe passage via Rome after the war. It could well be that he was ultimately responsible for neither."



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## 26 February 2009

### [Catholic Herald: Documents show Pius saved Jews from Nazis](#)

CATEGORY: [SESSIUNCULA](#) — Fr. John Zuhlsdorf @ 12:26 pm

This is in from [The Catholic Herald](#).

[Documents show Pius saved Jews from Nazis](#)

By Ed West  
27 February 2009

Documents discovered in the Vatican Secret Archives prove that **Pope Pius XII helped to save thousands of Jews**

**during the Second World War** and firmly opposed anti-Semitism before he became pope, it emerged this week.

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.....

## 18 Comments »

1. What further need have we of witnesses?

*Comment by Richard* — 26 February 2009 @ 12:34 pm

2. Can the Vatican canonize this Pope in quick time?

We also need a new play to refute the horrible “The Deputy”.

*Comment by [supertradmom](#) — 26 February 2009 @ 12:38 pm*

3. canonize Pius XII now.

*Comment by [Roman Crusader](#) — 26 February 2009 @ 12:39 pm*

4. Santo Subito 

*Comment by [Dr. Eric](#) — 26 February 2009 @ 12:44 pm*

5. It no longer matters to the media is there is proof of something. They see their job as stirring the “stink pot” to grab viewers and readers. It no longer matters if what they report is true or not. What matters these days is does it cause a stir?

*Comment by [John 6:54](#) — 26 February 2009 @ 12:50 pm*

6. It’s very helpful to know the origin and mechanics of the smear in this season of spiritual warfare. Certainly there are those who will try to/have already tried to smear Benedict XVI.

*Comment by [Memphis Aggie](#) — 26 February 2009 @ 12:51 pm*

7. I fully anticipate the usual suspects to opine:  
“Who are you going to believe, me or your lying eyes?”

with apologies to Groucho

*Comment by [tertullian](#) — 26 February 2009 @ 12:58 pm*

8. I always had faith in Pius XII and was generally aware of his efforts to assist Jewish people during the Holocaust. However, the left-wing loon, anti-Catholic media doesn’t care, and I’m including left-wing “Catholic” publications in the mix. Tom

*Comment by [TJM](#) — 26 February 2009 @ 1:12 pm*

9. Hmm, interesting comment by Mr. Cornwell. If you want credit for providing passage to Jews, you must take blame for providing post-war passage to Nazis.

Of the Germans who left Germany after the war, how many were Nazi party members? Of those who were Nazi party members, how many could be reasonably implicated for involvement in war crimes? Should everyone be forced to remain in Germany until all of the possible war criminals were apprehended?

I always used to admire the Nuremberg trials as a triumph of justice on the secular plane. My appreciation has been somewhat tempered by the more recent insistence of the international community to bring Slobodan Milosevic to trial in the Hague rather than let him remain in prison in Yugoslavia. The more contemporary case is a more egregious one, because there was an actual Yugoslav government whose sovereignty was being trampled, while no sovereign German government had yet been rebuilt at the time of Nuremberg. Nevertheless, both of these cases document the slippery slope of insisting on global justice over national sovereignty. (Or in the case of blame for helping Germans emigrate, it’s a case of global justice trumps private mercy.)

I’m not a great fan of the Iraq war, but I believe it was a good thing that Saddam Hussein was tried by Iraqis. In this case, the globalist outcry was “too brutal” rather than “too merciful.” Whatever the globalist sensitivity du jour, respect for national sovereignty never rises high on the list.

*Comment by [Mike T](#) — 26 February 2009 @ 1:13 pm*

10. I really do wonder if Satan fomented the +Williamson brouhaha for the main purpose of running a counter-offensive against the canonization of Pope Pius XII, and depriving the Church Militant of an explicit recognition of (who may be, in my opinion) one of our most powerful advocates in Heaven...

I dream of the day when he’s elevated to the altar (and I also dream of his name added to the Litany of Saints... but I admit

to being a romantic, on that point)...

*Comment by [Paladin](#) — 26 February 2009 @ 1:21 pm*

11. Thing is, the information in these documents has been out for some time. Rabbi David Dalin discussed much of it in his book *The Myth of Hitler's Pope*. And Ion Pacepa wrote an article in *National Review* a couple of years ago documenting the KGB plot to discredit the Church by attacking Pope Pius XII, applying the lessons it learned in the botched frontal attack on Cardinal Mindszenty. We have also been aware for quite some time now of Hitler's plot to kidnap Pope Pius during the war.

And yet, so many are still determined to believe the lies that were hatched by the Soviet Union. It's ironic that so many who profess to take up arms against anti-Semitism are themselves stooges of the most murderous and most anti-Semitic regime in history.

*Comment by [Anita Moore OPL](#) — 26 February 2009 @ 1:40 pm*

12. "Blessed are those who have not seen, but who still believe."

Never a doubt in my mind. But I sincerely don't think this changes anything. There are many people who have built their entire lives, reputations, fame and wealth at slandering Pius XII. I don't expect people to come out of the woodwork to apologize.

*Comment by [Corleone](#) — 26 February 2009 @ 1:42 pm*

13. Santo subito.

I hope that Pope Benedict will approve the heroic virtues in the next consistory.

*Comment by [Prof. Basto](#) — 26 February 2009 @ 2:01 pm*

14. I pray that the Holy Spirit will guide the Church to an early and favorable declaration of sainthood for Pope Pius XII.  
This would only be right based upon truth and justice. It is perfectly clear to me that this Pope was a holy man who kept the bark of Peter safe during a tremendously difficult time and who in truth did all he could to protect the lives of countless Jews.  
The time is now for truth to triumph over falsehood. Christe, exaudi nos.

*Comment by [gerrit blydorp](#) — 26 February 2009 @ 2:13 pm*

15. I cannot even imagine WHY anyone would include the words of that cretin at the conclusion of the article! As if anyone cared what he had to say!  
Otherwise – very good piece!

*Comment by [julian](#) — 26 February 2009 @ 2:25 pm*

16. I remember exactly where I was when the news broke about Roch Hockbuth's play. Personally I never took it seriously in light of the testimonials of Jews following WWII but the play obviously raised many questions which went unanswered to this day because of the snail's pace with which the Vatican has gone through the relevant documents.

Fifty years? In our day that is far too long to go plodding through records and meanwhile the assault continued until it came to be commonly believed.

This is good news but it's going to take more before this matter is closed

*Comment by [David O'Rourke](#) — 26 February 2009 @ 2:43 pm*

17. There will always be a market for materials that attack the Church, whether it's the Da Vinci Code or Hitler's Pope; there is always going to be an audience willing to swallow damn near anything in spite of evidence to the contrary.

This audience, BTW, is typically overloaded with fallen away Catholics. The reason is simple; there is an unrest in the hearts of these people that demands attention. They are so desperate for confirmation that justifies their rejection of the Church that they will hang their hats on just about anything. Of course it doesn't truly satisfy, and so they remain ever ready to grab the next piece of garbage that comes down the pike. A recession proof industry if there ever was one.

I say, canonize Pius XII ASAP. Forget PR problems with the Jewish community. The greater PR message is that the Church is not beholden to public opinion; a point the renegades still don't get.

*Comment by [Luigi](#) — 26 February 2009 @ 3:11 pm*

18. I never doubted the saintly Pope Pius XII for a minute. He had to deal with the Fascists, Nazis, and Communists. Through

# Wartime pope's secret heroism

EXCLUSIVE

BY SIMON CALDWELL

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

## Producer Chinn Oscar for Man o

BY LEON SYMONS

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Mr Chinn, who had previously worked on television documenta

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# Vatican records show Pope Pius in new light

► CONTINUED FROM P1

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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Permalink: <http://www.zenit.org/article-17424?l=italian>**"PIO XII ORDINÒ DI SALVARE GLI EBREI"****La conferma in un Memoriale del 1943**di *Antonio Gaspari*

ROMA, giovedì, 5 marzo 2009 (ZENIT.org).- Tra le tante testimonianze di quanto il pontefice Pio XII fece in favore degli ebrei durante la Shoah, contenute in un dossier di 300 pagine della *Pave the Way Foundation*, c'è anche la prova scritta dell'ordine che il Papa diede per ospitare gli ebrei nei conventi.

Nel Memoriale delle Religiose Agostiniane del Monastero dei SS. Quattro Coronati di Roma del 1943 è scritto: "Arrivato a questo mese di novembre dobbiamo essere pronte a rendere servigi di carità in maniera del tutto insospettata. Il Santo Padre Pio XII dal cuore paterno sente in sé tutte le sofferenze del momento. Purtroppo con l'entrata dei tedeschi in Roma, avvenuta nel mese di settembre è iniziata una guerra spietata contro gli Ebrei che si vogliono sterminare mediante atrocità suggerite dalla più nera barbarie".

"In queste dolorose situazioni - si legge ancora il Santo Padre - vuoi salvare i suoi figli, anche gli Ebrei, e ordina che nei Monasteri si deve ospitalità a questi perseguitati, e anche le chiusure debbono aderire al desiderio del Sommo Pontefice, e col giorno 4 novembre noi ospitammo fino al giorno 6 giugno successivo le persone qui elencate..."

Nel Memoriale si racconta che "per la quaresima, anche gli Ebrei venivano ad ascoltare le prediche e il signor Alfredo Sermoneta aiutava in Chiesa".

Ed ancora: "a guerra finita, si parlava della bontà del Santo Padre che aveva aiutato e fatto salvare tanti, sia ebrei che giovani e intere famiglie".

Il documento è stato trovato dal padre gesuita Peter Gumpel, autorevole storico, relatore per la causa di beatificazione e canonizzazione di Pio XII.

Intervistato da ZENIT, padre Gumpel ha spiegato che si tratta di un'altra testimonianza che "conferma l'impegno personale e istituzionale del Pontefice Pio XII per proteggere e salvare gli ebrei perseguitati".

A coloro che continuano a chiedere la copia scritta dell'ordine di Pio XII, il relatore della causa ha precisato che: "In una situazione di guerra, con la città occupata dai nazisti, una persona prudente non pubblica un ordine, ma manda dei messaggeri fidati per comunicare le volontà del Santo Padre".

"Sarebbe stato imprudente e pericoloso scrivere un ordine che poteva finire nelle mani sbagliate e mettere in pericolo la vita di tanti", ha osservato il gesuita.

Secondo padre Gumpel, fu organizzato un gruppo di sacerdoti che, agli ordini della Segreteria di Stato, andavano da una casa religiosa all'altra, toccando anche università, seminari, scuole, parrocchie, per chiedere di aprire i conventi e di organizzare una rete di assistenza.

Alla fine della guerra furono circa 150 le case religiose, i monasteri, le parrocchie, che salvarono da morte certa migliaia di ebrei.

A questo proposito, il Vescovo di Assisi, monsignor Giuseppe Placido Nicolini, insieme al suo collaboratore monsignor Aldo Brunacci, (entrambi riconosciuti dallo Yad Vashem come Giusti tra le Nazioni) raccontano di un ordine scritto che gli fu presentato da emissari della Santa Sede.

Padre Gumpel sottolinea che nel caso di indicazioni scritte queste dovevano essere bruciate una volta lette.

Il padre gesuita ha raccontato a ZENIT di aver visto chiaramente negli archivi britannici messaggi della Santa Sede che si concludevano con la dicitura di leggere e bruciare.

Per il relatore della causa di Pio XII, "se ci sono documenti che oggi possiamo vedere è perché qualcuno non ha obbedito all'ordine di bruciare e non lasciare traccia dello stesso".

Alla domanda su come rispondere a coloro che lamentano la mancanza di prove scritte sull'impegno di Pio XII nel salvataggio degli ebrei, padre Gumpel ha spiegato che "questa argomentazione è la stessa utilizzata dai negazionisti come Irving il quale sostiene che non c'è un documento scritto in cui Hitler ordina lo sterminio degli ebrei. Ma è evidente cosa è accaduto e come i nazisti hanno praticato lo sterminio degli ebrei".

"Ed è manifesto - ha aggiunto - come Pio XII e la Chiesa cattolica hanno salvato la vita a centinaia di migliaia di ebrei in tutta Europa".

"Perché allora tutti questi attacchi a Pio XII?", si è chiesto.

Per il padre gesuita, "il problema non è Papa Pacelli. Chi sta conducendo questi attacchi vuole attaccare la Chiesa ed in particolare la figura e l'autorità del Sommo Pontefice".

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Vescovi, di sei nazioni diverse, componenti il Tribunale più alto della Congregazione delle Cause dei Santi, all'unanimità si sono pronunciati positivamente a favore delle virtù di Papa Pio XII. L'ultimo verdetto è stato comunicato in data 9 maggio 2007\*.

Circa le opposizioni di alcuni ebrei alla beatificazione di Pio XII, il relatore della causa ha replicato affermando che "ce ne sono molti altri a favore. Inoltre vorrei sottolineare che arrivano segnali molto interessanti dalla Gran Bretagna: il *Jewish Chronicle* nella sua edizione online ([www.thejc.com](http://www.thejc.com)) ha pubblicato il 26 febbraio un articolo molto favorevole alla beatificazione di Pio XII"

L'articolo ha per titolo "[Wartime pope's secret heroism](#)" e parla degli ebrei salvati dal Papa Pio XII come riportato nel dossier pubblicato dalla *Pave the Way Foundation*.

Il *Jewish Chronicle* riporta inoltre le dichiarazioni di Gary Krupp, Presidente della *Pave the Way Foundation*, il quale sostiene che "è tempo di riconoscere il Papa Pio XII per ciò che egli ha realmente fatto e non per quello che non ha detto".

"Per quello che ho visto e conosciuto – ha sottolineato Krupp – il Papa è, senza dubbio, il più grande eroe del seconda guerra mondiale".

"Pio XII non è stato il Papa di Hitler – ha aggiunto –, al contrario era un uomo che Hitler voleva uccidere".

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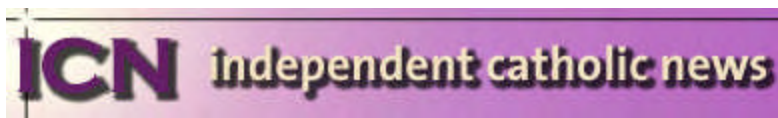
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NEW YORK - 6 March 2009 - 460 words

## **New documents reveal Pius XII saved thousands from Nazis**

*Dan Bergin*

Documents just released by the Vatican Archives show that Pope Pius XII saved many thousands of European Jews from the Nazis.

The papers show that the wartime Pope directly ordered convents, monasteries and Catholic churches to hide Jews from the Gestapo. He also helped them escape to safe countries. He asked the Brazilian government to receive 3,000 'non-Aryans', and requested that the Dominican Republic grant visas for a further 11,000 people.

The documents have now been posted online by the Pave the Way Foundation, a group invited by Yad Vashem, the Holocaust remembrance authority, to investigate the role of the wartime pope.

Since the 1963 play, *The Deputy*, by Rolf Hochhuth there have been a number of attempts to discredit Pope Pius XII war record, suggesting he did little to support the Jews and was even anti-Semitic.

Gary Krupp, president of the Pave the Way Foundation, said that correcting the record was a matter of justice. He said: "Personally, as a Jew, I must state that correcting this perversion of history has really nothing to do with the Catholic Church. It is in the interest of Jewish justice that we must acknowledge the efforts of one man, during a period when as a people we were abandoned by the rest of the world.

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

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

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

"This wasn't 'Hitler's Pope'. This wasn't a collaborator. This was a man Hitler was planning to kill."

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

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

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

The policy saved about 5,000 lives, nearly 85 per cent of the Jewish population of Rome, and in 1946 led to the conversion of the Chief Rabbi, Israel Zolli.

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

*For more information see: <http://www.ptwf.org/index.htm>*

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Il Velino presenta, in esclusiva per gli abbonati, le notizie via via che vengono inserite.

POL - Pio XII, convegno di studio a Gerusalemme. Cambierà la targa?



Roma, 6 mar (Velino) - La visita del Papa in Israele si avvicina: si accelerano i negoziati sulle questioni fiscali e sulle proprietà della Chiesa cattolica, e si torna a discutere di Pio XII. Questa volta non a Roma, ma a Gerusalemme. L'occasione è costituita dal convegno di studi organizzato per domenica e lunedì prossimi dall'Istituto internazionale di ricerca dell'Olocausto Yad Vashem e dallo Studium Theologicum Salesianum "Santi Pietro e Paolo". Chissà che entro maggio non si arrivi a una modifica della didascalia dello scandalo apposta sotto il ritratto di Papa Pacelli, che tanto ha fatto arrabbiare il Vaticano per quell'accusa di "silenzio" attribuita a Pio XII nei confronti della Shoah. Un tema su cui il dibattito non ha conosciuto soste, anzi, ha ritrovato slancio nell'ultimo anno, in cui si è celebrato il 50 anno della morte di questo Pontefice. Proprio negli ultimi giorni, inoltre, sono emerse nuove e numerose testimonianze, raccolte in un dossier della "Pave the way foundation", sull'opera di Pio XII in favore degli ebrei all'epoca della Seconda guerra mondiale.

La didascalia sotto la foto di Pio XII racconta che "eletto nel 1939, il Papa mise da parte una lettera contro l'antisemitismo e il razzismo preparata dal suo predecessore. Anche quando i resoconti sulle stragi degli ebrei raggiunsero il Vaticano, non reagì con proteste scritte o verbali. Nel 1942, non si associò alla condanna espressa dagli Alleati per l'uccisione degli ebrei. Quando vennero deportati da Roma ad Auschwitz, Pio XII non intervenne". Benedetto XVI (salvo cambi programma dell'ultimo momento, e comunque subordinati a una modifica della targa) non si fermerà davanti alla foto del suo predecessore. L'organizzazione riuscirà a salvare sia la visita allo Yad Vashem, tanto più importante dopo le recenti polemiche sul negazionismo, sia a non creare imbarazzi al Papa, che non passerà davanti alla foto di Pio XII, ma si fermerà davanti al Memoriale in onore delle vittime dell'Olocausto. Diverso fu per Giovanni Paolo II: nel 2000, quando si recò a Gerusalemme, quella didascalia ancora non c'era.

A Gerusalemme si confronteranno storici delle due "fazioni". Tra i vari argomenti si discuterà del periodo precedente il papato di Pio XII; le relazioni con i vescovi tedeschi; Pio XII e l'Olocausto; la situazione in Italia durante il periodo dell'Olocausto; e il periodo successivo all'Olocausto. Al convegno parteciperanno Sergio Minerbi, Paul Oshea, Michael Phayer, Susan Zuccotti, Thomas Brechenmacher, Jean-Dominique Durand, Grazia Loparco, Matteo Luigi Napolitano, Andrea Torielli. La sessione di apertura sarà inaugurata da Avner Shalev, presidente del Comitato direttivo di Yad Vashem e da monsignor Antonio Franco, nunzio apostolico in Israele. Don Roberto Spataro, per lo Studium Theologicum Salesianum, e la dottoressa Iael Orvieto, per Yad Vashem modereranno le conversazioni.

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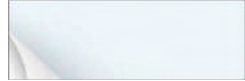
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## Newly Discovered Documents Prove Pope Pius XII was a Friend to the Jewish People Before, During and After WWII

Pave the Way Foundation (PTWF), a non-sectarian organization whose mission is to identify and eliminate non-theological obstacles between religions, announced the discovery of new documents which prove, by his actions, that Pope Pius XII was in reality a friend of the Jewish people before, during and after World War II.

[New documents discovered in the Vatican Secret Archives](#), by Dr. Michael Hesemann,\* reveal that Archbishop Eugenio Pacelli, future Pius XII, [intervened in 1917, through the German government](#), to assure the Jews of Palestine that they would be protected from any harm from the Ottoman Turks. Dr. Hesemann further stated that Pacelli also directly intervened with the World Zionist Organization representative Nachum Sokolov, and used his influence to arrange for Mr. Sokolov to meet directly with the Benedict XV in 1917 to discuss a Jewish homeland in Palestine. In 1926, Pacelli also encouraged Catholics in Germany to join the *Committee Pro Palestina*, which supported Jewish settlements in Palestine.

Gary Krupp, President of PTWF stated that since the PTWF Symposium on the Pius XII Papacy in Rome in September, over 300 new pages of original documents have come to light and can be downloaded at [www.ptwf.org](http://www.ptwf.org). Among these documents, is the hand written [archive entry of a Catholic nun](#), who details the 1943 order received directly from Pope Pius XII to help hide the Jews in Rome. The entry also lists names of the Jews who were sheltered. There is also a [1939 US Foreign Service document](#) in which the US Consul General to Cologne, Germany, reports to Washington on the “New Pope.” The diplomat states that Pacelli surprised him by his extreme hatred of the Nazi regime and Hitler and how Pacelli supported German Bishop’s opposition to National Socialism even at the cost of losing the support of young German Catholics. Another 1938 [document signed by Cardinal Pacelli](#), then Vatican Secretary of State, opposed and helped defeat a planned Polish law, which would have made Kosher slaughtering illegal. Cardinal Pacelli opposed this law because it would have inflicted grave persecution on the Jewish people. [Pius XII sent a telegram](#) to the regent of Hungary to ask him not to deport the Jewish people and he complied saving an estimated 80,000 Jewish lives. [A 1941 Palestine Post article](#) speaks of his receiving a Jewish man who asked for help. Pope Pius XII loudly told him to be proud to be a Jew, so that all in the audience hall could hear his remarks. [Pope Pius XII arranged for the Brazilian government to accept 3000 “non Aryans.”](#) When Jews were not welcome in most countries, the Vatican secretly issued false baptismal papers in order to allow them to emigrate as “Catholics.”

These documents, along with numerous video interviews, have been posted on the Pave the Way Foundation website. One [interview with Msgr Ferrofino](#) details how Pius XII smuggled over 12,000 Jews out of Europe into the US through General Trujillo’s Dominican Republic.

Mr. Krupp, who is Jewish and grew up despising Pope Pius XII, decided to begin this investigation when he discovered, through Dan Kurzman’s book, [A Special Mission: Hitler's Secret Plot to Seize the Vatican and Kidnap Pope Pius the XII](#), detailed testimony from General Karl Wolff describing how Hitler ordered him to develop a plan to seize the

Vatican and kidnap the Pope. The Pope's restrained caution, with regard to public statements, which has been a source of criticism of Pius XII, was justified in light of the testimony of concentration camp inmates who faced increased punishments whenever church leaders spoke. There were spies within the Vatican itself, and German rifles less than 200 yards from the Pope's very windows.

Our research shows a decisive change in international sentiment towards Pius XII, which came five years after his death with the play "The Deputy", written by a German Communist Rolf Hochhuth, the life-long friend and defender of Holocaust denier David Irving. PTWF now has testimony that this play was financed, edited and sustained by doctored Vatican documents. This was part of a secret KGB plot to discredit the Vatican. This information was [revealed by Lt. General Ion Mihai Pacepa](#), the highest ranking KGB agent ever to defect.

Mr. Krupp stated "I was surprised when I personally researched archived news stories from the *NY Times* and the *Palestine Post* from 1939-1958. I could not find one negative article about Pius XII. After two years of research, I decided that exposure of this information should be a project of Pave the Way Foundation in order to eliminate an obstacle, which impacts over one billion people. Personally, as a Jew, I find that correcting this revision of history, according to documented proof has really nothing to do with the Catholic Church. In the interest of Jewish justice we must acknowledge the efforts of one man during a period when as a people we were abandoned by the rest of the world. It's time to recognize Pope Pius XII for what really did rather than what he didn't say."

Mr. Krupp attributes the lack of dissemination of this significant information to the refusal of the critics of Pius XII to actually physically visit and study the documentation in the recently opened Vatican Secret Archives. There has also been a refusal on the part of the media to give any coverage to the continuous positive information being publicized by the defenders of Pius XII.

\*PTWF Advisor in Germany, Dr. Michael Hesemann, is a German historian and author who has written over 28 books including, [The Pope Who Defied Hitler. The Truth About Pius XII.](#)

About Pave the Way Foundation

[Pave the Way Foundation](#) is dedicated to bridging the non-theological 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 true faithful embracing their similarities and savoring their differences. More information on the Foundation can be found at [www.ptwf.org](http://www.ptwf.org).

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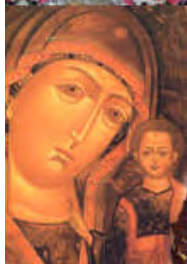
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## END OF A SCHISM?

The Pope's reasons for "un-excommunicating" the four bishops of the Society of St. Pius X on January 24 have not been properly understood. This is in part due to the uproar which accompanied the revelation of the revisionist views on the Holocaust of one of the four, Bishop Richard Williamson. So questions remain. What did Benedict really intend? Why did he take this decision? What next?

We decided to ask an authority at the Pope's right hand, Swiss Cardinal **Georges Cottier** (see photo, showing Cottier speaking in Rome March 6 at an international conference marking the 150th anniversary of the publication of Charles Darwin's *Origin of Species* -- CNS photo/Carol Glatz).

Cottier was for many years the theologian of the pontifical household, or the Pope's personal theological advisor, with his residence inside the Apostolic Palace a short distance from the Pope's own rooms. During a candid interview with the *Inside the Vatican* journalist Wlodzimierz Redzioch a few days ago, Cottier discussed at length the meaning of the lifting of the excommunications. The interview will appear in the March 2009 issue of *Inside the Vatican*, now at the press. This same issue also includes a detailed report on the latest developments in the "Williamson affair." —**The Editor**

by Wlodzimierz Redzioch

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**Your Eminence, let us first look at the whole question in historical perspective: How did Archbishop Lefebvre's schism come about?**



**Cardinal Georges Cottier:** It took place during the pontificate of Paul VI (1963-1978), after the Second Vatican Council (1962-1965). Archbishop (Marcel) Lefebvre began by establishing a seminary at Ecône, Switzerland. At first the bishops of Fribourg and Sion gave their consent to this initiative, seeing it as an opportunity to keep some traditional values alive which

were being lost in the turmoil that followed the Second Vatican Council. Unfortunately, this initiative turned out to be a rejection of the Council.

Monsignor Lefebvre, emeritus bishop of Dakar, Africa, had participated in the Council, but he opposed its teachings in several fields: religious liberty, ecumenism, the liturgy, and, later on, interreligious dialogue. Many people followed Monsignor Lefebvre as a reaction to liturgical abuses taking place in the post-conciliar period. Monsignor Lefebvre's movement grew in several countries and within several circles, but most of all within the

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French far right (the old *Action Française* movement was inspired by religious values). Monsignor Lefebvre's seminary received many seminarians and in time began ordaining priests. At a certain point (1988) he took a further step, ordaining bishops. In the Catholic Church bishops are appointed by the Pope and they cannot be ordained without his consent (in the Eastern Catholic Churches, the bishops are elected by the synod, but they need the approval of the Holy Father). With the illicit but valid ordination of bishops, Monsignor Lefebvre fell under *latae sententiae* excommunication.

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### **What is meant by excommunication *latae sententiae*?**

**Cottier:** It means that on having committed the grave offense, the faithful is automatically excommunicated. In the case of the Society of St. Pius X, the offense was that listed in canon 1382 of the Code of Canon Law, i.e., the consecration of a bishop without papal mandate. The excommunication concerns both the consecrating bishop and the consecrated bishops.

### **Monsignor Bernard Fellay (*photo*) the superior of the Society of Saint Pius X, ordained several deacons and announced the ordination of new priests. Are these ordinations valid?**



**Cottier:** They are valid, but illicit. It is surprising therefore that Monsignor Fellay announced new ordinations to the priesthood after the repeal of his excommunication.

### **John Paul II was greatly pained by this schism and tried to bring them back...**

**Cottier:** A schism within the Church is a highly painful wound. When today we speak of ecumenism, of the will to find anew the unity of Christians, we cannot accept the existence of a new schism. For this reason John Paul II established the *Ecclesia Dei* Commission, a Vatican body with the set mission of maintaining a relationship with the Society of Saint Pius X and with those who have left it so as to remain in communion with the Pope and so as to work towards the ending of the schism. The commission is presided over by Columbian Cardinal Dario Castrillon Hoyos, prefect emeritus of the Congregation for the Clergy.

### **The four excommunicated bishops asked Benedict XVI to repeal the excommunication, stressing their desire for unity and showing the pain caused to them by the present situation. Did the Holy Father repeal the excommunication of the four bishops ordained by Monsignor Lefebvre so as to respond to this request of theirs?**

**Cottier:** In the discussions these bishops always declared themselves to be Catholics and said how they suffered as a result of the excommunication. But they wished to preserve the old liturgy. Benedict XVI took the first step by issuing the *motu proprio Summorum Pontificum*, which extended the existing possibility to celebrate Mass and to administer the sacraments according to the old rite. (*This rite is hurriedly and superficially referred to as the Latin Mass, but in fact it is the use of Saint Pius V's missal in the version reformed by Blessed John XXIII – W.R.*)

The Pope's repeal of the excommunications does not mean that the four bishops have been reintegrated within the Catholic Church; they remain suspended *a divinis*, (i.e. from the exercise of their functions), but an obstacle in the progress of discussions has been removed. The central issue, i.e. the negation of the validity of the Second Vatican Council, is



extremely difficult. Catholic communion implies the acceptance of this Council that is so important for the Church's life.

**The focal point of the Society of St. Pius X seems to be centered on the interpretation of the Second Vatican Council. Some Catholics regard this Council as a break with the past; they speak of the hermeneutics of discontinuity (hermeneutics refers to the interpretation of ancient texts, the Bible in particular). Benedict XVI, on the contrary, maintains that "the Church and her faith can neither change nor have they ever changed," and he is taking pains to explain "how the Catholic faith, though undermined by the temptation of discontinuity and departure from the past, has never undergone any transmutation." (This is what the Pope stated in the important speech addressed to the Roman Curia on December 22, 2005.) Do you not think that behind the hostility that some liberal or progressive Catholic circles show towards Lefebvre's movement there is a certain degree of antagonism towards the Pope, who insists upon the "hermeneutics of reform and continuity"?**

**Cottier:** Since the Second Vatican Council there have been abuses in both directions, the conservative and the progressive; but a progressive Church has never come into being.

**But one could object that wherever bishops gave a markedly progressive interpretation of the Council, the Church has almost disappeared, as in Holland, Belgium and some parts of France...**

**Cottier:** The so-called progressives were imprudent bishops or theologians who spoke in their own name. But the Magisterium was not silent in the face of these abuses. The Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith has declared that many of their ideas or books are incompatible with Catholic doctrine.

Returning to hermeneutics, the authentic interpretation of the Second Vatican Council is provided by the Magisterium itself of great Popes. Paul VI ended the Council and did a great deal to put its teachings into practice: he set up a number of new institutions, issued a great many documents and preached every Wednesday to expound the true hermeneutics of the Council. Also John Paul II always pointed out that his mandate involved the faithful application of the Council's teachings. This is the way taken by Benedict XVI too. You referred to the Holy Father's great speech on the interpretation of the Second Vatican Council and its correct hermeneutics addressed to the Roman Curia on December 22, 2005. This was a critique of the claim that in the history of the Church there was a period before and a period after the Council. To insist that the Council was a break with the past is nonsense: suffice it to say that the Pope most frequently quoted in the conciliar documents is Pius XII, regarded as a preconciliar Pope! Without Pius XII the Council would have never taken place. This is one of the proofs of its continuity.

On the other hand the Magisterium has to offer answers to problems posed by every age (nowadays, for instance, we are confronted with the problem of Church-State relations all over the world) and to challenge the new threats which face the Church. But these are pastoral issues. Benedict XVI explained this very clearly. Unfortunately, after the Council, many bishops did not expect such strong reactions and did not know how to respond decisively against abuses (at the time they were referred to as "creativity"). The serious crisis that followed took everyone by surprise, even though history should teach us that periods of turmoil came after every Council.

**Every schism inside the Church is a very tragic event; it is as though the body of Christ, who commanded us to be united, were torn apart. Should not all Catholics receive with great enthusiasm the attempt to put an end to Lefebvre's schism, the latest schism of the**

**modern age?**

**Cottier:** The trouble is that Lefebvre's schism occurred recently and that people see it as a present, not as a historical event, often with great emotionality. I could see this in the Valais Canton of my Switzerland, where the Ecône seminary is situated and where Monsignor Lefebvre's movement has divided families. On the occasion of weddings or funerals, for example, there are often dramatic arguments and tensions if a part of the family supports Lefebvre's movement.

At present there is the paradox that it is easier for us to speak peacefully with the Protestants, who are further away from the Catholic Church, and who often feel nostalgic about unity, than with the traditionalists, who have remained militant and aggressive (in Paris they went as far as to occupy a church by force). But this attitude of theirs does not change the fact that they remain our brothers in faith. We must therefore support the Holy Father's attempt to put an end to this schism, which is a great and courageous act. History teaches us that when a schism lasts too long, it will become irreversible: Lefebvre's movement may turn into a sect. Action needs to be taken without losing time.

**Let us now talk of reactions outside the Church. Is it not astonishing that liberal circles, in theory opposed to every censure, limitation of freedom of speech and excommunication, should have criticized the Pope's charitable gesture shown to the bishops belonging to Lefebvre's movement and have called for a censure?**

**Cottier:** It is obvious that, when led by partisanship, liberals become illiberal.



**The negationist theses of Bishop Richard Williamson (photo), one of the four bishops belonging to Lefebvre's movement, have completely distorted the meaning of the repeal of the excommunication. Jewish circles reacted to Benedict XVI's decision with unprecedented virulence, as if they had not taken into consideration the various aspects of the whole question, i.e. the ecclesial aspect, falling within the Church's competence, and the personal aspect, i.e. private opinions, highly questionable and condemnable though they might be. Did this result from a lack of understanding of ecclesiastical matters or rather from bad faith?**

**Cottier:** I think that above all there is incomprehension. People do not know what the repeal of an excommunication implies. Even many Catholics thought that the repeal of the excommunication means the Lefebvrist have been reintegrated into the Catholic Church.

The Church uses a number of "technical" terms that could be explained to the people better. As it is impossible to understand football without knowing the meaning of such terms as penalty, warning, offside, etc., so it is impossible to understand the Church's action without knowing her terminology. This ignorance of ecclesiastical matters gave rise to serious misunderstandings. In short, everything should have been explained sooner and more clearly. What troubles me so much is the coincidence of the repeal of Bishop Williamson's excommunication with the declarations he made several months ago, of which the Vatican was unaware.

**No one in the Vatican knew about Williamson's views, but**

**somebody knew about them, and revealed them in an “appropriate” moment, i.e. in conjunction with the repeal of the excommunication....**

**Cottier:** We can put forward various hypotheses, but one thing is certain: the Church will always be criticized and slandered. Jesus said: “They persecuted me, they will persecute you too,” so we must not be surprised. The Evil One is the father of all falsehood.

I am in contact with many Jewish friends. We must admit that the Church has taken many positive steps in the dialogue with the Jews, but the tragedy of the Shoah has left a tremendous mark on the present generation of the Jews. In Hitler’s plans the elimination of the Jewish people was a prelude to the destruction of the Catholic Church; there is a great mystery in this attempt to destroy God’s plan. Denying all this creates uneasiness not only for the Jewish, but also for the Christian conscience.

**As a result of Williamson’s declarations, many Jews not only criticized the Church, but also called for the breaking off of relations with the Catholic Church. I know some Jews who say: “You need us, but we don’t need you,” stressing that Christians cannot renounce the Jewish roots of their faith. One sometimes gets the impression that Jewish circles use dialogue with Catholics for their own contingent purposes: as a means for obtaining the recognition of the State of Israel by the Holy See, for establishing diplomatic relations between the two states, for the sending of the Carmelite nuns away and the removing of crosses from the area close to Auschwitz, for fighting anti-Semitism, etc. How then can the Church dialogue with the Jews? (I am putting this question to you, since, as a member of the Pontifical Commission for Religious Relations with Judaism, you are one of those most involved, inside the Vatican, in official negotiations with the Jewish world).**

**Cottier:** Dialogue should not be reduced to current affairs. Our dialogue with the Jews is conducted on a religious basis. We are in contact with the Grand Rabbinate of Israel and we talk on religious questions aimed at a common search. The assumption that Christians need Jews, whilst Jews do not need Christians, is incorrect. The Church has received the Old Testament, but the Catholic and Protestant tradition reads the Bible in a different way than the rabbis and the Talmudic tradition. Our link with Judaism cannot be accounted for in historical terms alone, as Jesus was a Jew and the Church originated in Israel; Jesus was the Messiah of Israel and, in my opinion, a real theological dialogue must be based on chapters 9-11 of Paul’s *Letter to the Romans*. The fact that many Jews do not recognize Jesus is a theological problem. Saint Paul’s hope in the day of reconciliation is also the Church’s hope. The Church does not deny the people of the Covenant; on the contrary she has a strong connection with them. John Paul II referred to the Jews as “our elder brothers.” Many interesting books are being published on the theological significance of the chosen people for Christians.

The problem is that Jews – as also traditionally Christian peoples – are becoming more and more secularized, and they no longer regard the sacred books as God’s word. When there is no longer any faith, dialogue becomes political. On the contrary, dialogue with Jewish believers is always fruitful, and despite some misunderstandings there is always a joint effort to comprehend God’s will.

**In her latest book, Anna Foa, historian and granddaughter of the Chief Rabbi of Turin, suggests that the new Jewish identity is not based on religion, but on the Shoah and the State of Israel ...**

**Cottier:** This is very serious because it means that the Jewish world too is

getting secularized. Jews are not looking for their identity in the Bible, but elsewhere, as French intellectual Alain Besançon formulated it, in the "religion of the Shoah." For them the establishment of the State of Israel is a fact of epochal significance with which they identify. If there is no transcendence left, all that matters is history and politics.

**According to Gary L. Krupp, a Jew presiding over the New York-based *Pave the Way Foundation*, an organization devoted to furthering tolerance and mutual understanding between religions through cultural and intellectual exchange, "the media all over the world have presented the case of the bishops connected to Lefebvre's movement in an incomplete and sensationalist way, thus fueling controversy and negative reactions." Do you not think that the media have once more reacted with prejudice and hostility towards the Catholic Church? (Professor Jenkins defines anti-Christian feeling as the one acceptable prejudice of the modern world.)**

**Cottier:** It goes without saying that someone intended to use a very sensitive issue like the denial of the Shoah so as to attack the Church and create anti-Catholic feeling. The media have the greatest responsibility for this situation. Publishing titles like: "The Pope repeals the excommunication of a negationist bishop" on the front page is an abuse. This is not information, but manipulation! If the Pope had known that this bishop was a negationist, he would not have repealed the excommunication.

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### **The Hermeneutic of Reform**

#### ***The correct key to interpretation and application of the Second Vatican Council***

*(Address of Benedict XVI to the Roman Curia offering the his Christmas Greetings, Thursday, December 22, 2005)*

#### **By Pope Benedict XVI**



What has been the result of the Council (Second Vatican Council)? Was it well received? What, in the acceptance of the Council, was good and what was inadequate or mistaken? What still remains to be done?

No one can deny that in vast areas of the Church the implementation of the Council has been somewhat difficult, even without wishing to apply to what occurred in these years the description that St Basil, the great Doctor of the Church, made of the Church's situation after the Council of Nicea: he compares her situation to a naval battle in the darkness of the storm, saying among other things: "The raucous shouting of those who through disagreement rise up against one another, the incomprehensible chatter, the confused din of uninterrupted clamoring, has now filled almost the whole of the Church, falsifying through excess or failure the right doctrine of the faith..." (*De Spiritu Sancto*, XXX, 77; PG 32, 213 A; SCh 17 ff., p. 524).

We do not want to apply precisely this dramatic description to the situation of the post-conciliar period, yet something from all that occurred is nevertheless reflected in it.

The question arises: Why has the implementation of the Council, in large parts of the Church, thus far been so difficult? Well, it all depends on the correct interpretation of the Council or — as we would say today — on its proper hermeneutics, the correct key to its interpretation and application. The problems in its implementation arose from the fact that two contrary hermeneutics came face to face and quarreled with each other. One caused confusion, the other, silently but more and more visibly, bore and is bearing fruit.

On the one hand, there is an interpretation that I would call "a hermeneutic of discontinuity and rupture"; it has frequently availed itself of the sympathies of the mass media, and also one trend of modern theology.

On the other, there is the "hermeneutic of reform", of renewal in the continuity of the one subject-Church which the Lord has given to us. She is a subject which increases in time and develops, yet always remaining the same, the one subject of the journeying People of God.

The hermeneutic of discontinuity risks ending in a split between the pre-conciliar Church and the post-conciliar Church. It asserts that the texts of the Council as such do not yet express the true spirit of the Council. It claims that they are the result of compromises in which, to reach unanimity, it was found necessary to keep and reconfirm many old things that are now pointless.

However, the true spirit of the Council is not to be found in these compromises but instead in the impulses toward the new that are contained in the texts. These innovations alone were supposed to represent the true spirit of the Council, and starting from and in conformity with them, it would be possible to move ahead. Precisely because the texts would only imperfectly reflect the true spirit of the Council and its newness, it would be necessary to go courageously beyond the texts and make room for the newness in which the Council's deepest intention would be expressed, even if it were still vague.

In a word: it would be necessary not to follow the texts of the Council but its spirit. In this way, obviously, a vast margin was left open for the question on how this spirit should subsequently be defined and room was consequently made for every whim.

The nature of a Council as such is therefore basically misunderstood. In this way, it is considered as a sort of constituent that eliminates an old constitution and creates a new one. However, the Constituent Assembly needs a mandator and then confirmation by the mandator, in other words, the people the constitution must serve. The Fathers had no such mandate and no one had ever given them one; nor could anyone have given them one because the essential constitution of the Church comes from the Lord and was given to us so that we might attain eternal life and, starting from this perspective, be able to illuminate life in time and time itself.

Through the Sacrament they have received, Bishops are stewards of the Lord's gift. They are "stewards of the mysteries of God" (1 Cor 4: 1); as such, they must be found to be "faithful" and "wise" (cf. Lk 12: 41-48). This requires them to administer the Lord's gift in the right way, so that it is not left concealed in some hiding place but bears fruit, and the Lord may end by saying to the administrator: "Since you were dependable in a small matter I will put you in charge of larger affairs" (cf. Mt 25: 14-30; Lk 19: 11-27).

These Gospel parables express the dynamic of fidelity required in the Lord's service; and through them it becomes clear that, as in a Council, the dynamic and fidelity must converge.

The hermeneutic of discontinuity is countered by the hermeneutic of reform, as it was presented first by Pope John XXIII in his Speech inaugurating the Council on 11 October 1962 and later by Pope Paul VI in his Discourse for the Council's conclusion on 7 December 1965.

I shall cite only John XXIII's well-known words, which unequivocally express this hermeneutic when he says that the Council wishes "to transmit the doctrine, pure and integral, without any attenuation or distortion." And he continues: "Our duty is not only to guard this precious treasure, as if we were concerned only with antiquity, but to dedicate ourselves with an earnest will and without fear to that work which our era demands of us...". It is necessary that "adherence to all the teaching of the Church in its entirety and preciseness..." be presented in "faithful and perfect conformity to the authentic doctrine, which, however, should be studied and expounded through the methods of research and through the literary forms of modern thought. The substance of the ancient doctrine of the deposit of faith is one thing, and the way in which it is presented is another...", retaining the same meaning and message (*The Documents of Vatican II*, Walter M. Abbott, S.J., p. 715).

It is clear that this commitment to expressing a specific truth in a new way demands new thinking on this truth and a new and vital relationship with it; it is also clear that new words can only develop if they come from an informed understanding of the truth expressed, and on the other hand, that a reflection on faith also requires that this faith be lived. In this regard, the program that Pope John XXIII proposed was extremely demanding, indeed, just as the synthesis of fidelity and dynamic is demanding.

However, wherever this interpretation guided the implementation of the Council, new life developed and new fruit ripened. Forty years after the Council, we can show that the positive is far greater and livelier than it appeared to be in the turbulent years around 1968. Today, we see that although the good seed developed slowly, it is nonetheless growing; and our deep gratitude for the work done by the Council is likewise growing.

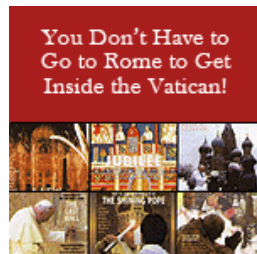
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**Georges Marie Martin Cottier**, O.P., 87, was born on April 25, 1922, in Carouge, Switzerland. He joined the Dominican Order in 1945 and was ordained a priest in 1951. He was a professor at the Universities of Geneva and Fribourg, and became secretary of the International Theological Commission in 1989. Pope John Paul II named him Theologian of the Pontifical Household in 1990. He was created a cardinal in the Consistory of October 21, 2003.

**Włodzimierz (Vladimir) Redzioch**, a Polish journalist who lives in Rome, is a regular contributor to *Inside the Vatican* magazine.

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### [Talks by Dr. Robert Moynihan on CD!](#)



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## Turning Point on Pius XII?

Tomorrow, March 12, marks the 70th anniversary of the beginning of Pope Pius XII's pontificate (he was elected on March 2, 1939, but elevated to the papal throne on March 12; he reigned until October 9, 1958).

Pius is a lightning rod. Vilified like no other recent Pope, praised by a few supporters, he is arguably the most controversial — and maligned — Pope of modern times. Yet there is new evidence emerging about his life and pontificate which is not widely known. Hence, this newsflash.

Because of the current controversy over the negative text about Pius on display at Yad Vashem in Israel, and the impact of this controversy on the Pope's upcoming trip to the Holy Land (May 8-15), we offer this overview in the hope that other media outlets, on the occasion of this 70th anniversary, may pick up the story: that new discoveries are revealing that Pius was a wise and courageous man who stood steadfast against monstrous evils in an time of barbarous cruelty — the mid-20th century. —*The Editor*

By *Inside the Vatican* staff



March 12, 2009, marks the 70th anniversary of Cardinal Eugenio Pacelli's elevation to the Chair of St. Peter as Pope Pius XII (*photo*). Pius' contemporaries hailed him as one of the holiest of pontiffs, and the world-at-large generally saw his reign (1939-1958) as among the most exemplary in Church history. Pius XI foretold that he would be an outstanding pontiff, and John XXIII, John Paul II and Benedict XVI have each extolled his virtues, his wisdom and the accomplishments of his papacy.

But a widespread disinformation campaign conceived by Soviet propagandists in the late 1950s and early 1960s, then endorsed and developed by dissident Catholics, and most of the world's media, managed to gradually blacken Pius XII's reputation. Everywhere today the esteemed pontiff's name is equated with the word "controversial" — or worse. The resulting 45-year debate over his papacy — and particularly, the extent of his help for Jews during the Holocaust — has now reached a decisive moment, perhaps even a turning point.

In recent months, Rome seemed to be moving step by step toward beatifying Pius, then eventually canonizing him as a saint.

But at the same time, the groups and individuals determined to condemn him have countered every positive move by protests in an attempt to dissuade Pope Benedict from taking a vital favorable step. This has effectively stalled Pius XII's cause.

In the spring of 2007, the Congregation for the Causes of Saints sent to Benedict a unanimous recommendation that Pius be declared "Venerable," and that his cause move forward toward beatification. Since then, Benedict XVI has spoken out several times, praising Pius XII's leadership and policies during the trying times in which he served.

His eventual beatification still does not appear in doubt, but Benedict's hesitation makes it unclear exactly when the cause will advance to the next stage. Nothing further can happen until the decree favoring advancement is signed.

One element influencing Benedict's decision is Israeli opposition. He clearly wants to try to gain Jewish understanding before acting.

It now seems that Israeli authorities are willing to re-examine their position on Pius. That position has been dramatically summarized by the display at Yad Vashem, Israel's national museum to commemorate the Shoah, on the wartime pontiff. This display states that Pius XII was "silent" about the Holocaust and did little or nothing to help Jews. The caption to a photo of Pius XII reads, in part: "Even when reports about the murder of Jews reached the Vatican, the pope did not protest, either verbally or in writing. In December 1942, [Pius XII] abstained from signing the Allied declaration condemning the extermination of the Jews. When Jews were deported from Rome to Auschwitz, the pope did not intervene. The pope maintained his neutral position throughout the war, with the exception of appeals to the rulers of Hungary and Slovakia toward its end. His silence and the absence of guidelines obliged churchmen throughout Europe to decide on their own how to react." (A full-scale article on the controversy over this caption appeared in the May 2007 issue of *Inside the Vatican*, entitled "Nuncio Battles for Truth.")

A short time ago, however, the Yad Vashem authorities called for a meeting of Pius specialists to give their judgment on this Pius display. To a large extent, this meeting is the result of passionate protests, by independent scholars and the Vatican's nuncios in Jerusalem, who've pointed out that the statements on display were not only biased but factually inaccurate.



And on March 8-9, Yad Vashem (*Photo: the Hall of Remembrance at Yad Vashem. The museum consists of a long corridor connected to 10 exhibition halls, each dedicated to a different chapter of the Holocaust, telling the story of the Holocaust from a Jewish perspective*) convened a meeting of Pius scholars from around the world to offer documentary evidence that supports or contradicts Yad Vashem's description of Pius XII's actions in the face of Hitler's genocide.

Essentially what Yad Vashem did was to arrange an off-the-record debate among Pius experts (though the word "expert" should be used with caution, as some so-called "experts" can



be quite wrong-headed about Pius XII). On one side were its own in-house authorities (who composed the display). They were augmented by two anti-Pius American historians, and an Australian, who have criticized Pius for years. On the other side were five European scholars who are convinced, especially by new archival evidence, that Pius was a fierce foe of Hitler and a passionate defender of Jews.

What is the likely result of the Yad Vashem debate? Foremost, if a careful record of all that was said has been kept, the meeting could provide a fascinating portrait of the way certain contemporary historians work and how they arrive at their conclusions. But will there be any drastic shift in attitudes, any overwhelming consensus? Not very likely. In an *Israel National News* report last fall, Yad Vashem (*Photo: A view of Jerusalem from Yad Vashem*) stood by the description that appears next to the photograph of Pope Pius XII.



"The study of the Holocaust period in general, including the role of Pope Pius XII, is ongoing and dynamic," a museum statement says. "The presentation of the subject in the Holocaust History Museum at Yad Vashem is based on the best research regarding this topic."

As historians themselves realize, complete objectivity is seldom achieved. We have to keep in mind the elderly Lord Acton's carefully considered observation: "Impartial men make good historians, but it is the partial and one-sided who hunt out the material." Too often in the case of Pius, historians have found only what they wanted to find.

There is, however, a rising tide of documents touching on Pius that must, sooner or later, move fair-minded scholars to make sounder judgments. It is only a question of time before the narrow, political biases that have been at work will be overcome. Maybe that time arrived in early March at Yad Vashem. *Inside the Vatican* will do its best to find out exactly what happened.

Ironically, one of the major players in the new wave of pro-Pius XII research is an American, Gary Krupp (*Photo — At a special investiture ceremony on June 3, 2006 in Washington DC., Krupp was awarded the "Benemerenti Medal" of good works by the Sacred Constantinian Order of St. George by His Eminence Theodore Cardinal McCarrick, Archbishop of Washington*). Krupp is Jewish, and he heads the Pave the Way organization (<http://www.ptwf.org>), a non-sectarian public foundation devoted to "identifying and eliminating non-theological obstacles between the faiths." Krupp believes hard facts, rather than emotion, should guide such debates, and are the best way to overcome unnecessary conflicts among the world's religions. His organization hosted a very important Symposium on Pius XII in Rome last September, attended by many distinguished guests. The conference, which received extensive media coverage and was



endorsed by Pope Benedict, who received the participants, presented new documentary evidence and videotaped testimony, revealing how Eugenio Pacelli not only "spoke out" against Nazism — early and often — but repeatedly intervened for Jews as papal nuncio to Germany (1917-1929); Cardinal Secretary of State under Pius XI (1930-1939); and as Pope himself (1939-1958). (Pave the Way's website has already posted much of this new information online).

The evidence is having its effect. Three acclaimed books, all of which come to a favorable conclusion about Pius, have recently appeared: *The Pope who Defied Hitler: The Truth about Pius XII* by Michael Hesemann, an eminent German historian, associated with Pave the Way; *The Longest Winter, 1943-1944: Pius XII, the Jews, and the Nazis in Rome* by Andrea Riccardi, Professor of Modern Church History at the University of Rome; and *Pius XII: A Man on the Throne of Peter*, a 661-page biography by Andrea Tornielli, who was one of the top scholars chosen for the Yad Vashem discussions.

Until the final truth about Pius XII is fully established, however, politics will keep the battle raging.

Maybe the most important development in the restoration of Pius XII's good name will come from Benedict's visit to the Holy Land from May 8 to 15. If the Yad Vashem meeting achieved any substantial understanding, its effect should be public by the time of the Pope's visit. A positive development there would contribute greatly to an improvement in Jewish-Catholic relations, and might well move Benedict to announce his long-delayed decision.

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## **Document**

Here below is an English translation of a document discovered several years ago. It is the diary written by a Catholic nun, in late 1943, shortly after the Nazi occupation of Rome. (The original Italian appeared in *30 Giorni (30 Days)* magazine, in 2006, but only now is getting publicity.)

The nun confirms that Pius XII "orders" her convent to open its doors, to take in the persecuted, including, specifically, Jews, and she actually lists the name of the people being taken in, and explicitly mentions that some are Jewish. Also remarkable is her awareness of the Holocaust ("a ruthless war against the Jews has begun...they wish to exterminate...") and the passion of Pius XII: "The Holy Father Pius XII, of paternal heart, feels in himself all the sufferings of the moment....In this painful situation the Holy Father wants to save his children, also the Jews, and orders that hospitality be given in the convents to these persecuted." We think this is incontestable, primary, wartime evidence of a "papal directive" from Pius XII to rescue Jews. —*The Editor*

See: <http://www.30giorni.it/us/articolo.asp?id=11037>

**The previously unpublished memorial of the Augustinian nuns of the convent of the Santi Quattro Coronati in Rome**

VENERABLE CONVENT  
OF THE SANTI QUATTRO CORONATI  
Rome

*[The last nine lines from 1942]*

During the year no news of importance. We go ahead with the anxiety caused by the great war. Continuous frights because of nocturnal alarms. Lack of necessities. Bread, pasta, oil etc.

The Easter Station is nevertheless celebrated with the usual solemnity. The functions of Holy Week by means of the Irish students. Thus the solemnity of our sainted father Augustine, then of the Santi Quattro and we reach the year's closure blessing the Lord who has saved us from so many dangers, because of the appalling war, because of the privations and preoccupations of all kinds. The Te Deum was sung thanking God who has protected us.

Anno Domini 1943

With the traditional small function of the procession with the Holy Child, a pious practice that assures divine blessing for us, this year begins amid the horrors of the war, privations of all kinds, and the uncertainty of the outcome of the war itself.

Providence assists us, and enables us to face all the difficulties, through the work on sacred vestments and the washing of the church linen of the Pontifical Gregorian University, of the Pontifical Biblical Institute, of the Borromeo College, and other churches. Monsignor Respighi exerts himself as usual so that the liturgy of the Lenten station will be as solemn as always. The community can perform the spiritual exercises, and have the two sermons every week during Lent. So we approach Holy Week, and the functions of the Triduum take place. The Holy Sepulchre is visited by many faithful. We proceed with the same rhythm up until the solemnity of Saint Augustine which is celebrated with intense fervor. We approach the titular feastday of the Santi Quattro which is celebrated with pontifical vespers and the pontifical mass the morning of day 8, on which many read masses are celebrated.

Having arrived at this month of November we must be ready to render services of charity in a completely unexpected way. The Holy Father Pius XII, of paternal heart, feels in himself all the sufferings of the moment. Unfortunately with the Germans entry into Rome, which happened in the month of September, a ruthless war against the Jews has begun, whom they wish to exterminate by means of atrocities prompted by the blackest barbarities. They round up young Italians, political figures, in

order to torture them and finish them off in the most tremendous torments. In this painful situation the Holy Father wants to save his children, also the Jews, and orders that hospitality be given in the convents to these persecuted, and that the cloisters must also adhere to the wish of the Supreme Pontiff, and, from the day of 4 November, we lodge the persons listed below up to the following 6 June:

from 4 November to 14, Mrs Bambas, wife of a political figure. The husband was hidden in another religious house and she wanted to reach him.

From 1 December to 27, all the Scazzocchio family of nine people.

From 1 December through all of the following February, the mother of Doctor Scazzocchio. These people were settled in the Chapter room, with the small room next to it, and the adjacent corridor. The meals are eaten in the refectory.

From 7 Decemebr to 23 January, Ravenna, Jewish (Rabbi) in the sacred vestments' room.

From 15 December to 18 January, Mr Viterbo with father-in-law, Jews, only to sleep.

# In Letter to Bishops, Pope Admits 'Mistakes'

By RACHEL DONADIO

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



MAURIZIO BRAMMATTI/EUROPEAN PRESSPHOTO AGENCY

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

whose ordinations were "valid but illicit."

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

NY Times 3/12/09

Sunday 15 March, 2009

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## The jury is still out on the wartime pope

From The Jewish Chronicle

**Ed Kessler**

**March 5, 2009**

Discussion of the new evidence about the behaviour of Pius XII during the Holocaust ignores the fact that most of the findings are not all that new and actually sidestep the central issue about Pius' papacy: did he do all he could and did he do it soon enough?

The findings of last year's conference in Rome, organised by the US Pave the Way Foundation, have now been published online and appear to be part of an orchestrated campaign to declare Pius XII a saint in the Catholic Church, a process which is currently at an impasse. The conference was attended primarily by defenders of Pius. Major Holocaust scholars, as well as the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, declined to attend because, as Catholic Professor Michael Marrus said, "this was a one-sided rally rather than a serious intellectual inquiry".

Whilst the new evidence disproves exaggerated claims that the Pope did nothing, the Vatican has yet to open up the archives fully and admirers of Pius XII, including the Pope himself, should take care in relying on flawed scholarship coming from a limited number of favoured historians.

When Haifa's Chief Rabbi addressed the Pope in 2008, he spoke for Pius XII's critics: "We cannot forget the sad and painful fact of how many, including great religious leaders, didn't raise a voice in the effort to save our brethren, but chose to keep silent and help secretly".

In his view, as well as that of many Catholics and Jews, Pius was no model, nor should he be beatified. Of course, such a decision is at the discretion of the Roman Catholic Church and Benedict XVI has already argued that Pius worked quietly to "save the greatest number of Jews possible". According to Professor John Pawlikowski, this indicates "hardliners have the upper hand in the Vatican".

While for the critics, Pius simply did not do enough to save Jews, for

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his supporters, he worked behind the scenes to help because direct intervention would have worsened the situation. Cardinal Bertone explained that, "if he had made a public intervention, he would have endangered the lives of thousands of Jews who, upon his directive, were hidden in 155 convents and monasteries".

His only public wartime statement was a 1942 Christmas broadcast, when he spoke of the "hundreds of thousands of innocent people who have been killed or condemned to a slow extinction only because of their race". He did not single out persecution of Jews and, more surprisingly, failed to mention it after the Holocaust.

Having reviewed the evidence, it seems to me that the reason why Pius did not speak out is clear: he made the choice not to. He believed he had done all he could; not because he did not care, but rather because Jews could not be allowed to distract him from Catholic preservation. Former editor of the Catholic Herald, Gerard Noel, suggests in a new book, *Pius XII: The Hound of Hitler*, that in another period of history Pius might have made a fine Pope, but in the one that also contained Hitler he found himself politically and diplomatically at a loss.

He was also bound by centuries of Christian anti-Jewish prejudice.

The present Pope, while having put the canonisation on hold, still hopes the process will eventually go forward. Given evidence of his pontificate so far, including controversies over the revised Tridentine Rite Good Friday prayer, which calls for conversion of Jews and the Bishop Williamson affair, Benedict XVI's visit to Israel in May should be of great interest.

Doubtless Benedict XVI will commit himself "to genuine brotherhood". A good place to start will be to initiate an extensive study into the actions and omissions of Pius XII, one that would draw in the best available scholars in the field. Until then, it will remain uncertain whether the wartime pope did all that he could and whether he did it soon enough.

*Dr Ed Kessler, Woolf Institute of Abrahamic Faiths, Cambridge*

**Last updated: 1:05pm, March 5 2009**

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Gary Krupp KC\*SG OStJ, Interfaith Advisor

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## Gary Krupp KC\*SG OStJ

### Interfaith Advisor

Gary Krupp is the Founder and President of Pave The Way Foundation, a not-for-profit organization dedicated to bridging the gap between the world's diverse faiths. His renown as one of the world's most influential laypersons is often highlighted in the world media, more recently as a result of his core facilitation of Pope Benedict XVI's recent trip to the United States.

#### Honors

**Knight Commander of the Pontifical Equestrian Order of St. Gregory the Great**

Vatican City, July 2000

**Jewish National Fund's Centennial Tree of Life Award**

Garden City, New York, September, 2002

**Investment by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II into the Anglican Order of St. John**

New York City, July, 2005

**United Nations Path to Peace Servitor Pacis Award**

United Nations, New York City, June, 2006

**Sacred Constantinian Order of St. George Benemerenti Medal of Good Works**

St. Matthews Cathedral, Washington D.C., June 2006

**Humanitarian Award - New Seminary, United Nations**

Cathedral of St. John the Divine, New York City, June 2006

**Jerusalem Medal**

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

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## The Pope's Jewish Knight

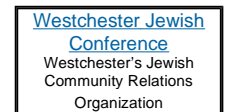
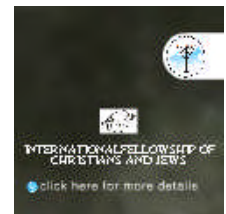
by Steve Lipman  
Staff Writer

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

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



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



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

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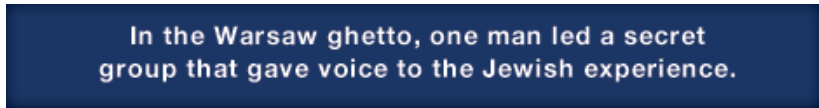
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## In The Steps Of John Paul II

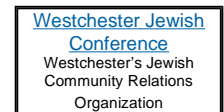
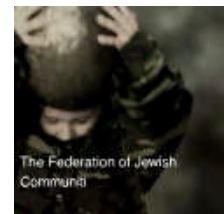
by Steve Lipman  
Staff Writer

The Catholic Church will continue to improve its relationship with the Jewish community, but interfaith ties under Pope Benedict XVI will probably not be as warm or as significant as under his predecessor, John Paul II. That is the opinion of representatives of several prominent Jewish organizations following the election Tuesday of German-born Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger as the 265th pope. The early favorite to succeed Polish native John Paul II, Benedict XVI is the second non-Italian cardinal to lead the church in four-and-a-half centuries. Benedict XVI, 78, who served for more than two decades as prefect of the Vatican's Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, which defends Catholic dogma, earned the reputation as a theological conservative, a powerful Vatican insider known in some church circles as



the "Panzer cardinal" for his uncompromising stance on such issues as "liberation theology," homosexuality, abortion and birth control. Dealing primarily with Catholic issues, he had less direct involvement with Jews or Jewish topics than cardinals active in interreligious work, but earned praise for his dealing with Jews in Germany and at the Vatican. "It is unprecedented that for the second time the leader of the Catholic Church is someone who personally experienced the horrors of Nazi oppression and prejudice, and has been an agent of reconciliation with the Jewish people and the State of

Israel," said David Elcott, the American Jewish Committee's U.S. director of interreligious affairs. "This man, for his entire ministry, has been deeply sensitive to relations with the Jewish people. He is warm and open to the Jewish community." All the more impressive, some say, because he served in the Hitler Youth movement and as a German soldier during World War II, though he deserted and was later held in a POW camp. Mark Weitzman, director of the Simon Wiesenthal Center's task force against hate and terrorism, said the papacy of Benedict XVI will favor "correct" relations with the Jewish community, but will relegate them to a lower priority. "Is he going to push with the same fervor" as John Paul II for Jewish relations? Rabbi Arthur Schneier asked. "I don't think so." Rabbi Schneier, a Holocaust survivor and president of the interfaith Appeal of Conscience Foundation, has maintained close contacts over the past few decades with high Vatican officials. Some Jewish leaders doubted that the new pope, who has spoken of the supremacy of the Church over other Christian branches, would visit a synagogue, as Pope John Paul II did in Rome. They compared this to the refusal by some Orthodox rabbis to visit churches. But the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations issued a warm statement congratulating the new pope and noting that in his previous posts at the Vatican, he "played an important role in promoting Catholic-Jewish relations and in the Vatican's recognition of the State of Israel." The statement also credited Benedict XVI for confronting the Shoah and acknowledging "the legitimacy of the Jewish wait for the messiah" in Vatican doctrines. Benedict XVI will be "very progressive," said Gary Krupp, the founder and president of the Pave the Way



Foundation, an independent interfaith organization that sponsored a January meeting at the Vatican, where an international delegation of 160 Jewish leaders thanked John Paul II for his advocacy of Jewish interests. Benedict XVI "was very interested in our audience," said Krupp, who was knighted by John Paul II in 2000. The new pope's background as a member of the Nazi Youth organization and the German army during World War II drew attention in media profiles in recent weeks, but the Jewish spokesmen said Benedict XVI has shown no sympathy to Nazi teachings. "It was the standard in the Hitler era that every teen was a member" of the Nazi Youth, often pressured into joining the organization, said Rabbi Schneier. "If anything, he will go out of his way to show that he is different from the [German] past. I would certainly give him the benefit of the doubt," Rabbi Schneier said. "I'm not at all nervous." Abraham Foxman, national director of the Anti-Defamation League, said in a prepared statement, "Though as a teenager he was a member of the Hitler Youth, all his life Cardinal Ratzinger has atoned for the fact. In our years of working on improving Catholic-Jewish ties, ADL has had opportunities to work with Cardinal Ratzinger. Having lived through World War II, Cardinal Ratzinger has great sensitivity to Jewish history and the Holocaust. He has shown this sensitivity countless times, in meetings with Jewish leadership and in important statements condemning anti-Semitism and expressing profound sorrow for the Holocaust." But at least one Jewish scholar offered a cautionary note about the new pope, not because of the cleric's wartime history but because of his ideological beliefs. Jerome Chanes, who teaches Jewish history and sociology at Stern and Barnard colleges, described Benedict XVI as "an ideological hardliner" and attributed "troubling moments" during Pope John Paul II's papacy — such as the pope's meeting with Austrian President Kurt Waldheim after his Nazi past had been revealed — to the influence of Cardinal Ratzinger. "The ambivalent aspects" of Pope John Paul II's tenure, in terms of Vatican-Jewish relations, including "the absolution of Austrian and German churchmen for what they did during the war, had [Cardinal] Ratzinger's fingerprints," Chanes said. Ratzinger, the son of a Bavarian policeman who quietly opposed the Nazis, at 14 was forced to join the Hitler Youth, according to a biographical background released by the Vatican, but never attended any meetings. According to Vatican records, he was later drafted into the German army at 16, did not fire a shot in uniform, deserted his unit, was captured by the U.S. Army and held as a prisoner of war. If anything, said Rabbi Schneier, the new pope's early experience with the Nazi regime "is going to make him more cognizant of Jewish concerns." "If there had been any bias or prejudice [expressed], John Paul would not have gotten engaged that closely" with Ratzinger, the rabbi said. "The higher you go" in the Vatican hierarchy, "the more visible you are" and the more known are possibly damaging facts of a clergyman's background. Rabbi Schneier called Benedict XVI "an intellectual ... a deep thinker," who will lead "an era of continuity." As a cardinal, Benedict XVI served as an adviser at the Second Vatican Council in 1962-65, which issued the Nostra Aetate declaration that redefined the Church's relationship with the Jewish community, absolving Jews from collective responsibility for the death of Jesus. John Paul II, who lived under Nazi occupation and lost many of his childhood Jewish friends in the Holocaust, carried out the policies of Vatican II with such gestures as establishing diplomatic ties with Israel, the Rome synagogue visit, and apologizing for Catholics' role in fomenting anti-Semitism and turning a blind eye to the Holocaust. Benedict XVI will also "follow the guidelines of Nostra Aetate," Rabbi Schneier said. "There is a personal commitment to continue [John Paul II's] legacy." Rabbi Israel Singer, chairman of the World Jewish Congress, called Benedict XVI "the architect of the policy that John Paul II fulfilled with regard to relations with the Jews. He is the architect of the ideological policy to have full relations with Israel." In 2002, Cardinal Ratzinger authorized the publication of a Vatican report that stated "the Jewish messianic wait is not in vain," and expressed regret that certain passages in the New Testament that condemn individual Jews had been used to justify anti-Semitism. "Speaking of the Holocaust, he said, 'It cannot be denied that a certain insufficient resistance by Christians to this atrocity is explained by the anti-Judaism present in the soul of more than a few Christians.'" n

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## Papal Visit Gets Mixed Reviews

 Good yontiff, pontiff: Pope Benedict XVI, left, with Rabbi Arthur Schneier during the pontiff's historic visit last Friday to Park East Synagogue. Diane Bondareff

*Good yontiff, pontiff: Pope Benedict XVI, left, with Rabbi Arthur Schneier during the pontiff's historic visit last Friday to Park East Synagogue. Diane Bondareff*

by Walter Ruby  
Special To The JewishWeek

While most of the Jewish leaders who took part in meetings with Pope Benedict XVI during his just-completed visit to Washington, D.C., and New York responded glowingly to their encounters with the pontiff, at least one veteran interfaith leader responded less favorably.

"I think the pope came up a little short," Rabbi James Rudin, senior interreligious adviser to the American Jewish Committee, told The Jewish Week. The rabbi was the only Jewish leader selected by The New York Times to contribute accounts to a special blog documenting reactions to the pope's visit by religious leaders and observers.

Rabbi Rudin noted that during Benedict's appearances in Washington (on April 17) before 150 religious leaders (including Jews, Muslims, Buddhists, Hindus and Jains) and at a special session

Become  
historically  
significant

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he held with the 40 Jews attending the interfaith event and again the following day during his visit to Park East Synagogue in New York, the pope "failed to mention the need to fight anti-Semitism and to teach about the Shoah. "Instead," the rabbi continued, "his remarks in both places were of a more general nature — congratulating the Jewish community on the advent of Passover and stating that he looked forward to strengthening Jewish-Catholic relations. But frankly, I was looking for a bit more in his speeches, especially in such never-to-be-repeated

situations."

Rabbi Rudin said that if Benedict had wanted to condemn anti-Semitism and stress the importance of keeping memory of the Holocaust alive, "He need only have cited strong statements by his predecessor, John Paul II, who said that anti-Semitism is against God and spoke of the importance of reverently teaching the Shoah. But, it is also true that we really shouldn't compare him with John Paul, who focused on outreach to the Jews and the rest of humanity, while Benedict's basic mission is to solidify the Church from within by overcoming problems like the sexual abuse scandal within the Church.

"Without a doubt," he continued, "Benedict made clear he cares about Catholic-Jewish relations by holding a special meeting with the Jewish delegation to the interfaith event, which he did not do with any of the other faith groups in attendance, and by making his visit to Park East Synagogue.

"Still, I wish he had done a bit more with those occasions than he did."

Abraham Foxman, national director of the Anti-Defamation League, however, argued that the rather bland nature of the pope's encounter with the Jewish leaders in Washington and New York — warm words but little substantive interchange — masked important steps taken by the Vatican in the weeks preceding the pope's visit.

In particular, Foxman expressed satisfaction that Benedict amended the language in a Latin prayer recited for centuries until dropped in 1962, but recently reintroduced into the Catholic liturgy, that calls for the conversion of the Jews to believe in Jesus Christ.

Foxman noted that Benedict's new language deletes phrases referring to the Jews' "blindness" and "darkness" and places the hoped for conversion of the Jews at the end of time, when, according to Catholic dogma, all human beings will embrace Christ.

Foxman also said that Benedict recently placed on the back burner an effort within the Vatican to accord sainthood to Pope Pius XII, the wartime pope who has been widely condemned in the Jewish community for allegedly having stood by silently while Hitler carried out the massacre of European Jewry.

(A high-ranking U.S. Catholic source confirmed that Benedict, who last May received a report from a select group of cardinals and bishops urging that he take the first step toward according sainthood to Pius, instead appointed another committee to look into the matter; the source said that there is no timetable for that committee to issue a report.) Rabbi Eric Yoffie, president of the Union for Reform Judaism, said that the decision by the pope to hold the special meeting with the Jewish delegation to the interfaith event, as well as his decision to visit the Park East Synagogue at the invitation of its spiritual leader, Rabbi Arthur Schneier, a Holocaust survivor, outweighs the relative lack of substance at those events.

"Benedict was sending a clear message to the Jewish community by holding the special meeting with the Jewish delegation at the interfaith event; none of the other religious groups got one," said Rabbi Yoffie, who was in attendance.

Asked about Rabbi Rudin's criticism of Benedict, Rabbi Yoffie said, "It is always welcome when the pope sends reminders about anti-Semitism and honors the Holocaust, but it would be a mistake to say that his not doing so at this time signals a lack of concern on these issues."

Rabbi Yoffie remarked, "I believe that the state of Catholic-Jewish relations is strong. The Latin Mass issue is a bump on the road that has to be dealt with, but it won't derail the positive momentum."

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Meanwhile, Catholics who have been in the forefront of efforts to have Pius XII declared a saint disputed the accounts that the bid to beatify him has been put on hold. "It is absolutely untrue that beatification [the key step on the road to sainthood] has been put on the back burner in the sense that it is stalled for five years or more," said William Doino, a Connecticut-based Catholic writer, who is the lead contributor to "The Pius War: Responses to Critics of Pius XII," a book published in 2004. "All of my sources in the Vatican tell me it is on the front burner, but will be decided according to the pope's own timetable," Dunno said. "I believe it will happen quite soon, but that the pope would like first to visit Israel and share documentation in the Vatican Archives that will prove once and for all that Pius has been unfairly accused."

One of Pius' staunchest defenders is Sister Margherita Marchione, a Morristown, N.J.-based nun, whose latest book on the World War II pope, "The Truth Will Set You Free," is due to appear in September, just weeks before the 50th anniversary of Pius' death. She noted that Vatican Secretary of State Cardinal Tarcisio Bertone has written a foreword for her new book, stating: "How profoundly unjust it is to draw a veil of prejudice over the work of Pius XII during the war, forgetting not only the historical context but also the immense charitable action that the pope promoted, opening the doors of seminaries and religious institutes, welcoming refugees and persecuted people, helping all who were in need."

According to Marchione, who says she expects an announcement of Pius' beatification to be announced on the 50th anniversary of his death, "I don't think Cardinal Bertone would have written what he did for my book if the pope does not intend to beatify Pius."

Yet Gary Krupp, president of the New York-based Pave the Way Foundation, which promotes improved Jewish-Catholic relations, said of the beatification process, "It certainly won't happen by Oct. 9 [the 50th anniversary] or for the foreseeable future. The pope has appointed a special committee to investigate, and it is unclear how long it will take."

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If Jewish leaders were not unanimously pleased with the pope's visit to the U.S., they are certainly much happier about the results than are American Muslims. In the run-up to the interfaith meeting in Washington, a number of American Muslim leaders strongly criticized Benedict for a speech he gave in Germany in 2006 in which he cited a 13th-century Byzantine emperor who said the Prophet Mohammed brought "things only evil and inhuman"; and for baptizing Magdi Allam, an Egyptian Muslim writer on Easter eve. Allam used the occasion of his baptism to castigate Islam as inherently violent.

At least one major American Muslim leader, Salam Al-Maryati of the Muslim Public Affairs Committee, chose to boycott the interfaith meeting with the pope because "the substance of dialogue was missing from the agenda."

But other leaders like Sayyid Syeed, national director of the Islamic Society of North America (ISNA), chose to take part in the event despite being angry at the pope because of "an abiding belief that interfaith dialogue is critically needed in the 21st century," Syeed said. "Popes come and go, but we have been dialoguing with the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops for more than two decades."

Syeed said that the recent "high-profile" baptism of Allam was "very harmful to Catholic-Muslim relations. While people convert to different religions all the time, we were troubled that the Vatican made a big deal about this one."

Syeed said he had used the occasion of a brief encounter with the pope at the interfaith event to tell the pontiff pointedly, "We are proud of what we have achieved in Catholic-Muslim relations and neither side should do anything to risk it."

Syeed, whose organization has recently been engaged in ecumenical work with American Jewish leaders like Rabbi Yoffie and Rabbi Marc Schneier of the Foundation for Ethnic Understanding, noted, "It is interesting that while we have been having difficult issues with the Catholic Church, we have recently had a breakthrough in relations with the Jewish community. Our outreach to the Jews has begun only recently, but it appears to have great potential."

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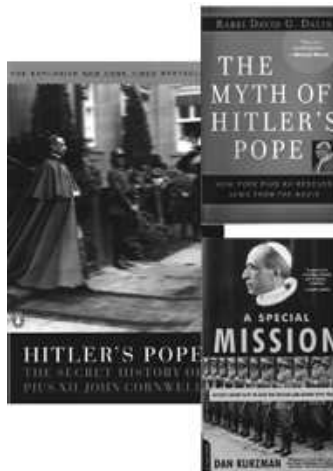


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09/10/2008

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## Wartime Pope's Reappraisal New Battleground In Culture War



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 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.

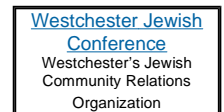
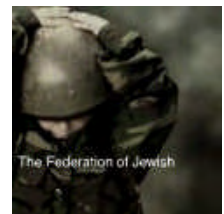
A seminary student in England in his 20s, John Cornwell is at 68 a prominent journalist and historian in his homeland, known for his criticism of Catholicism. His 1999 book, "Hitler's Pope: The Secret History of Pius XII," depicted Pius as sympathetic to Nazi Germany and indifferent to the persecution 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 Kurtzman, 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 Ion 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 Torrielli, 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

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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 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 diplomat-turned-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 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 skews 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."

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## Painting the village green

By JUDY RATTNER

March 26, 2009

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Parade co-presidents Ann marie myatt and Sean O'Rourke carried the banner at the head of the 13th annual Rockville Centre St. Patrick's parade last Saturday.

**A crowd that was five deep in many places lined the streets of Rockville Centre last Saturday to cheer and wave as more than 100 groups proudly marched and rode all manner of vehicles in the 13th annual St. Patrick's**

### Parade.

Irish wolfhounds, setters and terriers, as well as a number of horses, pranced by. The nearly two-hour-long procession, which kicked off at noon on Maple Avenue at Long Beach Road and made its way down Maple, ended at a reviewing stand facing St. Agnes Cathedral.

"This has to have been the largest and most enthusiastic crowd ever," said Ann Marie Myatt, the parade's co-chair. "It is a joy to put this parade together, but to get the response we did Saturday makes all of us so proud of what we do."

Parade participants included the village police and fire departments and fellow officers from surrounding areas and New York City. The Sandel Senior Center, the Rockville Centre Public Library, dance schools, restaurants, coffee shops, local real estate agents, nursery schools and even a supermarket were represented. Girl Scouts and Brownies, Boy Scouts and Cub Scouts marched, displaying colorful handmade banners.

Molloy College had a large contingent, and representatives from Mercy Medical Center waved as they passed spectators. The Rockville Centre Little League, Lions Club, Independent Order of Odd Fellows, American Legion, several Knights of Columbus chapters, the St. Agnes Gaelic Society and CYO swim team and the Ancient Order of Hibernians and The Ladies AOH were also among the marchers. The Chosin Few Color Guard was one of the first units to reach the reviewing stand, and Coach Realtors, with a white coach drawn by a white horse, was among the last.

Islanders mascot Sparky, Mr. Met and Jets cheerleaders, who performed several routines in front of the reviewing stand, stoked the crowd.

"I feel like a grandmother, I feel so proud," said Meredith Krupp, who, with her husband, Gary, was a member of the parade's first organizing committee 14 1/2 years ago.

Grand Marshal Francis Murray echoed that sentiment, saying, "I'm so happy. We're very proud."

Elected officials were not in short supply, and each was announced by parade emcee Jack Irwin. The mayor, village trustees and justices Frank Yannelli and William Croutier were joined by Sen. Dean Skelos, Assemblyman Bob Barra, Town Supervisor Kate Murray, Councilman Anthony Santino and County Legislator Joseph Scannell. Nassau County Executive Tom Suozzi was accompanied by Comptroller Howard Weitzman and District Attorney Kathleen Rice.

Sen. Charles Schumer marched alone, with aides preceding him, carrying a sign that read, "Sen. Schumer salutes the Irish." Waving, smiling and shaking hands on both sides of the parade route, Schumer carried a bullhorn. When he reached the reviewing stand, his cry of "Let's hear it for Rockville Centre getting some federal stimulus money!" was met with laughter, applause, wide smiles and thumbs up from the local officials looking on, including Mayor Bossart, Deputy Mayor Chuck Joyce and Trustees Andrew Karamouzis, Jeanne Mulry and Dave Krasula.

"We had a lot of major politicians," said Martin Ostrofsky, who, with his wife, Betty, son Iain, 15, and daughter Marisa, 12, has attended the parade for 10 years - as long as he's lived in the village. "I like that they come to Rockville Centre to recognize the importance of the community. I consider that a major plus."

Ostrofsky said that he always loves to hear the bagpipes and watch the step dancers in their colorful costumes. He added that he especially enjoys seeing friends and neighbors at the parade.

Barbara Walsh, who lives on Powell Avenue, said that practically everyone on her block heads over to watch the parade. "It's a chance to see people you haven't seen all winter," she said.

Caroline Willi, 12, a St. Agnes sixth-grader who watched the procession from near the reviewing stand with her friend and fellow classmate Lara Boyle, also 12, said she liked the dogs and the mascots.

"Great weather, great bands and great organization," said John O'Connell, president of the Nassau County Board of the Ancient Order of Hibernians and executive editor of the Herald Community Newspapers, after he and other board members marched with AOH Division 14. "Everything was just terrific."

"The St. Patrick's Parade was a smashing success for both the village and the parade committee," said Village Administrator Frank Quigley. "Rockville Centre residents and visitors enjoyed a wonderful afternoon cheering a record number of participating organizations. We are glad to have provided so many with such a memorable family experience."

"Given the very large turnout, we're also happy to report that there were no incidents resulting in arrest during the parade or immediately afterward,"

Quigley added. "There were a few incidents that resulted in three arrests later in the evening." But, he said, the village's "strong police presence maintained a calm, orderly environment all day and into the night."

The village was appreciative of all its workers, Quigley concluded, "from police to sanitation, and all the spectators who made this such a memorable event." Comments about this story? [RVCeditor@lherald.com](mailto:RVCeditor@lherald.com) or (516) 569-4000 ext. 208.

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### Disappointment for Historians: No Early Opening of Pius XII Archives

Apr. 24, 2009 (CWNews.com) - The Vatican has moved quickly to quash expectations that files from the pontificate of Pius XII might be made public.

After Italian media outlets reported that the Society of Jesus had authorized the release of files collected by the late Father Robert Graham, SJ-- a leading expert on the wartime Pope-- the Vatican press office released a denial on April 24. "Such authorization has never been given," the statement stressed. "The documents will be catalogued but not published. A possible future publication can only happen after the Holy See opens its archives regarding the pontificate of Pope Pius XII."

Father Graham had amassed more than 25,000 documents in his years of research into the pontificate of Pius XII before his death in 1997. The prospect of an early release of that material had elated scholars who are hoping for more evidence to rebut the charges that Pope Pius XII was silent in the face of the Holocaust.

One of those delighted by the report that the Graham files would be opened was Gary Krupp, the head of the US-based Pave the Way Foundation. Krupp, who is Jewish, set up the foundation to encourage inter-religious dialogue, and took on the project of correcting misinformation about the historical record involving Pius XII. In a conversation with Catholic News Agency, Krupp said that his own research into available archival material left him with no doubt that Pope Pius XII was a mortal enemy of the Nazi regime. "This man hated Hitler, despised him," he said; "and Hitler felt the same way about him."

Krupp went on to tell Catholic News Agency that he was shocked and angered when he realized how badly the historical record had been skewed, because "I trust historians to report history correctly."

Early reports about the release of the Graham archives had indicated that the Pave the Way Foundation would have had access to the 25,000 newly released documents. The Jesuit order now reports that the documents will be sorted and rendered into digital form, so that they will be easily accessible when the Vatican opens its own archives for the pontificate of Pius XII.

Like most governments, the Vatican keeps official archives secret for at least 50 years, to protect the confidentiality of any living people mentioned in the documents. The Vatican has resisted

public pressure for an early opening of the secret archives involving the reign of Pius XII, who died in 1958. Church spokesmen have indicated that the extraordinary volume of wartime documentation has complicated the task of sorting the material. The best current estimates suggest that the archives for Pius XII could be released in 3-4 years.

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**SUCHE**



Anderswo...

WIENER ZEITUNG - 4. 2 - Der Papst in der Zwickmühle

NETZEITUNG - 7. 2 - Fall Englaro auf höchster Ebene

DIE PRESSE - 6. 2 - Menschen-Kopien rücken näher

KöLNER STADT-ANZEIGER - 6. 2 - Piusbrüder auf Konfrontationskurs

ORF - 6. 2 - Neuer Durchbruch in der Stammzellforschung

MÜNCHNER MERKUR - 5. 2 - Hilfe für Knastkinder

DIE PRESSE - 5. 2 - Domitilla-Katakomben als 3D Modell

**Top Artikel der letzten 7 Tage**

07. Februar 2009, 09:51

**Unterstützung von jüdischer Seite**



**KIRCHE IN NOT**  
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**Der Präsident der jüdischen Stiftung „Pave the Way“ stellt sich gegen die Kritik an Papst Benedikt XVI.**

Rom (www.kath.net/[Zenit](#))

„Die Medien konzentrieren sich manchmal auf ein Ereignis, ohne sich mit den näheren Details zu beschäftigen“, kritisiert Gary L. Krupp, Gründer und Präsident der jüdischen Stiftung Pave the Way, einer Organisation, die nicht-theologische Hindernisse zwischen den Religionen durch kulturelle und intellektuelle Gasten überwinden möchte. Krupp bezieht sich in einer heute veröffentlichten Presseerklärung auf die aus seiner Sicht „verkürzten“ öffentlichen Berichte über die Aufhebung der Exkommunikation der vier Bischöfe der Piusbruderschaft.

Die Nachricht über Papst Benedikts Entscheidung sei zunächst ein Schock gewesen, berichtet Krupp. „Wie konnte das ein Papst tun, der so viele positive Fortschritte in den jüdisch-katholischen Beziehungen erzielt hat?“ Ohne Frage sei die Holocaust-Leugnung von Bischof Richard Williamson „abscheuerregend für jeden normalen Menschen“. Doch die „Pave the Way“-Foundation sei dem Ereignis tiefgehend nachgegangen und habe durch Nachfragen bei offiziellen Kreisen im Vatikan und anerkannten Kirchenexperten ein „klares Bild über das bekommen, was getan wurde und warum es getan wurde. Die ganze Geschichte wird viele überraschen, die nur auf die Medien gehört haben.“

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**WEITERE ARTIKEL ZUM THEMA 'Judentum'**

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'Jüdische Freunde, wir meinen es ernst'

Papst: Piusbruderschaft muss Autorität des Papstes anerkennen

Schönborn: 'Leugnung der Shoah ist beschämend und beängstigend'

Quid Benedictus XVI. Iudaeis dixerit

Zunächst einmal denke der Vatikan in Jahrhunderten. In der Vergangenheit hätten die durch Exkommunikationen verursachten Schismen zur Entstehung neuer religiöser Gemeinschaften geführt. Im Falle der Piusbruderschaft handle es sich immerhin um eine Gruppierung, die über schätzungsweise eine Million Anhänger verfüge. Durch die Aufhebung der Exkommunikation würde nun eine Tür geöffnet, durch die diese „radikal rechts-konservative Gruppe“ zu den katholischen Grundüberzeugungen zurückgebracht werden könne. „Diese Überzeugungen beinhalten auch die Annahme der Beschlüsse des Zweiten Vatikanischen Konzils und der Erklärung ‚Nostra Aetate‘. Sie beinhalten auch die Deklaration, dass Antisemitismus eine Sünde ist.“ Hätte der Papst jetzt nicht Initiative ergriffen, um dieses Schisma zu beenden, „könnten eines Tages unsere Kinder und Enkelkinder eine bösartige rechts gerichtete Religion hervorkommen sehen“.

**Marienfried**  
Die Gebetsstätte im Herzen Schwabens  
Exerziten  
Einkehrtage  
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Erholung für Leib und Seele

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daran, den Ruf des Papstes  
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Keiner im Vatikan hatte  
hinter den Bischöfen her  
gegoogelt

Was Pfarrer Gerhard Maria  
Wagner wirklich sagte

JA zu BENEDIKT!

Die Stunde der Heuchler

Kirchenpolitische Spielchen in  
letzter Minute?

Der Papst als guter Hirte

Vatikan: 'Merkels Kritik am  
Papst ist unangebracht'

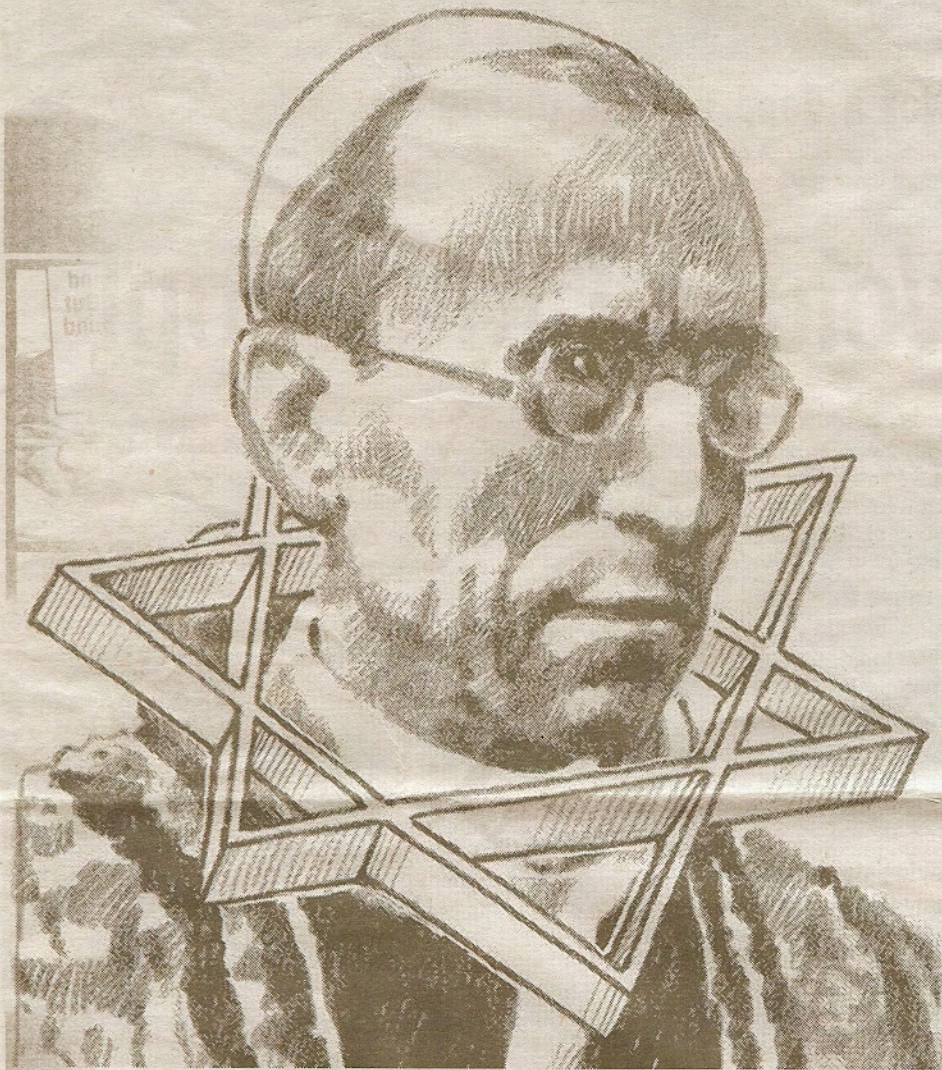
Die Aufhebung der Exkommunikation bedeute aber keineswegs, dass die vier Bischöfe nun mit offenen Armen in der katholischen Kirche empfangen würden. Vielmehr seien die Bischöfe nur dazu eingeladen worden, mit der offiziellen Kirche in Gespräche einzutreten. Es stehe aber noch ein langer Weg bevor, auf dem die Piusbruderschaft viele Verpflichtungen übernehmen müsse.

Dass die Entscheidung zur Aufhebung der Exkommunikation ausgerechnet jetzt gefallen sei, hänge mit dem 50-Jahr-Jubiläum des II. Vaticanum's zusammen, das die Spaltung mit Kardinal Lefebvre verursachte. Unglücklicherweise sei nach der Aufhebung der Exkommunikation das Interview mit Williamson in der Öffentlichkeit aufgetaucht. Krupp betont diesbezüglich aber, dass der katholische Klerus weltweit die Aussagen von Bischof Williamson einhellig verurteilt hat. Er schließt mit folgenden Worten: „Sollen wir es zulassen, dass bizarre Aussagen und Überzeugungen dieses einen Mannes den jüdisch-katholischen Dialog schädigen, der dauernd als Hauptschwerpunkt der Kirche und dieses Pontifikats behandelt wurde? Wir sagen Nein!“

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# Stop persecuting Pius



WWII pontiff  
- branded  
'Hitler's Pope' -  
did much to  
save the Jews,  
says a leading  
interfaith activist

Illustration by Barrie Maguire

**P**ope Pius XII, born Eugenio Pacelli, was pontiff during WWII and considered by many one of the greatest heroes of the war. To others, he is simply "Hitler's Pope."

The 46-year-old controversy surrounding Pacelli casts a shadow over Pope Benedict's trip this week to the Holy Land. Benedict's visit will include a stop in Israel, where he will pay respects to Holocaust victims at Yad Vashem but refrain from visiting the museum there that features an exhibit critical of Pius. The exhibit includes a photo of the wartime pontiff with a caption that says he failed to protest the Holocaust and maintained a "neutral position."

In an effort to blast the academic logjam, I launched my own investigation into Pius' role during the Holocaust.

In 2007, Pope Benedict ordered the Vatican secret archives up to 1939 and other sections up to 1947 to be opened. Recently, he ordered the balance of the war year's archives to be opened as quickly as possible. Unfortunately, many historians say they will reserve their decision until the full archives are open. It surprises me that critics continue to

defend their outdated theories and assumptions without studying the newly opened archives covering the vast majority of Pacelli's ministry.

I, along with several researchers, have discovered many documents detailing little-known activities of Pacelli. In 1917, for example, he intervened to protect Jews in Palestine from the Ottoman Turks. In 1925 he helped the head of the World Zionist Organization meet with Vatican officials to promote a Jewish homeland in Palestine. We found a confidential U.S. Foreign Service document reporting the Pope's hatred of Nazi dictator Adolf Hitler, and a letter signed by Pacelli moving to overturn a proposed Polish law against kosher slaughtering. We located a nun's diary entry stating that her community received orders from the Pope to protect the Jews.

Hundreds of pages of documents can be viewed at [pavethewayfoundation.org](http://pavethewayfoundation.org).

More evidence shows Pius secretly moved Jews out of Europe. We conducted dozens of video interviews, among them a witness account of a priest who revealed

a secret "underground railroad," directly ordered by the Pope, sending more than 10,000 Jews to the U.S. via the Dominican Republic. Many countries would not accept "Jews," so they were given false baptismal papers to travel as Catholics. Pius successfully stopped the deportation of tens of thousands of Hungarian Jews when he appealed to the Regent of Hungary. Similarly, he desperately tried to impact the deportation policies of many other countries to, in his words, "save this vibrant community."

**By Gary Krupp**

Aware of Hitler's plan to kidnap him and seize the Vatican, Pius formed a government in exile and still managed to directly stop the arrest of Roman Jews on Oct. 16, 1943. In literally one day, the Vatican managed to hide, feed and support more than 7,000 Jews in Catholic institutions and private homes — all with German rifles posted 200 yards beneath Pius' windows.

Prominent Jewish and Israeli leaders like Albert Einstein, Golda Meir and Joseph Lichten, as well as the Italian Jewish community, praised Pius after the war. Upon Pius' death in 1958, Israeli

historian and diplomat Pinchas Lapide reported that many had suggested a forest of 860,000 trees be planted in the Judean hills to represent the Jews Pius had helped to save.

The public controversy began in 1963 with a negative portrayal of Pius in a fictitious play called "The Deputy." The highest ranking KGB agent to ever defect recently wrote an article detailing how the KGB planned, financed and edited this play in an operation called "SEAT TWELVE." This illicit KGB effort to discredit the church has been the most successful character assassination of the 20th century.

It's time for our "historians" to correct this academic negligence and honestly research the open archives. Jewish teaching says, if you save one life you save all humanity. We must acknowledge what Pius actually did rather than criticize him for what he should have done. Pope Pius should be commended for his courageous actions that saved more Jewish lives than all the world's leaders combined.

Krupp, who is Jewish, along with his wife, Meredith, founded the Pavetheway Foundation. ([ptwf.org](http://ptwf.org))

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# V for Victory!

"VICTORY AT ALL COSTS, VICTORY IN SPITE OF ALL TERROR, VICTORY HOWEVER LONG AND HARD THE ROAD MAY BE; FOR WITHOUT VICTORY THERE IS NO SURVIVAL."  
WINSTON CHURCHILL, MAY 13, 1940

MONDAY, MAY 04, 2009

## Says Jewish Researcher to Pius XII Critics: Get a Clue



Winston Churchill flashes the (in)famous "V for Victory!" sign

ANITA MOORE,  
ESQ., OPL



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ALLIES FOR  
VICTORY

50 Days After  
A Thorn in the Pew



Gary Krupp, founder of the Pave the Way Foundation, has a [barn-burner of an article](#) in the *New York Daily News* in which he tells the "Hitler's Pope" crowd to get off Pius XII's back. Krupp summarizes the fruits of his research on the role of Pius XII in the war and the years leading up to it, and ends with this declaration:

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[Adoro Te Devote](#)

[Carolina Cannonball](#)

[Catholic Answers](#)

[Catholic Cartoon Blog](#)

[Catholic Church](#)

[Conservation](#)

[Catholic World News](#)

[Causa Nostrae Laetitiae](#)

[Center for Thomas More Studies](#)

[Christus Vincit](#)

[Curt Jester](#)

[Cygnus' Sphere](#)

[Darkwood Consort](#)

[Disputations](#)

[Domine, da mihi hanc  
aquam!](#)

[Dominican Idaho](#)

[Dymphna's Road](#)

[Father Down Under](#)

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It's time for our "historians" to correct this academic negligence and honestly research the open archives. Jewish teaching says, if you save one life you save all humanity. We must acknowledge what Pius actually did rather than criticize him for what he should have done. Pope Pius should be commended for his courageous actions that saved more Jewish lives than all the world's leaders combined.

[Click here for a look at the Pave the Way Foundation's research into our holy, courageous, and thoroughly lovable wartime Pope.](#)

POSTED BY ANITA MOORE AT 5/04/2009  
10:42:00 AM   
VICTORY TOPIC(S): HEROES, PIUS XII

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Hör Tipp der Redaktion



**NDR Kultur - Glaubenssachen Gott ist schön. Und seine Kirche?**

Der ehemalige Direktor des Diözesanmuseums für christliche Kunst in Freising, der Kunsthistoriker Peter Steiner, spricht sich für eine Öffnung der Kirchen für die zeitgenössische Kunst aus.

**Das Archiv der Beiträge von NDR Kultur-Glaubenssachen ist hier im Internet zu finden. Dort lassen sich auch Podcasts von NDR Kultur-Glaubenssachen abonnieren. (Copyright: NDR). Tipp zum Hören:** Lassen Sie dieses Internetfenster, das Sie gerade geöffnet haben, offen und öffnen Sie parallel dazu (mit strg + n) ein neues zweites Internetfenster, wo

## „DIE MENSCHEN ZUM UMDENKEN BEWEGEN“

Benedikt XVI. kann auf die Unterstützung jüdischer Freunde zählen – Ein Gespräch mit dem Präsidenten der nordamerikanischen Stiftung Pave the Way, Gary Krupp



Gary Krupp (Mitte) und seine Frau Meredith während einer Papstaudienz.

In seinem Brief an den Weltepiskopat vom 12. März dankte Papst Benedikt XVI. auch seinen jüdischen Freunden. Zu ihnen gehört der Amerikaner Gary Krupp, der die Stiftung „Pave the Way“ ins Leben gerufen hat. Die Organisation setzt sich für den interreligiösen Dialog im Allgemeinen und den christlich-jüdischen Dialog im Besonderen ein. Krupp und seine Mitstreiter unterstützen mit Nachdruck den Papstbesuch in Israel und befürworten die Rehabilitierung von Pius XII. Im September 2008 veranstaltete Pave the Way in Rom einen dreitägigen Historikerkongress, an dem Rabbiner aus den Vereinigten Staaten, Italien, Kroatien, Israel und anderen Ländern teilnahmen. Es war das erste Mal in den 45 Jahren seit der Uraufführung des „Stellvertreters“, dass eine jüdische Organisation ihre Stimme gegen die „schwarze Legende“ von „Hitlers Papst“ erhob (siehe DT vom 25.9.2008). Im Gespräch mit Regina Einig berichtet Gary Krupp, wie Pave the Way die Reise des Papstes in das Heilige Land unterstützt.

Was wird der Papstbesuch im Heiligen Land im günstigsten Fall bewirken? Die Beziehungen der Kirche mit dem Judentum und der muslimischen Welt werden sich deutlich verbessern. Für die Mehrheit der Juden ist es von überragender Bedeutung, dass der Papst nach Israel reist. Die Juden wissen, dass sie in Benedikt XVI. einen Freund haben, er hat es oft genug gezeigt. Jeder Papstbesuch im Heiligen Land ist zudem eine Anerkennung des Staates Israel durch die katholische Kirche. Ich gehe davon aus, dass diese Reise ein Erfolg wird. Kritiker machen mich da nicht irre. Als Johannes Paul II. im Jahr 2000 ins Heilige Land pilgerte, gab es auch Bedenkensträger und solche, die wir als „Monday morning quarterbacks“ bezeichnen – Leute die im nachhinein zu wissen meinten, was der Papst hätte sagen sollen. So wie Johannes Paul II. die Beziehungen zwischen Polen und Juden verbessert hat, wird sich auch das Pontifikat Benedikts XVI. positiv auf das Gespräch zwischen Juden und Deutschen auswirken. Inwiefern unterstützt Pave the Way diese Reise?

Wir arbeiten hinter den Kulissen und haben zum Beispiel einen Rundbrief von Rabbi Jack Bemporad zur Unterschrift versandt (siehe Seite 6). Rabbi Bemporad gehört zu unserem Beraterstab und steht dem Zentrum für Interreligiöse Verständigung in Carlstadt/New Jersey vor. Das Zentrum hat eine ganzseitige Anzeige mit einem Willkommensgruß an Papst Benedikt XVI. in der israelischen Tageszeitung Haaretz geschaltet. Ein weiterer, ganz wesentlicher Beitrag zur Papstreise besteht in unserer Aufklärungsarbeit über Pius XII. Wir machen Dokumente und Informationen über ihn zugänglich, die vor der Ankunft des ersten deutschen Papstes im Heiligen Land bekannter werden sollen. Damit möchten wir die Menschen zum Umdenken bewegen und es ihnen ermöglichen, Pius XII. gerechter zu beurteilen. Es ist für uns sehr bewegtend zu sehen, wie sich die Deutschen ihrer Geschichte stellen. Vielleicht hat kein Volk die Schuld seiner Vorfahren so tief bereut wie die Deutschen die Verbrechen der Shoah und des Zweiten Weltkriegs. Diesen Heilungsprozess möchten wir unterstützen. Mit welchen jüdischen Organisationen arbeiten sie überwiegend zusammen?

Zum Beispiel mit der Organisation Glaube und Dialog und dem New Yorker Rabbinerrat. Allerdings sind wir keine jüdische Stiftung, sondern wir arbeiten überkonfessionell und achten sorgfältig darauf, alle Religionen und Konfessionen gleich zu behandeln.

Der Heilige Vater hat seinen jüdischen Freunden gedankt, die ihn in der Krise unterstützt haben. Wie sah das bei Pave the Way aus? Als der Eklat um Bischof Williamson ausbrach, waren wir natürlich auch schockiert. Wir haben aber Wert darauf gelegt, den Vatikan nicht deswegen zu verdammen. Ich habe Pater David Jaeger angerufen. Er ist vom Judentum zur katholischen Kirche konvertiert, war früher für die Franziskanerkustodie im Heiligen Land tätig und lehrt nun Kirchenrecht in Rom. Er hat uns zunächst die kirchenrechtliche Bedeutung der Aufhebung der Exkommunikation erläutert. Wir haben den Sachverhalt in Gesprächen mit dem Großrabbinat in Jerusalem erläutert und den Kontakt auch gehalten, als das Gespräch zwischen Jerusalem und dem Vatikan abgebrochen worden war. Natürlich haben wir auch Kardinal Bertone gegenüber deutlich gemacht, wo die Schwierigkeiten auf der jüdischen Seite liegen. Und wir haben Bischof Williamson nach New York eingeladen, um ihn mit Zeugnissen von Holocaust-Überlebenden zu konfrontieren. Allerdings hat er abgelehnt.

Teilen Sie die in westlichen Medien vorherrschende Meinung, das

suchen...

Die Tagespost ist ...

... die einzige überregionale katholische Tageszeitung im deutschsprachigen Raum.

Umfrage

Nach "Pro Reli" in Berlin - wie atheistisch ist Deutschland?

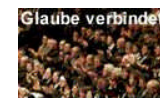
- Der Neue Atheismus in Deutschland überschätzt sich maßlos. Man kann ihn ignorieren.
- Der Neue Atheismus in Deutschland hat breite Massen erfasst. Es ist Zeit, dagegen zu argumentieren und Kampagnen zu starten.
- Der Neue Atheismus in Deutschland ist vor allem ein Medienphänomen. Es reicht, sich damit akademisch zu beschäftigen.

Der Papst im Erdbebengebiet

"Gott möge den Schrei des Schmerzes und der Hoffnung hören" - so betet Papst Benedikt XVI. im mittellitalienischen Erdbebengebiet für die Opfer und für die Überlebenden. Unter anderem im fast völlig zerstörten Onna, wo bei dem schweren Beben am 6. April von 280 Bewohnern 39 ums Leben kamen. Der Papst betet für die Opfer, spricht mit Überlebenden und dankt den Helfern. Benedikt XVI. drückt die Verbundenheit und Solidarität der ganzen Kirche aus. Ein Film der Katholischen Nachrichten-Agentur (KNA):



Anzeigen



Papst Benedikt XVI. über die Zeitung:

"Die Tagespost ist wichtig. Gut, dass es sie gibt. Sie ist unverzichtbar für die katholische Medienlandschaft."



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Redaktionelles Profil



Pontifikat Benedikts XVI. habe die Beziehungen zwischen katholischer Kirche und Judentum zurückgeworfen?  
 Nein, das sehe ich ganz anders. Der Fall Williamson und die glasklare Reaktion des Papstes war so, als ob jemand eine vereiterte Wunde öffnet, um den Heilungsprozess zu beschleunigen. Ich schätze ihn sehr und sehe die Beziehungen zwischen der katholischen Kirche und dem Judentum auf einem guten Weg.  
 Wie beurteilen Sie die von Benedikt XVI. neu formulierte Karfreitagsfürbitte in der außerordentlichen Form des römischen Ritus, die viele Gemüter erhitzt? Kränkt es Sie, wenn Katholiken mit Blick auf die Juden dafür beten, dass „Gott unser Herr ihre Herzen erleuchte, damit sie Jesus Christus erkennen, als den Retter aller Menschen“?  
 Nein, es ist kein Antijudaismus, für die Erleuchtung der Herzen zu beten. Kränkt es Christen, wenn orthodoxe Juden Gott jeden Morgen dafür danken, dass er sie nicht als Frau erschaffen hat oder wenn sie (orthodoxe Juden, A.d.R.) Gott dafür danken, dass sie keine Christen oder Heiden sind? Solange niemand von ihnen Korrekturen verlangt, sollte zwischen Juden und Christen das Prinzip der Gegenseitigkeit gelten und jeder nach seiner Façon beten dürfen. Ich glaube, dass Gottes Bund mit Israel unverbrüchlich weiterbesteht, sehe es aber nicht als Aufgabe der Juden, innerkirchliche Vorgänge zu kommentieren.  
 Gilt das auch für die Seligsprechung von Pius XII.?  
 Ja. Mit dem Seligsprechungsverfahren befassen wir uns überhaupt nicht und haben auch immer wieder darauf hingewiesen. Es ist daher vollkommen unwahr, Pave the Way kirchenpolitische Ambitionen zu unterstellen und uns einen „Einsatz für die Seligsprechung Pius XII.“ (Walter Homolka) nachzusagen. Unser Ziel ist es, möglichst umfassend über sein Pontifikat zu informieren. Auf diese Weise wollen wir uns auf der jüdischen Seite der Verantwortung gegenüber einem Mann stellen, der mehr Angehörige unseres Volkes gerettet hat als alle Spitzenpolitiker seiner Zeit zusammengekommen und nach wie vor dämonisiert wird. Dass Pius XII, mit Blick auf seine Politik gegenüber dem nationalsozialistischen Regime bis heute ungerechter Kritik ausgesetzt ist, betrachte ich als jüdische Schande.  
 Von jüdischer Seite ist gelegentlich zu hören, die katholische Kirche sollte das Seligsprechungsverfahren für Pius XII. nicht betreiben, solange noch Holocaustüberlebende am Leben sind. Besteht also aus jüdischer Sicht doch Bedarf, sich mit dem Verfahren auseinanderzusetzen?  
 Nein, auch aus Respekt vor den Zeugnissen von Holocaustüberlebenden, denen die katholische Kirche in der Verfolgung geholfen hat, stimme ich hier nicht zu. Ich habe selbst Holocaust-Überlebende im Sommer 2008 nach Rom begleitet. Dort haben sie Papst Benedikt XVI. gedankt für alles, was die katholische Kirche während der Zeit des Nationalsozialismus unternommen hat, um ihr Leben zu retten. Einer von ihnen, der heute 86-jährige jüdische Historiker Michael Tagliacozzo, hat die Shoah überlebt, weil er in der Lateran-Universität versteckt wurde. Auf unserer Homepage haben wir Texte von ihm veröffentlicht. Und das ist nur ein Beispiel für die vielen Juden, die auf Anordnung Pius XII. in kirchlichen Häusern und Klöstern versteckt wurden. Wenn Menschen, die sicher im 21. Jahrhundert leben, Pius XII. trotz aller historischen Gegenbeweise verurteilen, weil er ihrer Meinung nach zu wenig gegen die nationalsozialistische Judenverfolgung getan hat, beantwortet das meine Fragen nicht: Was haben der Erzbischof von Canterbury, der griechisch-orthodoxe Patriarch oder selbst der Oberrabbiner von Israel in derselben Zeit zur Rettung der Juden getan? Ich habe die Zeitungsarchive der Jerusalem Post und der New York Times durchforstet. Warum finden sich in den Ausgaben aus den Jahren 1939 bis 1958 keine kritischen Berichte über die Haltung des Papstes gegenüber den Juden? Warum schätzten Zeitgenossen wie Golda Meir den Papst? Aus den Dokumenten und Zeugnissen, die Pave the Way veröffentlicht hat, geht hervor, dass Pius XII. einen einzigartigen Beitrag für die Rettung der Juden geleistet hat. Nach ausführlichen Gesprächen mit Historikern wie Sir Martin Gilbert und Michael Tagliacozzo, die beide jüdischen Glaubens sind und diese Sicht bestätigen, hoffe ich, dass der Text auf der Plakette unter dem Bild Pius XII. in Yad Vashem geändert wird (siehe Kasten). Ich schätze Yad Vashem sehr, weiß aber aus Gesprächen, dass auch jüdische Historiker befürworten, dass Pius XII. unter die Gerechten unter den Völkern aufgenommen wird. Bis dahin wird Pave the Way der Borniertheit mancher Leute historische Fakten entgegensetzen.



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**'Der Friede sei mit Ihnen, Bshalom'**



**Ein Willkommensgruß jüdischer Rabbiner an Papst Benedikt XVI. als Anzeige in einer israelischen Zeitung**

Jerusalem (kath.net/Die Tagespost/[Zenit](#)) Die israelische Tageszeitung „Haaretz“ veröffentlicht in ihrer Ausgabe vom 11. Mai eine Anzeige, in der jüdische Rabbiner und einige Laien Papst Benedikt XVI. im Heiligen Land willkommen heißen. Die amerikanische Stiftung „Pave the Way“ („Bahnt den Weg“) hat dieses Projekt durch ein Rundschreiben unterstützt. Bis dato haben 160 Rabbiner aus den Vereinigten Staaten und Israel sowie einige jüdische Laien unterschrieben. Wir veröffentlichen den Anzeigentext in einer leicht gekürzten Fassung.

„Da also das Christen und Juden gemeinsame geistliche Erbe so reich ist, will die Heilige Synode die gegenseitige Kenntnis und Achtung fördern, die vor allem die Frucht biblischer und theologischer Studien sowie des brüderlichen Gesprächs ist.“ (Nostra aetate, Zweites Vatikanisches Konzil, 1965)

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An Seine Heiligkeit Papst Benedikt XVI.:  
 In diesem Geiste heißen wir - die Rabbis und jüdischen Führer - Sie und Ihre Friedensmission in Israel herzlich willkommen. Mit einer Stimme engagieren wir uns gemeinsam für den interreligiösen Dialog, sowie dafür, mehr Wege zu immer größerem Verständnis zu öffnen und stets die wichtige Beziehung zwischen Katholiken und Juden auf der ganzen Welt zu würdigen und zu stärken.  
 Und wo könnte man diese Beziehung besser erneut bezeugen als im Heiligen Land Israel, einem Ort, den beide Religionen als Teil eines gemeinsamen Erbes schätzen.  
 Der Friede sei mit Ihnen, Bshalom. “

Anschließend sind die Namen und meist auch die Funktionen und Adressen der Unterzeichner aufgelistet.

*[Übersetzung aus dem Englischen von Claudia Reimüller]*

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## 'My wife and I grew up hating Pius XII'

But today Gary Krupp devotes his life to debunking the wartime pontiff's persistent critics. He tells **Simon Caldwell** why  
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Andrew M Brown



Gary Krupp: 'My past impression of Pius was completely wrong. I was then angry because I was misled by those who call themselves historians'

Flicking through images on his BlackBerry, Gary Krupp shows me a picture of himself embracing Pope John Paul II. "I loved him!" he exclaims.

"He is the guy who knighted me," he continues, in reference to his admission to the Pontifical Equestrian Order of St Gregory the Great, then moving on to an image of himself with Pope Benedict XVI, he adds: "And this is the guy who promoted me [as a Knight commander of the same order]."

Flight delays made our meeting in the bar of a London hotel very late and Krupp and his wife Meredith were tired. We had been talking about Pope Pius XII for nearly two hours and were about to call it a day after none of us could recall the name of Pius's Secretary of State (Cardinal Luigi Maglione) who, on his orders, protested to Ernst von Weizsacker, the German Ambassador, against the deportation of Rome's Jews by the SS.

In spite of the grim subject matter the conversation lightens as fatigue begins to kick in. Krupp is a sociable man, a New Yorker who exudes the charm and quick wit that make many East Coast Americans so likeable. It is easy to have a drink with men like him; you don't feel a stranger for very long.

He is in London because a British television firm is making a documentary about his work on Pius. He is an interesting enough figure to warrant such attention. He is proudly Jewish, a Zionist who, after a successful career fitting hospital suites with new imaging technologies, is spending his retirement battling to restore the reputation of a pontiff maligned as a Nazi sympathiser. Correcting this revision of history is a "Jewish issue", argues Krupp, because Pius was a man who "in just one day hid 7,000 Jews from the Nazis" - nearly six times more than Oscar Schindler saved during the entire war.

The Pave the Way Foundation, the organisation the Krupps founded in 2002 to help to remove non-theological obstacles between faiths, has identified the role of Pius as the biggest stumbling block in Catholic-Jewish



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relations for the last 46 years when in fact it should be a reason for closer unity.

"Merry and I grew up hating Pius XII," Krupp explained. "I did two years of personal research before we decided that we should tackle this project. With further research, I was 100 per cent convinced that my past impression of him was completely wrong. I was then angry because I was misled by those who call themselves historians."

He believes that Pius will eventually be exonerated. All most people know about him is that he was "Hitler's Pope", says Krupp: "But if you go to an average person with the information that we have found they can only come to one conclusion - that this guy was the greatest hero of World War Two. We can prove it. We have something on our side - documented proof - where the revisionists haven't a scrap of paper to support their theories."

To find such proof the foundation has commissioned the German historian Michael Hesemann to search the Vatican archives opened two years ago by Pope Benedict XVI. These cover the period from 1922 to 1939, the years when Eugenio Pacelli served as nuncio to Bavaria and then as Pope Pius XI's "Jew-loving" Secretary of State, as he was referred to by the Nazis.

Krupp says he was surprised to learn that "literally none" of the "Monday-morning quarterbacks" who criticise Pius have visited the archives. Yet the same critics, he says, continue to wrongfully dismiss each new finding as either old or irrelevant as they "defend their theories at the expense of historical accuracy".

Some of the new evidence is hard to ignore, however. One piece, discovered in the diary of a Rome convent, revealed that Pius directly ordered the religious houses of Rome to hide the city's Jews on October 16 1943, the same day his protest at their deportation was ignored.

When I met Krupp he was buzzing about a separate project the foundation was due to begin in cataloguing the private archives of Fr Robert Graham, a Californian Jesuit who until his death in 1997 was considered to be the world's leading expert on the wartime role of Pius.

The collection of 25,000 documents contained photocopies of wartime papers from the Vatican's Secret Archives which will not be released until 2013. "It's as though the Vatican archives have opened as of today," said Krupp. But after the project became public, permission to publicise the documents was denied.

It would represent the second setback Krupp, 61, has suffered recently. Last September he sponsored a symposium on Pius in Rome. He invited Pius's most trenchant critics to attend, but they not only refused but also then attacked the symposium as one-sided, which was "comical", according to Krupp, because they were complaining about a situation of their own making.

Pope Benedict used the symposium, however, to express his own conviction that, when "free from ideological prejudices", Pius could be seen as a "noble pope" who "spared no effort in intervening" on behalf of the Jews, "either directly or through instructions given to other individuals or to institutions of the Catholic Church". Those rabbis who attended the event went away convinced that Pius was one of the unsung heroes of the Holocaust, says Krupp.

Not all Jews approve of what Krupp is doing. There is a substantial body of opposition among them to the beatification of Pius XII, leading to claims that Krupp does not represent the views of the Jewish mainstream and that he is something of a maverick. Yet he fits neatly into a long line of prominent Jews to defend Pius. These date to at least 1940 when Albert Einstein vigorously defended the Catholic Church as the only institution in Nazi Germany that "stood squarely across the path of Hitler's campaign for suppressing truth".

Throughout that decade tributes to Pius came from Chaim Weizmann, Israel's first president; Moshe Sharett, Israel's first foreign minister, and Isaac Herzog, the chief rabbi of Israel. Pius granted an audience to 80 concentration camp survivors who wanted to thank him personally for helping to save lives. The chief rabbi of Rome, Israel Zolli, became a Catholic and took as his baptismal name Eugenio in tribute to the Pope.

When Pius died in 1958 Golda Meir, Israel's foreign minister and future prime minister, praised him for raising his voice "when fearful martyrdom came to our people".

Since the Sixties most of the evidence in defence of Pius has been unearthed by Jewish historians, most notably by Pinchas Lapide who used Yad Vashem's records to show that the Church under Pius saved up to 850,000 lives - more than all the international agencies put together.

Most recently, the American professor David Dalin, a rabbi, has used historical evidence to demonstrate that the attacks on Pius are ideologically motivated, largely emanating from "lapsed and angry Catholics" intent on damaging the papacy, and which, he argues, in reality amount to a form of Holocaust denial because they disparage the testimonies of survivors. Sir Martin Gilbert, the world's leading authority on the Holocaust, is among those who believe Pius should be considered as a Righteous Gentile.

In this light, the restoration of Pius's reputation is an issue of truth and justice. But to Krupp it remains principally a Jewish issue because it has the potential to alienate his people from a billion Catholics whom they should consider as historic allies. "Today, with the dangers to the Jewish people and to the state of Israel, we need to do everything possible to eliminate these obstacles when they are simply not based on facts," Krupp explained. "We really need every friend we can get."

In this respect his work is a deadly serious venture and is as much concerned with the future as the past. It should be seen by Christians and Jews alike as a mitzvah - a Jewish good deed.

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Permalink: <http://www.zenit.org/article-25820?l=english>**WANTED: DOCUMENTED PIUS XII DEFENSE****Foundation Aims to Prove Pope's Efforts to Save Jews**

NEW YORK, MAY 7, 2009 ([Zenit.org](#)).- An organization dedicated to interreligious dialogue is seeking to resolve some of the conflict surrounding Pope Pius XII.

The New York-based Pave the Way Foundation has launched a call seeking images of archived records specifically from ecclesiastical institutions related to the Holy See's efforts to save innocent lives during World War II. The organization is also looking for early (prior to 1963) news articles on the subject.

Gary Krupp, president of the foundation and a Jew, explained that Pave the Way has already "devoted years to identifying, and making public, the documents and eyewitness testimony which has clearly shown the extraordinary efforts of the Holy See to save human lives during this dark time in human history."

The research could have far-reaching effects.

For example, AFP reported that Israel's Holocaust remembrance authority said today that ties with the Vatican could markedly improve if some of the conflict surrounding Pius XII was cleared up.

The chairman of the group, Avner Shalev, acknowledged that the Vatican has already produced evidence that Church officials ordered a convent outside of Rome to shelter Jews during World War II.

"If one or two more documents like this come to light, it would certainly result in a significant improvement in our relations with the Vatican," Shalev said, as Benedict XVI readies to head to the Middle East on Friday.

Krupp's efforts at Pave the Way already produced a documentary that was released last September.

The foundation is now asking everyone from students to retired people to join the research effort; new documents will be included in an updated version of the documentary.

Pave the Way is requesting that documentation be emailed to Krupp at [office@ptwf.org](mailto:office@ptwf.org). The note should include details such as location of the document, page numbers, dates and any other verifiable information.

Documents can also be faxed to Pave the Way in New York: (1) (516) 432-7561.

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On the Net:

Pave the Way Foundation: [www.ptwf.org](http://www.ptwf.org)

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## Jesuits to open key archives on Pius XII to US researchers

by: AFP

Updated: 10/May/2009 10:39

**VATICAN CITY (AFP)---** US researchers are to get access to the archives of a former Vatican specialist on the controversial role of wartime pope Pius XII, the Vatican journal *L'Osservatore Romano* reported Thursday.

Father Adolfo Nicolas, the head of the Jesuit order, had decided to open the archives of Father Robert Graham to researchers from the Pave the Way Foundation, said the Vatican, citing the Catholic News Service.

Pave the Way describes itself on its website as "a non-sectarian public foundation, which identifies and eliminates non-theological obstacles between the faiths."

Graham's collection comprises more than 25,000 pages of testimony and documents dealing with the actions of Pius XII, who served as pope between 1939, when World War II started, and 1958.

The documents could show how he had helped European Jews escape the Holocaust, *L'Osservatore* reported.

Graham was one of the pope's main defenders against accusations from other historians that he had remained silent and done too little to resist the Nazi genocide of the Jews.

Graham was one of the few researchers to be granted access to the secret Vatican archives.

The process of the beatification of Pius XII, opened in October 1967, has been a continuing source of tension between the Catholic Church and Jewish leaders.

Beatification is the first step towards canonisation, being declared a Catholic saint.

In 2007, the current pope, Benedict XVI, set up a special committee to investigate the matter before he makes a decision.



Many historians said wartime Pope Pius XII had remained silent and done too little to resist the Nazi genocide of the Jews.

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The Pave the Way Foundation has already gathered documents in an effort to show that Pius XII intervened both publicly and in private to try to save Jews and to get Catholic institutions in various countries to come to their aid.

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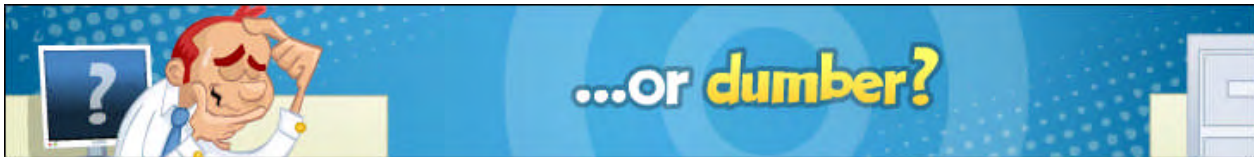
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## Jesuits to open key archives on Pius XII to US researchers



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Graham's collection comprises more than 25,000 pages of testimony and documents dealing with the actions of Pius XII, who served as pope between 1939, when World War II started, and 1958, the European Jewish Press reports.

The documents could show how he had helped European Jews escape the Holocaust, L'Osservatore reported.

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# In Letter to Bishops, Pope Admits 'Mistakes'

By RACHEL DONADIO

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



MAURIZIO BRAMMATTI/EUROPEAN PRESSPHOTO AGENCY

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

whose ordinations were "valid but illicit."

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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Editor responsável: Breno Baldrati (interino) – mundo@gazetadopovo.com.br

## BENTO XVI NA TERRA SANTA

### Holocausto

# Pontificado de Pio XII pauta visita do Papa a Jerusalém

Ações do Vaticano durante a 2.ª Guerra são reavivadas com a viagem de Bento XVI a Israel

Márcio Antonio Campos

■ Amanhã, o Papa Bento XVI chega a Israel para uma visita muito aguardada, e que promete polêmica – na sua passagem pelo Yad Vashem, o memorial do Holocausto, em Jerusalém, Bento XVI não entrará no Museu do Holocausto. No local está exposta uma foto de Pio XII com uma legenda segundo a qual o Pontífice, que governou a Igreja Católica de 1939 a 1958, manteve-se neutro diante do extermínio dos judeus. A noção de Pio XII como “Papa de Hitler”, no entanto, só surgiu duas décadas depois do fim da Segunda Guerra Mundial, e descobertas recentes, bem como informações esquecidas da época do conflito, revelam um Pontífice diferente daquele retratado atualmente.

Segundo a notícia publicada em abril por jornais italianos e britânicos, Pio XII havia dado instruções à Cúria Romana para o caso de ele ser sequestrado pelos nazistas: se isso acontecesse, o Papa renunciaria imediatamente, e os cardeais deveriam levar adiante um conclave para escolher o sucessor de Pio XII em Portugal, que era um país neutro durante o conflito. A informação foi dada pelo jesuíta Peter Gumpel, postulador da causa de canonização do Papa. A existência de um plano contra Pio XII já era conhecida – o general alemão Karl Otto Wolff tinha instruções para invadir o Vaticano e prender o Papa, segundo o historiador Dan Kurzman, autor de *Complô contra o Vaticano*, e que entrevistou Wolff na década de 1980. Além disso, em um dos mais famosos livros escritos contra Pio XII, *O Papa de Hitler*, John Cornwell narra a participação do Pontífice em uma das primeiras tentativas de conspiração para depor Hitler e encerrar a guerra.

Nos anos imediatamente posteriores ao fim da guerra, Pio XII recebeu manifestações de gratidão de várias lideranças judaicas. O maior responsável por jogar a opinião pública mundial contra



Retrato do Papa Pio XII, que liderou a Igreja Católica durante a 2ª Guerra Mundial: legado muito discutido.

o Pontífice foi o dramaturgo alemão Rolf Hochhuth, autor da peça *O Vigário* (recentemente adaptada para o cinema pelo grego Costa-Gavras, com o nome *Amém*). Escrita em 1963, cinco anos após a morte de Pio XII, a peça retrata o Papa como um líder mais preocupado com as finanças do Vaticano do que com a sorte dos judeus, e conivente com a Alemanha nazista por vê-la como o único adversário à altura da Rússia comunista.

A peça original tinha oito horas de duração, e foi reduzida para duas horas pelo produtor Erwin Piscator, que era comunista. A atuação de Piscator no “melhora-

mento” da peça foi comentada pelo ex-espião romeno Ion Mihai Pacepa, em artigo de janeiro de 2007 na publicação norte-americana National Review Online. No texto, Pacepa argumentava que a peça foi “adotada” pela KGB como parte de um plano para minar a autoridade moral da Igreja Católica no Ocidente, manchando especialmente a imagem de Pio XII, que em 1949 tinha emitido um decreto proibindo qualquer católico de colaborar com partidos comunistas, seja filiando-se a eles, ou votando neles. “Não posso sustentar que Hochhuth era um agente dos russos, mas é evidente

que sua obra estava em grande medida influenciada por aquele aparato”, afirmou Peter Gumpel na ocasião.

#### Neutralidade

Para um dos vice-presidentes da Federação Israelita do Paraná, Léo Kriger, é preciso diferenciar neutralidade de omissão. “Não foi apenas o Papa, o mundo inteiro silenciou, não sabemos as circunstâncias, as ameaças que o Papa percebia”, afirma, ressaltando que a Federação não tem posição oficial sobre a atuação de Pio XII e suas opiniões são pessoais. “No entanto, é perfeitamente compreensí-

#### CRONOLOGIA

Veja os principais fatos do papado de Pio XII

2 de março de 1939 – Eugenio Pacelli é eleito Papa e escolhe o nome de Pio XII.

1º de agosto de 1939 – A Alemanha invade a Polônia, iniciando a 2ª Guerra Mundial.

20 de outubro de 1939 – Pio XII publica sua primeira encíclica, *Summi Pontificatus*, em que condena o totalitarismo e o racismo. Condena a ocupação alemã.

Outubro de 1939 a março de 1940 – Pio XII concorda em agir como intermediário em uma tentativa de golpe contra Hitler. A conspiração, no entanto, perde força.

Natal de 1942 – Em mensagem radiofônica, Pio XII condena a deportação de judeus, sem no entanto ser explícito sobre países ou povos.

1943 – Hitler ordena a elaboração de um plano de invasão do Vaticano e sequestro do Papa, que no entanto não é realizado.

Fim de 1943 – 80% dos judeus romanos escapam da deportação.

Maio de 1945 – Termina a guerra na Europa.

9 de outubro de 1958 – Pio XII morre de ataque cardíaco.

Fonte: da Redação

vel que outras pessoas considerem omissão o que eu considero neutralidade”, acrescenta. É o caso de Antônio Carlos Coelho, professor de História de Israel na Faculdade Evangélica do Paraná e de Ecumenismo no Studium Theologicum de Curitiba.

“Chamar Pio XII de ‘Papa de Hitler’ é exagero, mas ele foi realmente omisso. Cabia ao Papa denunciar o que houve, não importando o preço que ele teria de pagar por isso. A omissão não faz parte dos preceitos cristãos”, afirma o professor, que é católico e participa do diálogo entre cristãos e judeus em Curitiba.

#### GRATIDÃO

“Se o Papa tivesse tomado explicitamente uma posição, Hitler provavelmente teria massacrado bem mais do que 6 milhões de judeus e talvez 10 vezes 10 milhões de católicos, se tivesse oportunidade para isso.”

Marcus Melchior, rabino-chefe da Dinamarca durante a guerra.

“Só a Igreja posicionou-se abertamente contra a campanha de Hitler pela supressão da verdade. Nunca tive um particular amor pela Igreja até hoje, mas agora experimento grande estima e admiração, pois somente a Igreja teve a coragem e a firmeza de posicionar-se em defesa da verdade intelectual e da liberdade moral. Sinto-me, portanto, obrigado a confessar que atualmente aprecio sem reservas aquilo que antes desprezava.”

Albert Einstein, em artigo publicado na revista Time em dezembro de 1940.

“A Santa Sé está prestando o seu poderoso auxílio no qual é possível, para aliviar a sorte dos meus correligionários perseguidos.”

Chaim Weizmann, em 1943; ele se tornaria, em 1949, o primeiro presidente do Estado de Israel.

“O povo de Israel nunca esquecerá o que Sua Santidade e seus ilustres delegados, inspirados pelos princípios eternos da religião, que estão na base da autêntica civilização, estão fazendo pelos nossos desafortunados irmãos e irmãs no momento mais trágico de nossa história, uma prova viva da Divina Providência neste mundo.”

Yitzhak Herzog, rabino-chefe de Israel, em mensagem de fevereiro de 1944 ao Papa.

## “Combatemos essa visão errônea sobre Eugenio Pacelli”

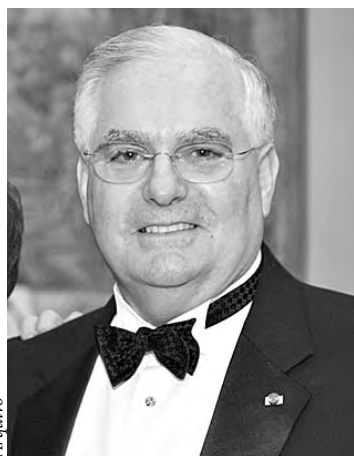
### ENTREVISTA

Gary Krupp, presidente da Pave the Way Foundation.

■ O judeu Gary Krupp é um dos principais defensores de Pio XII na atualidade. Ele deixou o ramo de equipamentos médicos para criar a fundação interreligiosa Pave the Way, da qual é presidente. Krupp recolheu depoimentos de sobreviventes do Holocausto e pessoas que conviveram com o Papa, e tem se empenhado em mostrar aos judeus as suas descobertas. Ele concedeu entrevista à *Gazeta do Povo* por e-mail.

Qual a sua opinião sobre a decisão de Bento XVI, que não visitará o Museu do Holocausto em Jerusalém?

Eu concordo plenamente que o texto sobre Pio XII seja criticado. Bento XVI honrará a memória dos 6 milhões de judeus vítimas do nazismo, como João Paulo II fez. Mas a legenda sob a foto de Pio XII é totalmente incorreta, e temos provas disso. Nossa fundação tem se esforçado para quebrar a barreira do senso comum e combater essa visão errônea sobre Eugenio Pacelli (nome de batismo de Pio XII). Alguns nos dizem “vamos esperar a abertura dos arquivos do Vaticano”. Há dois anos Bento XVI ordenou a abertura dos arquivos



Arquivo

até 1939, o que cobre a atuação de Pacelli como núncio e secretário de Estado. Ninguém foi consultado.

Como o Papa salvou esses judeus?

Ele agiu de forma mais direta por meio dos núncios apostólicos e seus amigos católicos para salvar judeus de várias formas. Um telegrama ao almirante Horthy, regente da Hungria, e sua intervenção na Eslováquia salvaram cerca de 250 mil judeus da deportação. Testemunhas nos contaram que Pio XII enviou mais de 12 mil judeus para os EUA, Canadá e México por meio da República Dominicana ao longo da guerra. Pacelli interveio quando muitos países não aceitavam judeus. Ele emitiu, e ordenou a emissão de dezenas de milhares de certidões falsas de Batismo para que esses judeus pudessem viajar como se fossem católicos convertidos.

O Papa é criticado por ter silenciado sobre as atrocidades nazistas. Onde se traça a linha que divide cautela e omissão?

Há centenas de casos em que o Papa criticou o nazismo pelo L'Osservatore Romano, o Palestine Post e o New York Times. Foram muitos discursos dele, de núncios e membros da Cúria Romana. Mas historiadores atuais se esquecem de que Pio XII e a Igreja também eram alvos dos nazistas, como no plano de sequestro revelado pelo general Wolff.

O senhor acha que o Papa poderia ter sido mais contundente?

De forma alguma. Muitos que viveram aquele horror de fato pediam ao Papa que não dissesse nada.

É fácil criticar décadas depois dos acontecimentos, mas é ingênuo achar que o Papa poderia falar o que bem entendesse, tendo diante de si a possibilidade da morte.

Como o caso holandês, em que Hitler intensificou a perseguição depois que os bispos protestaram abertamente contra as deportações, afetou a maneira como Pio XII lidou com o Holocausto?

O Papa dizia que, se Hitler matou 40 mil holandeses por causa das palavras dos bispos, quantos mais não seriam mortos se houvesse uma condenação papal explícita? Isso foi crucial para sua decisão de agir principalmente por baixo dos panos. (MAC)





MARTEDÌ 19 MAGGIO 2009

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



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

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



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L'organizzazione "cerca di eliminare l'uso della religione come strumento storicamente utilizzato da alcuni per raggiungere i propri interessi personali e provocare conflitti".

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capitale di un futuro stato palestinese indipendente – fu occupata dall'esercito israeliano durante la guerra del 1967. Nel 1980 il Parlamento approvò la legge fondamentale di Gerusalemme “capitale indivisa di Israele”, dichiarata nulla e priva di validità dalla risoluzione 478 del Consiglio di Sicurezza dell'Onu che invitò gli stati membri a spostare le loro missioni diplomatiche fuori dalla città. Ancora oggi lo status di Gerusalemme costituisce uno dei nodi del processo di pace tra israeliani e palestinesi. (A.L.)



### **Terra Santa: a Gaza continua il sostegno della Caritas**

◇ La visita di Benedetto XVI ha dato nuova linfa e nuove speranze alle popolazioni di Terra Santa: lo afferma la Caritas di Gerusalemme che sta continuando nella preziosa opera di assistenza e sostegno di famiglie povere, segnate dal conflitto, in difficoltà economiche per la crescente disoccupazione in tutta la regione. La Caritas - riferisce l'agenzia Fides - è in prima linea anche nell'aiuto alla provata popolazione della striscia di Gaza per la quale ha messo in campo risorse del valore di 1,4 milioni di euro, soprattutto in aiuti alimentari, cure mediche, formazione, raggiungendo oltre 10mila famiglie che vivono nella striscia in condizioni di estrema difficoltà. La Caritas ha raccolto a Gaza storie di speranza che portano uno spiraglio di luce su situazioni di lutto, penuria e sconforto. Indubbi benefici si registrano soprattutto attraverso le protesi sanitarie fornite dal “Polio Centre” che la Caritas finanzia e sostiene: numerose persone mutilate dalla guerra hanno ritrovato la possibilità di vivere una vita normale, sono tornate alle loro attività quotidiane, recuperando la possibilità di sentirsi di nuovo utili alle proprie famiglie e alla società. A livello psicologico e morale inoltre – aspetto che conta moltissimo per la ripresa e lo sviluppo di qualsiasi società umana – le parole del Papa, che ha assicurato preghiera e vicinanza a tutti i sofferenti, portando un messaggio di pace per israeliani e palestinesi, hanno avuto un impatto emotivo molto forte sulla popolazione, sia cristiana che musulmana. L'autorità morale del Santo Padre, universalmente riconosciuta, ha restituito conforto alla popolazione palestinese stremata dal conflitto: tutti sperano che la comunità internazionale possa recepire i messaggi di Benedetto XVI, avviando un autentico processo di pace che riporti riconciliazione, stabilità e armonia in Terra Santa. (R.P.)



### **Gary Krupp: un grande successo il pellegrinaggio del Papa in Terra Santa**

◇ “Pave the Way Foundation” ha ringraziato con una lettera Benedetto XVI per “il coraggio e la forza” che ha manifestato nel suo pellegrinaggio in Terra Santa, dall'8 al 15 maggio. “Desidero esprimerle la mia sincera e sentita gratitudine per aver iniziato e completato il suo pellegrinaggio di grande successo in Terra Santa”, spiega il fondatore e presidente della fondazione interreligiosa, l'ebreo-americano Gary Krupp. “In una regione divisa da differenze politiche, religiose e culturali, percorrere una linea sottile per portare il messaggio di pace di Dio a tutti quanti lo ricercano richiede enorme coraggio e forza”. Nel testo si esprime anche rammarico per le critiche rivolte al Santo Padre da alcuni settori. “Solo chi cerca di mettersi nei panni di un altro riesce a capire veramente le necessità, le paure - sottolinea Krupp - può identificarsi con il dolore di tutti i popoli della regione. Purtroppo, c'è chi ha

agende opposte ed è pronto a criticare e a minare i suoi preziosi sforzi nel nome della pace”. “Memore di questo, per favore prenda forza dalla voce di coloro che le hanno parlato in musica al suo arrivo in Israele e dall'apprezzamento di quanti vedono attraverso le critiche e l'ostilità e la negatività di alcuni commentatori”. “Possa Dio – si legge ancora nella lettera ripresa dall'agenzia Zenit - darle la forza di continuare il suo pontificato per molti anni, e ricche benedizioni di successo nel suo sforzo di portare la pace di Dio nel nostro mondo travagliato”. La Pave the Way Foundation è una fondazione dedicata “al raggiungimento della pace colmando le differenze con la tolleranza, l'educazione e le relazioni pratiche tra le religioni, mediante scambi culturali, tecnologici e intellettuali”. L'organizzazione “cerca di eliminare l'uso della religione come strumento storicamente utilizzato da alcuni per raggiungere i propri interessi personali e provocare conflitti”. (A.L.)



### **Libano. Il cardinale Sfeir: la democrazia è alternanza**

◇ “Il potere non può essere monopolizzato da una sola parte politica. La vera democrazia risiede nell'alternanza al potere”. Lo ha detto il patriarca maronita cardinale Nassrallah Sfeir domenica scorsa durante la Messa nella chiesa di Notre-Dame a Bkerké, in Libano. A riferirlo in una nota, ripresa dal Sir, è lo stesso Patriarcato. “Dobbiamo saper leggere le dichiarazioni che in questi giorni stiamo ascoltando e che arrivano da ogni parte. Ciascuna è destinata a far vincere le elezioni e a monopolizzare il potere”, ha affermato il porporato che poi ha aggiunto: “Il Paese appartiene a tutti i suoi figli e non è concepibile che il potere sia monopolizzato da un partito o da un gruppo”. “Come abbiamo già fatto notare, la vera democrazia è quella fondata sull'alternanza al potere. Ciascuno avrà la sua occasione, a condizione di essere paziente, di saper convincere gli elettori sul proprio punto di vista. Speriamo che la calma e la razionalità prevarranno”. Nel marzo scorso, in vista del voto parlamentare del 7 giugno prossimo, i vescovi libanesi avevano diffuso “La Carta dell'azione politica”, 31 articoli “per svegliare le coscienze, purificare le anime, nella speranza che tutti l'osservino per rettificare la pratica politica, arte nobile e di grande responsabilità, in vista dello sviluppo della persona umana e della società”. (A.L.)



### **Guatemala: ucciso un sacerdote statunitense**

◇ In Guatemala un sacerdote statunitense, padre Lawrence Rosenbaugh, è stato ucciso l'altro ieri in seguito ad un'aggressione. Il prete era in auto con a bordo altri 4 missionari. Due uomini armati a volto coperto – riferisce l'agenzia Misna – hanno bloccato il gruppo mentre percorreva una strada rurale che collega le comunità di Chisec e Ixcán, 500 chilometri a nord della capitale guatemalteca. In base alle prime ricostruzioni, padre Lawrence Rosenbaugh è stato subito ucciso. I due uomini armati hanno inoltre ferito padre Jean Claude Nowama, originario della Repubblica democratica del Congo. Non hanno invece riportato ferite gli altri tre missionari, gli statunitensi Ruben Elizondo e Erado Capustra, e il canadese Rodrigo Macaous. Il corpo di padre Rosebaugh, che era parroco della comunità di Ixcán, sarà portato nelle prossime ore a Chicago, sua città d'origine. Padre Nowama è ricoverato presso un ospedale della città di Cobán. In base alle prime testimonianze, la rapina è il



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## VIAGGIO IN TERRA SANTA: FONDAZIONE INTERRELIGIOSA RINGRAZIA IL PAPA

### La "Pave the Way Foundation" lamenta le critiche di alcuni settori

NEW YORK, martedì, 19 maggio 2009 (ZENIT.org). - La fondazione interreligiosa "Pave the Way Foundation" ha ringraziato con una lettera per "il coraggio e la forza" che Benedetto XVI ha manifestato nel suo pellegrinaggio in Terra Santa, dall'8 al 15 maggio.

Il testo, firmato dal fondatore e presidente dell'istituzione, Gary L. Krupp, ebreo, lamenta allo stesso tempo le critiche che si sono levate da vari settori contro il Santo Padre, spiegando che in realtà si tratta di persone o istituzioni con "agende opposte".

"Desidero esprimere la mia sincera e sentita gratitudine per aver iniziato e completato il suo pellegrinaggio di grande successo in Terra Santa", spiega il fondatore della "Pave the Way Foundation".

"In una regione divisa da differenze politiche, religiose e culturali, percorrere una linea sottile per portare il messaggio di pace di Dio a tutti quanti lo ricercano, richiede enorme coraggio e forza".

"Solo chi cerca di mettersi nei panni di un altro riesce a capire veramente le necessità, le paure, e può identificarsi con il dolore di tutti i popoli della regione. Purtroppo, c'è chi ha agende opposte ed è pronto a criticare e a minare i suoi preziosi sforzi nel nome della pace".

"Memore di questo, per favore prenda forza dalla voce di coloro che le hanno parlato in musica al suo arrivo in Israele e dall'apprezzamento di quanti vedono attraverso le critiche e l'ostilità e la negatività di alcuni commentatori".

"Possa Dio darle la forza di continuare il suo pontificato per molti anni, e ricche benedizioni di successo nel suo sforzo di portare la pace di Dio nel nostro mondo travagliato", termina la lettera, riconoscendo il lavoro del Papa "per porre fine all'uso errato del santo nome di Dio".

La "Pave the Way Foundation", come spiega la sua pagina web, "è dedicata al raggiungimento della pace colmando le differenze con la tolleranza, l'educazione e le relazioni pratiche tra le religioni, mediante scambi culturali, tecnologici e intellettuali".

L'organizzazione "cerca di eliminare l'uso della religione come strumento storicamente utilizzato da alcuni per raggiungere i propri interessi personali e provocare conflitti".

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## THIS BURNING FIRE

TO WHOM SHALL WE GO, LORD, IF ONLY YOU HAVE WORDS OF ETERNAL LIFE

FRIDAY, MAY 29, 2009

### Pius XII : 'greatest hero of World War II'

Jesuit's archive adds to evidence showing Pius XII to be 'greatest hero of World War II'

Pope Pius XII

New York City, N.Y., Apr 24, 2009 / 05:26 am (CNA).-

The Pave the Way Foundation has told CNA that the archives of the late Fr. Robert Graham S.J., who was the Vatican's top expert on the wartime role of Pope Pius XII, will add to the evidence showing Pope Pius XII to be "the greatest hero of World War II." The Vatican has been collecting evidence of Pope Pius XII's assistance to Jews in Italy, which will be opened in 2013 when its cataloguing efforts are complete.

However, some Jewish groups have accused Pope Pius XII of not doing enough to stop Nazi persecution of Jews in the Holocaust.

The non-sectarian Pave the Way Foundation (PTWF), based in New York City, will have exclusive access to the documents of Fr. Graham. On its website the Pave the Way Foundation says it is "dedicated to achieving peace by closing the gap in tolerance, education and the practical relations between religions, through cultural, technological and intellectual exchanges. We strive to eliminate the use of religion as a tool which, historically has been used, by some, to achieve personal agendas and to cause conflicts."

CNA contacted PTWF for comment and spoke with Gary Krupp, who is president of the Pave the Way Foundation.

Krupp told CNA that Fr. Dennis McManus will head the analysis team, probably in Washington, D.C.

Fr. McManus, a visiting professor of theology and interreligious studies at Georgetown University, is also a Consultant on Jewish Affairs for the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops.

The research team will first digitize the documents and then assemble them, as they are in disarray. Once the documents are assembled and analyzed, they will be published on the Internet in



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*53 minutes ago*

order "to end this problem between Jews and Catholics," said Krupp, who is Jewish.

Krupp said the digital version of many of the documents will be available in the Education section of the PTWF website, and that many related documents are already on-line.

However, Fr. Graham's Archive includes 25,000 pages of original documents and testimony never before seen.

According to a summary on the PTWF website written by Fr. McManus, the Graham Archive includes:

"(1) government demarches; (2) media reports; (3) eyewitness accounts, taken either by Graham himself or offered in signed format by others; (4) personal interviews; (5) summaries of books and other studies on the papacy of Pius XII and (6) classified and unclassified military and diplomatic reports from field officers in embassies and chanceries from across Europe."

The documents studied by the foundation are under the control of the Jesuits. Krupp said the Vatican archives are sealed because canon law requires cataloguing to be completed, though the process has been accelerated by papal order.

However, the archives of the papacy of Pope Pius XI have been completed and contain much information relevant to the work his successor did until 1939.

**"Of the critics who have accused Pius XII, nobody has come to the Vatican archives to see what was open until 1939, which represents a great percentage of his public life."**

Krupp said that **German historian Michael Hesemann has been investigating the open archives. Each time he enters the archive, Krupp said, he comes out with an "astounding" document about Pius XII fighting anti-Semitism or saving Jewish lives.**

"This information is so readily available, but nobody has gone to look," he said, saying historians and **critics of Pius XII's pontificate do not have to wait for the sealed archives to open when they have "so much material they can look at."**

"That's the disappointing part."

Krupp told CNA that PTWF's purpose is to address non-theological obstacles between religions, and allegations surrounding Pope Pius XII have been "one of greatest obstacles."

"I put in two years of investigation before deciding to take this project on," he said.

**He advised people to go to the archives of the New York Times or the Palestinian Post and search on the keywords "Pope" and "Jews"**

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**from 1939 to 1958.**

**“You will not find one negative article about this man,” he said, speaking of Pius XII.**

“If he was such an evil ‘Hitler’s Pope,’ you would find so much negativity.

“This man hated Hitler, despised him, and Hitler felt the same way about him.

**“A final solution was planned for the Catholics as well as the Jews and the Vatican knew about this, he said, pointing to recent revelations about the Vatican’s plans to set up a papacy-in-exile in Portugal in the event of Pope Pius XII’s detention by the Nazis.**

The evidence, he said, was “against every belief that Pius was anti-Semitic” and caused him to change his mind.

**“I was angered because I grew up hating him. This discovery was a personal affront to me because I trust historians to report history correctly. When a historian makes a mistake like this, it’s like a moral sin,” Krupp told CNA.**

**“This man was actually the greatest hero of World War II. He saved more Jews than any other religious leaders combined.**

**“Even under threat of being kidnapped and killed, he tried to stop the arrest of Roman Jews. He managed to save all Jews of Rome except 1,000. In one day he hid 6,000 Jews, supported and fed them.**

“This black legend will end,” Krupp continued, saying the documents would provide a “flood” of new information that will create an “absolute 180 degree turn” in the Pope’s reputation among his detractors.

“There are too many anti-Semites already. We don’t need to invent anti-Semites where none exist.”

**Krupp told CNA that the KGB used Rolf Hochhuth’s play The Deputy to smear Pius XII as a silent bystander in the Holocaust. He said one historian has called the play “The greatest character assassination of the twentieth century.”**

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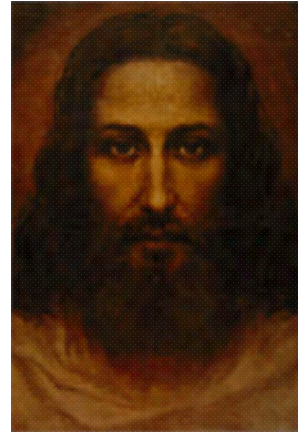
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Friday 29 May, 2009

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## Village rekindles July fireworks show. Citizens raise more than \$40k in three days to preserve annual celebration

By ALEX COSTELLO

May 29, 2009

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### Reversing a decision that was all but final, the village board said on May 22 that the annual fireworks celebration would go on as originally scheduled on July 11.

The decision came after Mary Beth Kearns, head of the hastily formed Rockville Centre Fireworks Committee, announced to the board that with the aid of former Deputy Mayor Wayne Lipton and Trustee Jeanne Mulry, she had managed to raise \$42,620 - enough to cover the cost of the show.

"We have enough sad times in our lives," said Lipton, who is also the president of the South Shore Symphony, at the brief morning meeting. "And now this is a happy time."

Lipton first voiced his concern to the village board at its April 27 budget meeting after hearing that the fireworks show had been removed from the budget - saving the village \$20,000. The board said the decision had followed a recommendation by the Citizens Budget Advisory Committee.

On May 18, Lipton appeared before the board again and read from the 100 or so e-mails he had received in response to a letter he wrote to the Herald ("Fired up over village fireworks" May 14-20). He told trustees that he had received pledges for \$10,000 in support of the show. At that meeting, Kearns said she would be willing to start a citizens committee to raise money to save the show this year.

Due to the time constraints raised by the South Shore Symphony - which performs at the fireworks show, but had received offers to play at other events - and contractual obligations with Grucci, the fireworks provider, the group had only until 9 a.m. last Friday - just over three days - to raise the \$40,000 the village said it would need.

People started making phone calls immediately, spoke with local businesses and secured pledges for more than \$30,000, which was combined with the money Lipton had already been promised. King Kullen and Molloy College were the two biggest donors, pledging \$5,000 each. The Chamber of Commerce and the village's Guild for the Arts pledged \$3,000 each.

"I'm really in your debt for having stepped up and done this," Mayor Mary Bossart told the group at the May 22 meeting.

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Some described the decision to keep the fireworks show a victory for everyone in the village, demonstrating the community's ability to come together. But Gary Krupp, one of the founders of the St. Patrick's Parade, took exception to Lipton's suggestion that support for other events, including the parade, should also have been considered in the cuts to next year's village budget.

"Everyone's a little Irish that day," Krupp said. "The thing that's so attractive about Rockville Centre is that it's a diversified community, and we can all share in each other's culture. It's giving everyone a taste of someone else's tradition."

"We've all been struggling with this decision," said Bossart about initial plans to cancel this year's show. "But these are times we need to decide what's in a government budget and what the community can do on their own.

"And this is a great example of that," she added. "Everyone is to be congratulated."

Comments about this story? [ACostello@liherald.com](mailto:ACostello@liherald.com) or (516) 569-4000 ext. 207.

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Conrad Black: Pius XII was on the right side  
 Posted: May 30, 2009, 12:00 PM by NP Editor  
[Conrad Black, Full Comment](#)



An interesting and important historical controversy now coming to a boil after stoking up for decades is the role of Pope Pius XII during the Nazi atrocities of the Second World War. These allegations — that he should have been more vocal and active in condemning the atrocities — came only after Pius XII died in 1958. They really began with Rolf Hochhuth's scurrilous but diverting play, *The Deputy*. (This wild

liberty with the facts inspired local emulation by Renaude Lapointe, with her completely fictitious portrayal of the former archbishop of Montreal and Quebec premier Maurice Duplessis, Charbonneau and the Chef, for which she was rewarded with a Liberal Senate seat.) Criticism of the pope has gradually escalated to extreme charges that he was a partisan or even an outright stooge of Hitler.

With its customary stately pace of deliberation, the Vatican has been researching his status since he died. It has released many of the archives from the period when he was nuncio in Germany and then secretary of state, 1922-1939, and opposing views of unofficial supportive commentators have also gradually radicalized to the point where he is being touted by them as a saint, a hero of the Holocaust and the Second World War, and, in Jewish parlance, a "righteous Christian."

All of his successors have regarded him as, in the words of Benedict XVI, "a noble pope." But it is one of the ironies of this controversy that his most outspoken supporters have been Jews, including the American, Gary Krupp, whose Pave the Way Foundation is dedicated to removing barriers between religious faiths and is now leading the campaign to emancipate Pius XII from anti-Semitic slurs. After very extensive research, Mr. Krupp now contends that Pius XII and the Roman Catholic Church saved the lives of 850,000 Jews and other Nazi persecutees during the Second World War.

When he was the nuncio in Munich, Pius XII, then Msgr. Eugenio Pacelli, witnessed the attempted putsch of Hitler and Field Marshal Erich Ludendorff in 1923, following which Hitler was sent to Landsberg Prison, where he dictated *Mein Kampf* to his acolyte, Rudolf Hess. Pacelli strongly disapproved of the Nazis and as Pius XI's secretary of state, he was referred to in high Nazi circles as a "Jew-lover." He and the pope ostentatiously left Rome during Hitler's state visit in 1936, and he wrote



**27/05/09:** Do we need to reform Canada's Employment Insurance regime? Daniel Goldbloom hosts two guests with two different opinions: Armine Yalnizyan is an economist at the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives, and Kelly McParland is the editor of the Full Comment blog.

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POPULAR [Barbaric European food practices.](#) the encyclical *Mit Brennender Sorge* (With Burning Sorrow, titled in German to aim it directly at the Third Reich), which strenuously criticized German violations of the Concordat with the Holy See that Pacelli had negotiated, and of human and religious rights generally.

[Part I: The snail Lorne Gunter: The Liberal way with hypocrisy Don Martin: Behold Michaëlle Jean — eater of seal hearts.](#) His elevation at the conclave of 1939 was widely seen as hostile to Nazi and fascist tendencies in Europe, and to Germany's pretense to being a bulwark against communism (a few months before the signing of the Nazi-Soviet Pact). Pius XI and Pius XII both publicly condemned Mussolini's imitative anti-Semitic laws. Pius XII decried all racial oppressions and super-military barbarities, most famously in his New Year's message at the end of 1942, and strenuously urged the German government not to round up and deport Italian (and other) Jews. When this request was rejected by the Wilhelmstrasse, on Oct. 16, 1943, Pius immediately ordered the religious institutions of Rome to take in and shelter all Jews. The entire population of 7,000 Jews was hidden from the Germans until they were driven from Rome.

[slayer of boredom Kelly McParland: Ignatieff can't seem to control his inner Eastwood Don Martin: There's a definite 'I' in Ignatieff John Ivison: No summer election.](#) This conformed with the policy he was already pursuing, in which all fugitives from Nazism were to be assisted. His eventual successor as Pope John XXIII, Msgr. Angelo Roncalli, then pro-nuncio in Istanbul, issued visas to all who asked for them, numbering many thousands.

[despite alpha-male posturing John Ivison: The Conservative revolution flies under the radar Steven Edwards: UN rights commissioner bypasses own council in seeking Sri Lankan probe Father Raymond J. De Souza: Predators upon the flock John Ivison: Maxime Bernier returns from penalty box to restore tarnished reputation \(and save the PCs in Quebec\)](#) In 1940, Albert Einstein defended the Roman Catholic Church as the only institution in Nazi Germany that "stood squarely across the path of Hitler's campaign for suppressing truth." Rome's chief rabbi, Israel Zolli, converted to Catholicism at the end of the war. Pius received delegations of death camp survivors who came to thank him for saving lives. The founders of Israel, including Chaim Weizmann, praised him repeatedly, and when he died, Israel's foreign minister, Golda Meir, saluted him for having spoken out when "fearful martyrdom came to our people." Among those who have described Pius XII as a "righteous Christian" is distinguished historian Sir Martin Gilbert, probably the world's greatest authority on the Holocaust and the official biographer of Sir Winston Churchill.

[John Ivison: The Conservative revolution flies under the radar Steven Edwards: UN rights commissioner bypasses own council in seeking Sri Lankan probe Father Raymond J. De Souza: Predators upon the flock John Ivison: Maxime Bernier returns from penalty box to restore tarnished reputation \(and save the PCs in Quebec\)](#) It has recently come to light that Pius thought Hitler might seize the Vatican and imprison him, as Napoleon detained Pius VII. In that event, Pius XII would have resigned and his successor would have been chosen in a conclave of those cardinals able to attend in a non-combatant, largely Catholic country, probably in Iberia or Latin America. It has taken a long time to sort out mistaken conventional wisdoms about the Second World War, such as the consistent canard of the Yalta Myth, that Roosevelt gave Eastern Europe to Stalin at that conference.

[John Ivison: Maxime Bernier returns from penalty box to restore tarnished reputation \(and save the PCs in Quebec\)](#) Not all the evidence is in on Pius XII. What can be said is that the extreme assailants are mistaken; he detested the Nazis, and called them "Pagans." He did not, however, subscribe to Roosevelt's view, expressed in their published correspondence, that Nazism and Soviet communism were equivalent evils. He thought communism more dangerous because it was more intellectually respectable and more antagonistic to Christianity than Nazism. He preferred Roosevelt and Churchill and de Gaulle, (but not Stalin), to Hitler and Mussolini, and did not share any of the Western leaders' hopefulness that any post-war accommodation with the Kremlin would succeed. (He was correct, but Roosevelt and Churchill were required by their electorates and by circumstances to give it a try.)

[John Ivison: Maxime Bernier returns from penalty box to restore tarnished reputation \(and save the PCs in Quebec\)](#) The presence of the U.S.S.R. among the Allies, and the fact that at least half of the populations of the European Axis countries was Roman Catholic, caused the pope to avoid outright partisanship in the war. But there was privately no ambiguity about his preferences, nor about his unwavering hostility to all atrocities and persecutions. He should have said more, but the same can be said of the Allied secular leaders, and it appears to be the fact that he and his Church did save the lives of more innocents than anyone else, not excluding the Allied armies that liberated the death camps. This is an issue that, for tactical as well as equitable reasons, the international Jewish community would do well to de-escalate. The Holocaust, which took the lives of six million Jews and six million non-Jews, was perhaps the most monstrous crime in all history, but Pius XII was on the right side, if over-cautiously in public, in that terrible time.

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## PAVE THE WAY FOUNDATION PRAISES POPE

Source: Zenit

NEW YORK, MAY 20, 2009 ([Zenit.org](http://Zenit.org)).- An organization that promotes interreligious dialogue is praising Benedict XVI for the "courage and strength" he demonstrated during his trip to the Holy Land in early May.

Gary Krupp, president of the New York-based Pave the Way Foundation, sent a letter to the Pope this week in which he expressed his "sincere and heartfelt gratitude [...] for initiating and completing your most successful pilgrimage to the Holy Land."

The president, himself a Jew, lamented much of the criticism that was aimed at the Pontiff, explaining that it came from people or institutions "with opposing agendas."

*Article provided by ZENIT News Agency.*

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## [Journey to the Holy Land: Interreligious Foundation thanks the Pope](#)

admin

NEW YORK, Tuesday, 19 May 2009 (ZENIT.org) .- The Inter foundation “Pave the Way Foundation” thanked with a letter for “the courage and strength” that Benedict XVI has shown in his pilgrimage to the Holy Land, by ‘8 at May 15.

The text, signed by the founder and president of the institution, Gary L. Krupp, jew, complaining at the same time that the criticisms were raised by various sectors against the Pope, explaining that the reality of trafficking in persons or institutions with opposing agendas. ”

“I wish to express my sincere and heartfelt gratitude for having initiated and completed its highly successful pilgrimage to the Holy Land,” says the founder of the “Pave the Way Foundation”.

“In a region divided by political differences, religious and cultural, along a thin line to bring the message of peace of God to all those who seek, requires tremendous courage and strength.”

“Only those who try to get in the shoes of another can truly understand the needs, fears, and can identify with the pain of all the peoples of the region. Unfortunately, there are those who have opposing agendas, and is ready to

criticize and undermine its valuable efforts in the name of peace. ”

“Mindful of this, please take strength from the voice of those who have spoken in music when he arrived in Israel and the appreciation of those who see through the criticism and the hostility and negativity of some commentators.”

“May God give you the strength to continue his papacy for several years, and rich blessings of success in its efforts to bring peace of God in our troubled world,” ends the letter, acknowledging the work of the Pope “to end all ‘ misuse of the holy name of God. ”

The “Pave the Way Foundation, says its website,” is dedicated to achieving peace by bridging the differences with tolerance, education and practical relations between religions through cultural, technological and intellectual. ”

The organization seeks to eliminate the use of religion as a tool historically used by some to achieve their personal interests and create conflict. “

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## Education News

### Pave the Way Foundation Receives Substantial Donation

New York City 6/12/2009 06:14 PM GMT (TransWorldNews)

Pave the Way Foundation (PTWF), a non-sectarian organization founded to remove obstacles between religions, and to end the misuse of religion for private agendas, receives a \$200,000 donation from the Fritz and Adelaide Kauffmann Foundation (FAKF).

"Pave the Way Foundation is continuously succeeding in their mission to improve relations between religions through remarkable and historic gestures," stated Mr. Theodore Mirvis, trustee of FAKF. "Their work impacts millions of people. We truly believe that PTWF has the right idea and that they are on the right track. Their internationally recognized effectiveness has earned our support."

Preferring effective action to dialogue, Pave the Way Foundation initiates historic gestures of good will and identifies and eliminates obstacles between the faiths. Through our unprecedented successes we gain respect and credibility, which enables us to move toward our mission to end the illegal use of religion for private agendas.

"During these difficult economic times, we are aware that the Kauffmann Foundation must be diligent with their charitable gift program, insuring that donations are provided to organizations whose work benefits the largest numbers of individuals," stated Gary Krupp, President of Pave the Way Foundation. "This gift has helped us to continue our work to remove the illegal use of religion to justify violence and to initiate historic gestures between the faiths. We are grateful to the Kauffmann foundation for their confidence in us and for their very generous gift."

About Pave the Way Foundation

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

About the Fritz and Adelaide Kauffmann Foundation

The Fritz and Adelaide Foundation supports diverse endeavors which enhance life. Medical, religious, technological and social projects of merit have been the overall beneficiaries of the Fritz and Adelaide Kauffmann Foundation.  
Contact: David Hauser

212 629 0046  
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ZE09061505 - 2009-06-15

Permalink: <http://www.zenit.org/article-26179?l=english>**NEW EVIDENCE SAYS PIUS XII HELPED JEWS****Foundation to Publish 2,300 Pages of Documents**

NEW YORK, JUNE 15, 2009 ([Zenit.org](#)). - A foundation that promotes interreligious dialogue announced that it has more than 2,300 pages of original documents illustrating Pope Pius XII's efforts to help Jews in the face of Nazism.

Gary Krupp, president of the New York-based Pave the Way Foundation, affirmed this today in a statement to ZENIT, and stated that the documents from the years 1940-1945 will be made available to the public for research.

The president, himself a Jew, reported that these papers, found through the organization's private research, give "strong support to the argument that Pope Pius XII -- Eugenio Pacelli -- worked diligently to save Jews from Nazi tyranny."

As a part of a private research project, the foundation found the documents in a monastery in Avellino, Italy. The foundation's statement noted the possibility that "many more vital documents could be found in larger dioceses, if researchers simply took the time to look."

Krupp continued: "Since presumed history has been the justification for hatred, vendettas and wars throughout civilized human existence, aren't the historians charged with a moral and vital responsibility to get the story straight? People are killed every day because of historical vendettas.

"A personal disappointment resulting from our research was the realization that we all have been let down by many who represent themselves as historians.

"These individuals, with private agendas, have simply failed to research the evidence of this era properly and have remained silent when the absurd fanatics manipulate the truth."

If our foundation, he said, as "amateur fact finders, can uncover so much information, how is it that the so-called historians and academic institutions have allowed the 46-year-old assessment of Pius XII to continue unchallenged, impacting the opinions and relationships of over one billion people?"

**Finding the truth**

The foundation will offer these documents for worldwide historical study on its Web site.

The statement acknowledged a "universal academic response" to "reserve judgment of Pacelli until the Vatican opens the un-catalogued section of full papacy of Pius XII."

It added, "The result of this academic negligence has negatively impacted the opinions and relationships of over one billion people."

The foundation also reported its findings from research on some of the Vatican Secret Archives documents.

It noted the discovery of "many examples of the direct actions and of the pastoral ministry of Eugenio Pacelli to save Jews from Nazi tyranny" as well as "documented proof" of his "direct intercession to protect the Jews of Palestine from the Ottoman Turks in 1917 and his encouraging the idea of the establishment of a Jewish homeland in Palestine in 1925."

The statement observed that "universal" gratitude to Pius XII was "radically changed" five years after his death, through a fictional play by Rolf Hochhuth called "The Deputy."

The foundation reported the "confirmed testimony that this play was part of a KGB plot called 'seat 12,' which was strategically planned to destroy the reputation of the Catholic Church."

This research, the foundation stated, supports the "undeniable conclusion" that "Pope Pius XII was a true hero" of World War II.

It concluded: "Quite possibly he saved more Jews than all of the world's religious and political leaders combined. Moreover, in the true spirit of heroism, he did all this with the direct threat of German rifles leveled 200 yards beneath his very windows."

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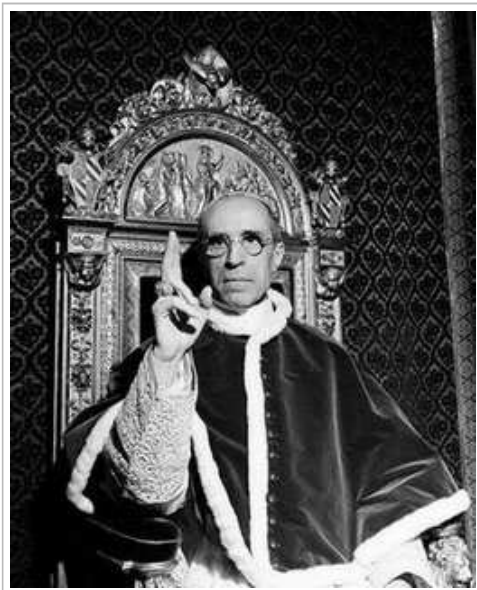


# In Caritate Non Ficta

On October 15, 2008, after two years as an officer in the Navy, my life changed when I was diagnosed with an inoperable brain tumor. Putting my concerns in the hands of the Blessed Virgin Mary and my trust in Our Lord Jesus Christ, I pray that I may be faithful to the Holy Catholic Faith and serve the Church for the rest of my life.

JUNE 15, 2009

## New Evidence Says Pius XII Helped Jews



NEW YORK, JUNE 15, 2009 (Zenit.org) - A foundation that promotes interreligious dialogue announced that it has more than 2,300 pages of original documents illustrating Pope Pius XII's efforts to help Jews in the face of Nazism.

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[Original Article](#)

Posted by Philip Gerard Johnson at 6/15/2009



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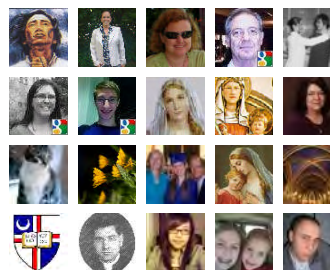
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## Education News

### Pave the Way Foundation Researcher Discovers Important Documents from World War II

More Than 2300 Pages of Documentation, Now Available for Historic Study, Shed Further Light on the Activities of Pope Pius XII and the Catholic Church from 1940-1945.

New York 6/16/2009 11:14 AM GMT (TransWorldNews)

New York, June 16, 2009- The New York based Pave the Way Foundation (PTWF) has announced the discovery of over 2300 pages of original documents from the war years 1940-1945 during the course of our private research of the papacy of the war time Pope Pius XII. Many of these documents along with other previous discoveries are available for international viewing on our website [www.ptwf.org](http://www.ptwf.org). An initial review of the documents gives strong support to the argument that Pope Pius XII (Eugenio Pacelli) worked diligently to save Jews from Nazi tyranny.

President of PTWF, Gary Krupp has stated, "In the furtherance of our mission to identify and eliminate obstacles between religions, PTWF has been engaged in a multiyear private research project to publicize the actions of the Vatican during WWII. With over 1000 books written on this subject, it became painfully obvious that this controversy will never be resolved even after the opening of the Vatican Secret Archives up to 1958."

This large discovery was made in a very small diocese in a monastery in Avellino, Italy. It is possible (and likely) that many more vital documents could be found in larger dioceses, if researchers simply took the time to look.

Additionally, PTWF German representative Michael Hesemann has researched just a few documents from the Vatican Secret Archives, which are currently open up to 1939. Here again we discovered many examples of the direct actions and of the pastoral ministry of Eugenio Pacelli (Pius XII) to save Jews from Nazi tyranny. We also located documented proof of Pacelli's direct intercession to protect the Jews of Palestine from the Ottoman Turks in 1917 and his encouraging the idea of the establishment of a Jewish homeland in Palestine in 1925.

Gary Krupp further stated "Since presumed history has been the justification for hatred, vendettas and wars throughout civilized human existence, aren't the historians charged with a moral and vital responsibility to get the story straight? People are killed every day because of historical vendettas. A personal disappointment resulting from our research was the realization that we all have been let down by many who represent themselves as historians. These individuals, with private agendas, have simply failed to research the evidence of this era properly and have remained silent when the absurd fanatics manipulate the truth. If PTWF, as amateur fact finders, can uncover so much information, how is it that the so-called historians and academic institutions have allowed the 46-year-old assessment of Pius XII to continue unchallenged? The universal academic response to this historical void has only been that "we reserve judgment of Pacelli until the Vatican opens the un-catalogued section of full papacy of Pius XII." The result of this academic negligence has been discord and anger among people."

The universal accolades and gratitude to Pope Pius XII was radically changed in 1963 with the performances of the fictitious play The Deputy by Rolf Hochhuth performed five years after his death. We have discovered, through confirmed testimony that this play was part of a KGB plot called "seat 12", which was strategically planned to destroy the reputation of the Catholic Church. One must compare this intentional manipulation of facts to that of Rolf Hochhuth's close friend David Irving who, as the world famous Holocaust denier, still preaches his distorted account of the holocaust under the label of historian.


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From our unbiased research, and based on the mountains of evidence we have discovered, the undeniable conclusion is that Pope Pius XII was a true hero of WWII. Quite possibly he saved more Jews than all of the world's religious and political leaders combined. Moreover, in the true spirit of heroism, he did all this with the direct threat of German rifles leveled 200 yards under his very windows.

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## Foundation says documents will show Pius helped Jews

June 16, 2009

ROME (JTA) -- A New York-based foundation says it will release original documents showing that controversial wartime Pope Pius XII worked to aid Jews during the Holocaust.

In a statement Tuesday, Pave the Way Foundation President Gary Krupp said the 2,300 pages of documents, dating from 1940-45, were discovered through the foundation's private research and provide "strong support to the argument that Pope Pius XII -- Eugenio Pacelli -- worked diligently to save Jews from Nazi tyranny."

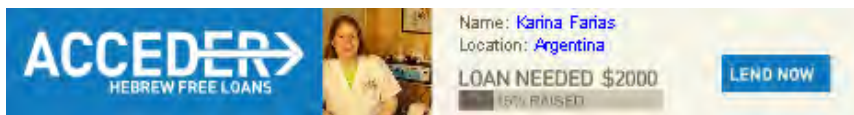
Krupp said many of the documents were discovered in a monastery in Avellino, Italy.

Krupp, who is Jewish, has close ties with the Vatican and twice has been named a Papal knight. He announced last year that Pave the Way, a nonsectarian foundation that promotes interfaith cooperation, would investigate the papacy of Pius XII by interviewing eyewitnesses and gathering publicly available documentation and newspaper accounts.

The aim of the investigation is to disprove critics who accuse Pius of having turned a blind eye to Jewish suffering during the Holocaust.

In his statement, Krupp criticized historians with "private agendas" for having "let down" the public by failing to research properly.

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[Ari H](#)

06/16/09 04:28 PM

Hmmm...I'm very suspicious of why -

- 1) These documents have only just come to light, given the high profile of the issue of the behavior of Pope Pius XII during the Holocaust, and
- 2) Why a guy with such strong links with the Vatican is the researcher who has somehow discovered them.

We'll have to wait and see, but I think there are reasons to be very sceptical.

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## 2300 pages of evidence clear Pius XII: Findings



The Pave the Way Foundation for interreligious dialogue has announced that it has found more than 2,300 pages of original documents illustrating Pope Pius XII's efforts to help Jews in the face of Nazism.

Gary Krupp, president of the New York-based foundation, affirmed this in a statement to ZENIT, and stated that the documents from the years 1940-1945 will be made available to the public for research.

The president, himself a Jew, reported that these papers, found through the organization's private research, give "strong support to the argument that Pope Pius XII - Eugenio Pacelli - worked diligently to save Jews from Nazi tyranny."

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The foundation's statement noted the possibility that "many more vital documents could be found in larger dioceses, if researchers simply took the time to look."

Krupp continued: "Since presumed history has been the justification for hatred, vendettas and wars throughout civilized human existence, aren't the historians charged with a moral and vital responsibility to get the story straight? People are killed every day because of historical vendettas.

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themselves as historians.

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Published: June 17, 2009

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As a part of a private research project, the foundation found the documents in a monastery in Avellino, Italy.

The foundation's statement noted the possibility that "many more vital documents could be found in larger dioceses, if researchers simply took the time to look."

Krupp continued: "Since presumed history has been the justification for hatred, vendettas and wars throughout civilized human existence, aren't the historians charged with a moral and vital responsibility to get the story straight? People are killed every day because of historical vendettas.

"A personal disappointment resulting from our research was the realisation that we all have been let down by many who represent themselves as historians.

"These individuals, with private agendas, have simply failed to research the evidence of this era properly and have remained silent when the absurd fanatics manipulate the truth."



If our foundation, he said, as "amateur fact finders, can uncover so much information, how is it that the so-called historians and academic institutions have allowed the 46 year old assessment of Pius XII to continue unchallenged, impacting the opinions and relationships of over one billion people?"

The foundation will offer these documents for worldwide historical study on its website.

The statement observed that "universal" gratitude to Pius XII was "radically changed" five years after his death, through a fictional play by Rolf Hochhuth called "The Deputy."

The foundation reported the "confirmed testimony that this play was part of a KGB plot called 'seat 12,' which was strategically planned to destroy the reputation of the Catholic Church."

This research, the foundation stated, supports the "undeniable conclusion" that "Pope Pius XII was a true hero" of World War II.

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[New evidence says Pius XII helped Jews \(Zenit\)](#)

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## Edward Pentin

### Evidence Surfaces on Hitler Plot to Kill Pius XII

Thursday, June 18, 2009 11:21 AM

By: Edward Pentin

Rumors have persisted for a long time that Adolf Hitler wanted to kidnap or kill Pope Pius XII, but facts have come to light supporting the theory, adding to ever-growing evidence clearing the wartime pontiff's name.

In 1972, former SS General Karl Wolf referred to such a plan in a meeting he said he had with the Pope on May 10, 1944. His story never could be verified.

However, articles in the Italian bishops' newspaper *Avvenire* and the Vatican newspaper *L'Osservatore Romano* this week provided more concrete details about a plan the Reichssicherheitsamt (the Reich's Security Headquarters) hatched in Berlin in 1943.

The reports cite a viable source: the son of one of the key people involved, Niki Freytag von Loringhoven, who is now 72.

According to his account, a secret meeting took place July 29-30, 1943, in Venice to inform the head of Italian counterintelligence, Gen. Cesare Ame, of the Führer's wish to punish Italians for the arrest of Benito Mussolini by kidnapping or killing Pius XII and the king of Italy.

The plan arrived directly from Berlin, from the head of German counterintelligence, Adm. Wilhelm Canaris, and two colonels of Section II (sabotage), Erwin von Lahousen and Wessel Freytag von Loringhoven.

As soon as Ame returned to Rome, the news got out and the plan was shelved, according to the report in *Avvenire*.

The news is further testament to a well-known fact in church circles: Pius XII was certainly no friends of the Nazis. It follows a growing groundswell of opinion, also among many prominent Jews, that Pius XII not only did all he could to save Jews during World War II but also risked his life to help them.

Last week, *L'Osservatore Romano* editor Giovanni Maria Vian published a book that further quashed the so-called "black legend" surrounding Pope Pius XII – that he did too little to defend Jews during the war. Vian, like many others, says the smears were the work of communists, with the help of church progressives.

Rolf Hochhuth's 1963 play "The Deputy," which helped create the "black legend," was based in part on a propaganda work published by the Soviet Academy of Sciences, Vian says. Pius XII was vehemently anti-communist, and the Soviets saw him as a serious threat to the regime.

The editor stressed that Pius XII worked in discreet ways to help the Jews, taking that low-key approach to avoid worsening their plight at the hands of their German persecutors.

The Pope "often questioned himself about his attitude, which was nevertheless a conscious choice that he endured in order to save the greatest possible number of human victims rather than continually denouncing the evil with the real danger of still greater horrors," Vian explained.

Church progressives who wanted to create a distance between Pope Pius and his successor, Blessed John XXIII, also worked to smear the wartime pontiff's reputation, he said.

Meanwhile, the U.S.-based Pave the Way Foundation has said it has discovered 2,300 unpublished documents from the World War II era that provide further evidence that Pope Pius XII worked to save Jews from the Holocaust.

The New York-based foundation, which Jewish entrepreneur Gary Krupp founded, said the newly discovered documents were housed in an Italian monastery. Many more similar documents may lie undiscovered, he said.

Krupp, who has made a special study of the wartime papacy, estimates that Pius XII may have saved as many as 800,000 Jewish lives through his actions, which ranged from instructing local bishops and apostolic delegates to protect them from the Nazis, to asking convents, monasteries, and the Vatican itself to open their doors and offer them refuge.

“From our unbiased research, and based on the mountains of evidence we have discovered, the undeniable conclusion is that Pope Pius XII was a true hero of WWII,” Krupp said in a statement. “Quite possibly he saved more Jews than all of the world’s religious and political leaders combined. Moreover, in the true spirit of heroism, he did all this with the direct threat of German rifles leveled 200 yards under his very windows.”

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## FEATURES

# 'My wife and I grew up hating Pius XII'

*But today Gary Krupp devotes his life to debunking the wartime pontiff's persistent critics. He tells Simon Caldwell why*

VIEW

Clicking through images

the Church under Pius



But today Gary Krupp devotes his life to debunking the wartime pontiff's persistent critics. He tells Simon Caldwell why

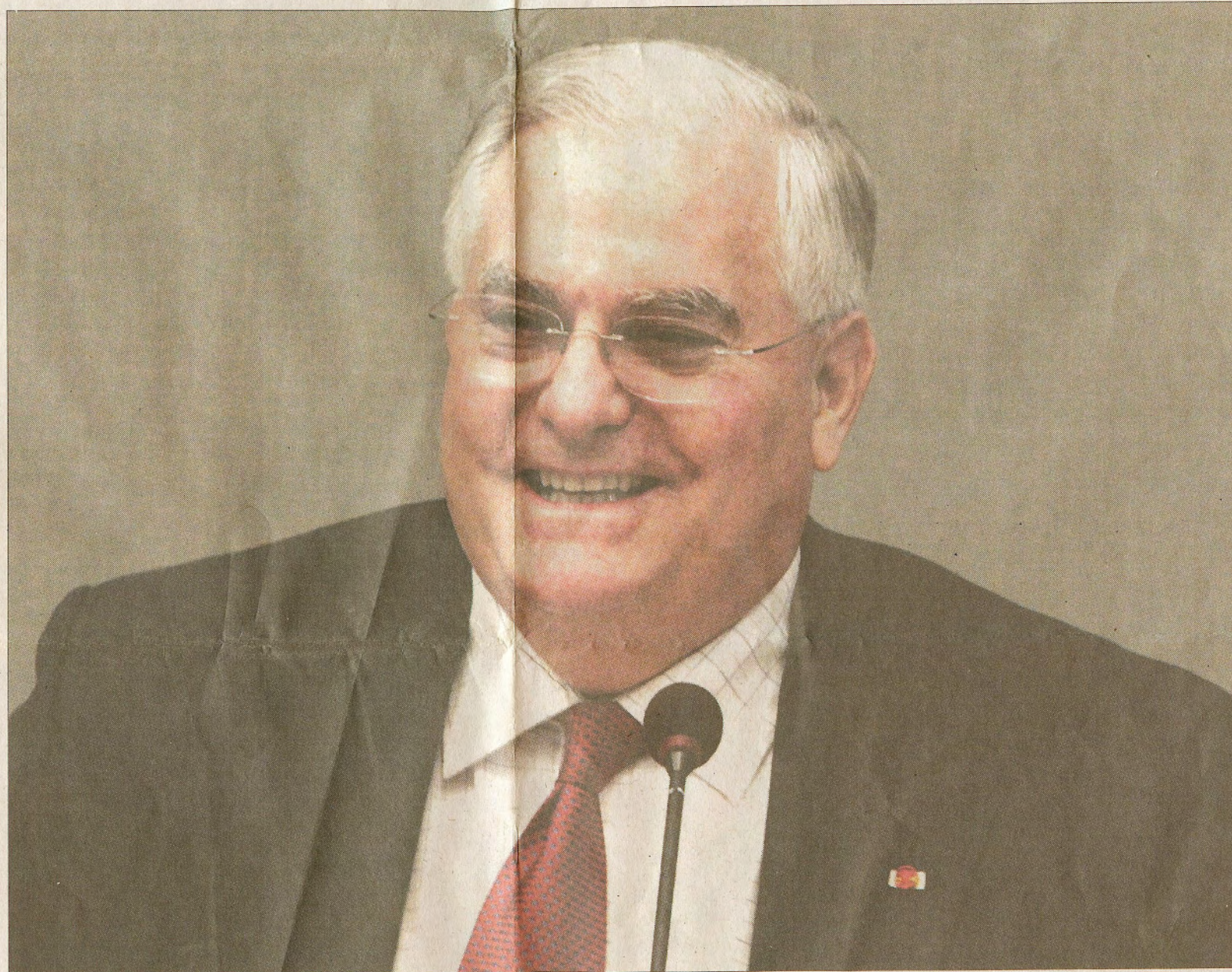
Flicking through images on his BlackBerry, Gary Krupp shows me a picture of himself embracing Pope John Paul II. "I loved him!" he exclaims.

"He is the guy who knighted me," he continues, in reference to his admission to the Pontifical Equestrian Order of St Gregory the Great, then moving on to an image of himself with Pope Benedict XVI, he adds: "And this is the guy who promoted me [as a Knight commander of the same order]."

Flight delays made our meeting in the bar of a London hotel very late and Krupp and his wife Meredith were tired. We had been talking about Pope Pius XII for nearly two hours and were about to call it a day after none of us could recall the name of Pius's Secretary of State (Cardinal Luigi Maglione) who, on his orders, protested to Ernst von Weizsacker, the German Ambassador, against the deportation of Rome's Jews by the SS.

In spite of the grim subject matter the conversation lightens as fatigue begins to kick in. Krupp is a sociable man, a New Yorker who exudes the charm and quick wit that make many East Coast Americans so likeable. It is easy to have a drink with men like him; you don't feel a stranger for very long.

He is in London because a British television firm is making a documentary about his work on Pius. He is an interesting enough figure to warrant such attention. He is proudly Jewish, a Zionist who, after a successful career fitting hospital suites with new imaging technologies, is spending his retirement battling to restore the reputation of a pontiff maligned as a Nazi sympathiser. Correcting this revision of history is a "Jewish issue", argues Krupp, because Pius was a man who "in just



Gary Krupp: 'My past impression of Pius was completely wrong. I was then angry because I was misled by those who call themselves historians'

ered to be the world's leading expert on the wartime role of Pius.

The collection of 25,000 documents contained photocopies of wartime papers from the Vatican's Secret Archives

the Church under Pius saved up to 850,000 lives – more than all the international agencies put together.

Most recently, the American professor David Dalin, a rabbi, has used historical evidence to demonstrate that the attacks on Pius are ideologically motivated, largely emanating from "lapsed and angry Catholics" intent on damaging the papacy, and which, he argues, in reality amount to a form of Holocaust denial because they disparage the testimonies of survivors. Sir Martin Gilbert, the world's leading authority on the Holocaust, is among those who believe Pius should be considered as a Righteous Gentile.

In this light, the restoration of Pius's reputation is an issue of truth and justice. But to Krupp it remains principally a Jewish issue because it has the potential to alienate his people from a billion Catholics whom they should consider as historic allies. "Today, with the dangers to the Jewish people and to the state of Israel, we need to do everything possible to eliminate these obstacles when they are simply not based on facts," Krupp explained. "We really need every friend we can get."

In this respect his work is a deadly serious venture and is as much concerned with the future as the past. It should be seen by Christians and Jews alike as a *mitzvah* – a Jewish good deed.

# MAGNIFICAT

more than Oscar Schindler saved during the entire war.

The Pave the Way Foundation, the organisation the Krupps founded in 2002 to help to remove non-theological obstacles between faiths, has identified the role of Pius as the biggest stumbling block in Catholic-Jewish relations for the last 46 years when in fact it should be a reason for closer unity.

"Merry and I grew up hating Pius XII," Krupp explained. "I did two years of personal research before we decided that we should tackle this project. With further research, I was 100 per cent convinced that my past impression of him was completely wrong. I was then angry because I was misled by those who call themselves historians."

He believes that Pius will eventually be exonerated. All most people know about him is that he was "Hitler's Pope", says Krupp: "But if you go to an average person with the information that we have found they can only come to one conclusion - that this guy was the greatest hero of World War Two. We can prove it. We have something on our side - documented proof - where the revisionists haven't a scrap of paper to support their theories."

To find such proof the foundation has commissioned the German historian Michael Hesemann to search the Vatican archives opened two years ago by Pope Benedict XVI. These cover the period from 1922 to 1939, the years when Eugenio Pacelli served as nuncio to Bavaria and then as Pope Pius XI's "Jew-loving" Secretary of State, as he was referred to by the Nazis.

Krupp says he was surprised to learn that "literally none" of the "Monday-morning quarterbacks" who criticise Pius have visited the archives. Yet the same critics, he says, continue to wrongfully dismiss each new finding as either old or irrelevant as they "defend their theories at the expense of historical accuracy".

Some of the new evidence is hard to ignore, however. One piece, discovered in the diary of a Rome convent, revealed that Pius directly ordered the religious houses of Rome to hide the city's Jews on October 16 1943, the same day his protest at their deportation was ignored.

When I met Krupp he was buzzing about a separate project the foundation was due to begin in cataloguing the private archives of Fr Robert Graham, a Californian Jesuit who until his death in 1997 was consid-

can archives have opened as of today," said Krupp. But after the project became public, permission to publicise the documents was denied.

It would represent the second setback Krupp, 61, has suffered recently. Last September he sponsored a symposium on Pius in Rome. He invited Pius's most trenchant critics to attend, but they not only refused but also then attacked the symposium as one-sided, which was "comical", according to Krupp, because they were complaining about a situation of their own making.

Pope Benedict used the symposium, however, to express his own conviction that, when "free from ideological prejudices", Pius could be seen as a "noble pope" who "spared no effort in intervening" on behalf of the Jews, "either directly or through instructions given to other individuals or to institutions of the Catholic Church". Those rabbis who attended the event went away convinced that Pius was one of the unsung heroes of the Holocaust, says Krupp.

**N**ot all Jews approve of what Krupp is doing. There is a substantial body of opposition among them to the beatification of Pius XII, leading to claims that Krupp does not represent the views of the Jewish mainstream and that he is something of a maverick. Yet he fits neatly into a long line of prominent Jews to defend Pius. These date to at least 1940 when Albert Einstein vigorously defended the Catholic Church as the only institution in Nazi Germany that "stood squarely across the path of Hitler's campaign for suppressing truth".

Throughout that decade tributes to Pius came from Chaim Weizmann, Israel's first president; Moshe Sharett, Israel's first foreign minister, and Isaac Herzog, the chief rabbi of Israel. Pius granted an audience to 80 concentration camp survivors who wanted to thank him personally for helping to save lives. The chief rabbi of Rome, Israel Zolli, became a Catholic and took as his baptismal name Eugenio in tribute to the Pope. When Pius died in 1958 Golda Meir, Israel's foreign minister and future prime minister, praised him for raising his voice "when fearful martyrdom came to our people".

Since the Sixties most of the evidence in defence of Pius has been unearthed by Jewish historians, most notably by Pinchas Lapide who used Yad Vashem's records to show that

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## **Document Names Pius XII as Co-Conspirator Against Hitler**

Foundation to Publish New Evidence from Germany

NEW YORK, JUNE 22, 2009 ([Zenit.org](http://Zenit.org)).- A foundation that promotes interreligious dialogue is publishing new documents from Germany that gives evidence of Pope Pius XII's work against Hitler during World War II.

Gary Krupp, president of the New York-based Pave the Way Foundation, affirmed this Sunday in a statement to ZENIT that despite accusations of being "pro-Hitler," the Pontiff was actively opposing the Nazi leader.

The foundation acknowledged the controversy surrounding the Pope's actions during Hitler's regime, and asserted that this is a "continued source of discord between Jews and Catholics."

Thus the organization launched a "thorough investigation to uncover documentary evidence and record eyewitness testimony" about the real story of Pius XII.

The president, himself a Jew, stated, "In the furtherance of our mission we are continuously working hard to locate and post as many documents possible of the war years in order to clarify the papacy of Pope Pius XII."

He added, "During a recent mission to Germany, along with our [foundation's] representative in Germany, Michael Hesemann, we discovered and posted many new unseen original documents on our Web site that may change the face of this entire controversy."

This evidence, the statement asserted, "seems to confirm that Pope Pius XII was an active enemy of Adolph Hitler."

Krupp explained that the Pope was "named as a co-conspirator in the assassination attempt on Hitler's life of July 20, 1944."

On the foundation's Web site, he added, is posted the image of the Kaltenbrunner Report to Adolf Hitler dated Nov. 29, 1944 on the background of the plot.

"The report specifically names Eugenio Pacelli, Pope Pius XII, as being a party in the attempt," he said.

The president also noted the online posting of the actual affidavit of Heinrich Himmler's deputy and German commander in Italy, General Karl Wolff.

He reported: "Wolff testifies that he was ordered by Hitler to plan an invasion of the Vatican to kidnap Pius XII and seize the Vatican. This kidnapping plan has been discounted by many historians because of a lack of documented proof."

7,000 saved

Krupp said that another event that added to the controversy concerns the deportation of over 1,000 Jews who were taken from Rome and killed at the Auschwitz concentration camp.

He stated that the foundation posted the "original cable from German command in Berlin to SS headquarters in Rome, ordering the arrest of 8,000 Roman Jews to be taken, not to Auschwitz, but to the labor camp of Mauthausen."

Krupp continued: "Only a little over 1,000 were arrested after a successful papal intervention.

"We have confirmed the personal and direct action of Pope Pius XII to stop the arrests of the Jews in Rome Oct. 16, 1943. No evidence has yet turned up about why those arrested were taken to the death camp of Auschwitz rather than the labor camp."

He speculated, however, that "because of the successful papal intervention to stop arrests, the order to Mauthausen was countermanded by persons unknown and over 1,000 Jews were sent to Auschwitz to their death in retribution."

After the arrests, Krupp noted, Pius XII sent a representative to appeal for the release of the 1,000 Jews, but "he was refused admittance."

The cable suggests the possibility that "the Church believed they could rescue these 1,000 victims and negotiate their release," he affirmed.

The president reported that the Pontiff "ordered that Jews of Rome were to be given sanctuary in Church properties and Catholic homes, suspending cloister rules so that men could be admitted to convents and women to monasteries throughout Europe."

"He literally hid over 7,000 Jews in one day," Krupp added.

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# DOMINUS JESUS CHRISTUS (PHILIPPIANS 2:11)

MONDAY, JUNE 22, 2009

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**Education News**

**Pave the Way Foundation Reveals Evidence of Pope Pius XII's Active Opposition to Hitler**

In documents recently obtained in Germany, now available at [www.ptwf.org](http://www.ptwf.org), the Pope is named as co-conspirator in plot to kill Hitler, General Wolff affidavit to kidnap the Pope, revealing cable to arrest the Roman Jews

New York 6/24/2009 01:35 PM GMT (TransWorldNews)

New York June 24, 2009- Pave the Way Foundation (PTWF), a non-sectarian organization founded to remove obstacles between religions, foster cooperation and to end the misuse of religion for private agendas, has revealed new documentary evidence of Pave Pope Pius XII's actions during WWII, specifically his active opposition to Hitler and to Hitler's National Socialism.

Pope Pius XII has been at the center of controversy since the 1963 release of a play entitled "The Deputy" portrayed him as being pro-Hitler. Called "Hitler's Pope" in a popular book, he has been accused of failing to speak out against Hitler's regime of oppression, especially against the Jews. Pave the Way Foundation identified this controversy as a continued source of discord between Jews and Catholics and initiated a thorough investigation to uncover documentary evidence and record eye witness testimony.

"In the furtherance of our mission we are continuously working hard to locate and post as many documents possible of the war years in order to clarify the papacy of Pope Pius XII," stated Gary Krupp, President of Pave the Way Foundation. "During a recent mission to Germany, along with our PTWF representative in Germany, Michael Hesemann, we discovered and posted many new unseen original documents on our website that may change the face of this entire controversy."

The evidence seems to confirm that Pope Pius XII was an active enemy of Adolph Hitler. The pope was named as a co-conspirator in the assassination attempt on Hitler's life of July 20, 1944. The image of the Kaltenbrunner Report to Adolf Hitler dated Nov. 29, 1944 on the background of the plot is posted on our website. The report specifically names Eugenio Pacelli, Pope Pius XII, as being a party in the attempt.

In addition we have posted the actual affidavit of Heinrich Himmler's deputy and German commander in Italy, General Karl Wolff. Wolff testifies that he was ordered by Hitler to plan an invasion of the Vatican to kidnap the Pope Pius XII and seize the Vatican. This kidnapping plan has been discounted by many historians because of a lack of documented proof.

Another controversial event is deportation over 1000 Jews who were taken from Rome and killed in the concentration camp at Auschwitz. We have posted the original cable from German command in Berlin to SS headquarters in Rome, ordering the arrest of 8000 Roman Jews to be taken, not to Auschwitz, but to the labor camp of Mauthausen. Only a little over 1000 were arrested after a successful papal intervention. We have confirmed the personal and direct action of Pope Pius XII to stop the arrests of the Jews in Rome October 16, 1943. No evidence has yet turned up about why those



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arrested were taken to the death camp of Auschwitz rather than the labor camp.



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One can speculate that because of the successful papal intervention to stop arrests, the order to Mauthausen was countermanded by persons unknown and over 1000 Jews were sent to Auschwitz to their death in retribution. When the arrests ended, Pope Pius XII sent a representative to the holding area to plea for the release of the 1000 Jews that were arrested, but he was refused admittance. With the revelation of this cable, there remains the real unconfirmed possibility that the Church believed they could rescue these 1000 victims and negotiate their release believing they were being taken to Mauthausen as hostages.

Pope Pius XII ordered that Jews of Rome were to be given sanctuary in Church properties and Catholic homes, suspending cloister rules so that men could be admitted to Convents and women to Monasteries throughout Europe. He literally hid over 7000 Jews in one day.

We encourage all to visit our website to view the documents directly to learn the truth of the actions of the Holy See during the war.

About Pave the Way Foundation

Pave the Way Foundation is dedicated to bridging the non-theological 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 true faithful embracing their similarities and savoring their differences. More information on the Foundation can be found at [www.ptwf.org](http://www.ptwf.org).

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## [The Case for Pius XII Grows Stronger](#)

Following up an [earlier post](#) I made here at The American Catholic, I wanted to see how the beatification process for Pope Pius XII was coming along. The Catholic News Agency reported on June 22:

Fr. Peter Gumpel S.J., the priest leading Pius XII's beatification process, said at a conference in Rome last week that Pope Benedict XVI was "impressed" by concerns that Jewish relations could be marred by a declaration of the World War II era Pope as a Servant of God.

I understand the necessity of playing this delicate game, but at the core of this controversy is *historical truth*. It saddens me to no end that so many Jews – and plenty of Catholics and secular commentators as well – are willing to believe the worst about Pius XII when there is so much evidence that not only casts doubt on the "Hitler's Pope" argument, but actually obliterates it. There have been some new developments this year that only make the defense of Pius XII easier, and the complaints of his critics even more detached from honesty and reality.

Back in March, Fr. Gumpel found [written evidence](#), a note by Pius instructing the Augustinian Nuns of the Roman Monastery to take in Jews:

"The Holy Father wishes to save his children, the Jews as well, and orders that the Monasteries provide hospitality to these persecuted people." The note is from November of 1943 and includes a list of 24 people taken in by the monastery in response to the Holy Father's request.

Of course, most of the evidence to date has been oral testimony, and understandably so; putting too much down in writing under Nazi rule was libale to be dangerous and to end up *harming* the effort to save as many Jews as possible. On that note, one of the most unreasonable claims made about Pius is that he didn't "say" enough; aside from the fact that he was not exactly silent, what good would an outburst against the Nazi occupiers have done? No rational person could possibly condemn the Pope for verbal restraint, especially when it is obvious that he was operating silently and effectively to undermine the Holocaust.

Next we have Gary Krupp, president of the Pave the Way Foundation, which will be analyzing all of the documents gathered by Fr. Gumpel – over 25,000 that have never before been seen. It is not, however, because they are secret documents. CNA quotes Krupp:

"Of the critics who have accused Pius XII, **nobody has come to the Vatican archives to see what was open until 1939**, which represents a great percentage of his public life."

Krupp said that German historian Michael Hesemann has been investigating the open archives. Each time he enters the archive, Krupp said, he comes out with an "astounding" document about **Pius XII fighting anti-Semitism or saving Jewish lives**.

"**This information is so readily available, but nobody has gone to look**," he said, saying historians and critics of Pius XII's pontificate **do not have to wait for the sealed archives** to open when they have "so much material they can look at."

It is high time that the Papacy and faithful Catholics take an unapologetic stand in defense of Pius XII. The attack on his memory is not an attack on one man, but on the entire institution, the entire Church. And why should that surprise us? As I noted in my last post, much of the public outcry against Pius was instigated by a work of fiction – one might say, a deliberately orchestrated lie – called "The Deputy". For years it was known by a few and suspected by many that this play, or at least the ideas within it, was commissioned by the KGB as part of a plan to undermine the Papacy in Western Europe.

Earlier this year, a former KGB agent, Lt. General Ion Mihai Pacepa, [candidly described](#) the campaign:

"In February 1960, Nikita Khrushchev approved a super-secret plan for destroying the Vatican's moral authority in

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Political News

**Pave the Way Foundation announces the appointment of Mr Frank MacKay to its board of directors**

New York 6/30/2009 08:16 PM GMT (TransWorldNews)

Pave the Way Foundation (PTWF) has announced the appointment of Mr Frank MacKay to its board of directors. "Mr. MacKay has distinguished himself in the felids of public relations, entertainment and politics and processes a unique drive towards making the world a better place to live, he will be an outstanding addition to our distinguished board" said Gary Krupp President of PTWF.

Mr. MacKay commented, "As the world increasingly becomes one through an interconnected technological revolution – enabling people from all walks of life to communicate instantaneously -- the time is now to overcome religious fanaticism as a justification to fight wars. As the Chairman of the Independence Party of America, we encourage open dialogue among political affiliations for the benefit of the common good. The Pave the Way Foundation is working tirelessly to achieve a similar mandate among varying religious sects to benefit all humanity. To this end, I look forward to working with its Founder, Gary Krupp, and the Board of Directors, towards the goal of lasting interfaith peace in the world."

About Pave the Way Foundation

Pave the Way Foundation is dedicated to eliminating the non-theological obstacles between religions and initiating historic 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 true faithful embracing their similarities and savoring their differences. More information on the Foundation can be found at [www.ptwf.org](http://www.ptwf.org).

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venerdì, 03 luglio 2009

## **PTWF proporrà Pio XII come “Giusto fra le Nazioni”**

**La “Pave The Way” ha raccolto molti documenti storici su Pio XII**

da *Zenit* (02/07/2009)

La Fondazione [Pave the Way](#) (PTWF) ha annunciato la propria intenzione di proporre allo Yad Vashem, il Memoriale dell'Olocausto di Gerusalemme, il conferimento del titolo di “Giusto tra le Nazioni” a Eugenio Pacelli, Papa Pio XII.

La Fondazione, con sede a New York, ha ottenuto dall'ufficio del Dipartimento dei Giusti tra le Nazioni dello Yad Vashem le linee guida per proporre una persona per il riconoscimento, e ora si attiverà in tal senso.



Il presidente dell'organizzazione [Gary Krupp](#) (nella foto) ha affermato che «la PTWF ha dedicato anni a raccogliere documenti e testimonianze video originali su questo pontificato controverso e crede di aver scoperto materiale sufficiente per iniziare a cercare le testimonianze scritte autenticate per dare ufficialmente il via a questa procedura», ricorda un comunicato della Fondazione inviato a *Zenit*.

«Nella maggior parte dei casi di coloro che sono stati riconosciuti come Giusti fra le Nazioni, chi riceve il riconoscimento ha agito direttamente per salvare vite individuali rischiando la propria nel farlo», ha osservato Krupp.

Anche se le azioni di Eugenio Pacelli «non rientrano in questa descrizione generale», ha aggiunto, «possiamo stabilire che la diretta intercessione del Papa ha salvato centinaia di migliaia di ebrei».

«A causa della natura dell'alta carica che ricopriva, ovviamente, Pacelli non è stato quasi mai a diretto contatto con chi ha salvato. Un'eccezione conosciuta è il caso dell'intercessione a favore del dottor Guido Mendes, un amico di infanzia ebreo ortodosso. Pacelli è intervenuto personalmente per mandare la famiglia Mendes in Palestina nel 1938».

Secondo Krupp, «si può anche affermare che le azioni di Pacelli sono state compiute sotto minaccia di morte. In un incontro d'emergenza con i Cardinali chiesto da Papa Pio XII il 6 settembre 1943, informò i porporati di aver firmato una lettera di dimissioni che si trovava sulla sua scrivania e che si aspettava di essere rapito da un momento all'altro».

«I Cardinali avrebbero dovuto fare le valigie ed essere pronti a lasciare immediatamente il Vaticano per chiedere aiuto a un Governo neutrale, da dove avrebbero eletto un nuovo Papa. Questo incontro d'emergenza avvenne un mese prima dell'arresto degli ebrei di Roma e il Papa decise di intercedere subito per salvarli».

«Questo documento non è ancora disponibile, ma sappiamo che esiste», ha dichiarato Krupp. «Di recente

abbiamo ottenuto dalla Germania l'affidavit del generale Karl Wolff, vice di Himmler e comandante in Italia, al quale Hitler ordinò di progettare la conquista del Vaticano e di rapire il Papa».

Krupp ha affermato che si cercheranno testimonianze di persone che spesso non sanno nemmeno che fu Pacelli a salvare loro la vita con le sue azioni.

Un esempio è il trasferimento di ebrei nella Repubblica Dominicana. «Abbiamo la testimonianza video di monsignor Giovanni Ferrofino, di 97 anni, segretario del Nunzio a Port-au-Prince (Haiti) durante la Seconda Guerra Mondiale, che insieme al Nunzio agì personalmente agli ordini diretti di Pio XII due volte l'anno per ottenere visti per gli ebrei che arrivavano dal Portogallo nella Repubblica Dominicana».

«Questa azione salvò oltre 10.000 ebrei, che vennero mandati in America con l'aiuto di monsignor Ferrofino attraverso Cuba, il Messico e il Canada».

«Speriamo che in queste circostanze speciali lo Yad Vashem agisca per verificare le informazioni che invieremo. Il lavoro consiste ora nel localizzare molti di questi sopravvissuti o i loro parenti perché si ottengano dichiarazioni autenticate».



240x303 30kb

«La dichiarazione più importante che possiamo emettere è che con l'aiuto di molti amici abbiamo individuato migliaia di documenti e non ne siamo riusciti a trovare neanche uno negativo».

«Conformemente alla nostra missione – informa la Fondazione nel suo comunicato – [Pave the Way](#) ha iniziato questo progetto di ricerca privato con la speranza di uscire dall'impasse che dura da 46 anni e di eliminare questo ostacolo che ha conseguenze su un miliardo di persone».

La Fondazione [Pave the Way](#) vuole eliminare gli ostacoli non teologici tra le religioni e promuovere gesti storici a livello culturale e intellettuale per far capire a tutte le religioni del mondo che l'estremismo, la politica e le agende personali non devono avvelenare il messaggio positivo comune a tutte le fedi.

\*\*\*

## **Il prefetto dell'Archivio Segreto Vaticano parla del caso di Pio XII**

### ***Gli archivi potrebbero essere aperti entro pochi anni.***

da [Zenit](#) (02/07/2009)

Entro cinque o sei anni potrebbero essere aperti gli archivi vaticani sulle azioni di Pio XII nella Seconda Guerra Mondiale, ha affermato monsignor Sergio Pagano, prefetto dell'Archivio Segreto Vaticano.

Il presule è intervenuto questo giovedì mattina a un briefing nella Sala Stampa della Santa Sede in occasione del lancio del volume [I documenti vaticani del processo di Galileo Galilei \(1611-1741\)](#), del quale è curatore.

Il prefetto ha dichiarato che la decisione della data esatta dell'apertura degli archivi dipende strettamente dalla decisione del Papa, ma visto il tempo di cui hanno bisogno i ricercatori il processo potrebbe durare cinque o sei anni.



577x703 321kb Secondo monsignor Pagano, si tratta di più di 700 casse di documenti che contengono testi della Segreteria di Stato e delle Nunziature che sottolineano la carità di Papa Pacelli durante il secondo conflitto mondiale.

«Chiunque si rivolgeva a lui: militari, prigionieri, parroci che avevano la Chiesa distrutta, professore che avevano perso l'insegnamento... Il Papa ha aiutato con una carità incredibile», ha constatato.

Il prefetto ha commentato che la Santa Sede ha inviato grandi somme di denaro per opere di carità «durante e dopo la guerra».

Secondo monsignor Pagano, in questi documenti sono inclusi anche «un organigramma di tutti gli italiani, delle condizioni della guerra nei campi di prigionia, e "lettere dei Nunzi che descrivono la situazione dei prigionieri"».

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### **[Pave the Way Foundation Provides Help to Muslim, Christian and Jewish Mothers in Jerusalem](#)**

In the spirit of caring, ecumenism and mutual respect Pave the Way Foundation (PTWF), a non-sectarian New York based foundation sent gifts to the needy of Jerusalem on the Jewish holiday of Purim. Realizing that the poor mothers have a clear need for baby formula, diapers and baby toys, Pave the Way Foundation provided gift baskets to the mothers. Poverty in Israel knows no religious boundaries and so PTWF gave these wonderful gift packages to Muslim, Christian and Jewish mothers in need for their babies.

“A gesture is worth a million words and promises,” said Gary Krupp, founder and President of PTWF. “I asked the PTWF advisor in Jerusalem, famed Sculpture Sam Philipe, what gesture we could make on the occasion of Purim. Sam suggested that we provide a months’ supply of baby formula, diapers and toys, since this critical area of need has always been ignored by many charitable organizations. Supplying these basic needs eases the financial strain these moms are under while sending a loving message to the recipients.”

Sam worked diligently to obtain the products for the gifts and then to distribute them in the poorer areas of Jerusalem. When Sam, an Israeli Jew, went into Arab East Jerusalem to give the gifts to the needy Muslims and Christians, he reported that the normal belligerence to a Jewish Israeli of some of the Arabs was replaced by smiles and genuine affection and gratitude for the gifts. When Sam then went to the needy Jewish recipients, he said that he and his wife Shirley, who helped with the gifts, were brought to tears by the positive response.

Pave the Way Foundation is founded on the idea that concrete gestures of good will between the faiths can do much more than just simple dialog. PTWF held the largest Jewish Papal Audience in history to simply thank Pope John Paul II for all he had done in religious reconciliation. PTWF initiated the first ever loan of a rare manuscript of Maimonides from the Vatican Library to the State of Israel. Recently on January 22, 2007, PTWF participated in the gift of one of the most important Christian Manuscripts in the world, the Bodmer Papyrus, to Pope Benedict XVI and the Vatican Library for worldwide learning. PTWF has initiated many other gestures and projects, all to enhance the common message that the world must come together to oppose religious extremism in every religion and to recognize this abuse as the greatest danger to humanity.

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

Contact Linda Simpson

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a bi-monthly magazine

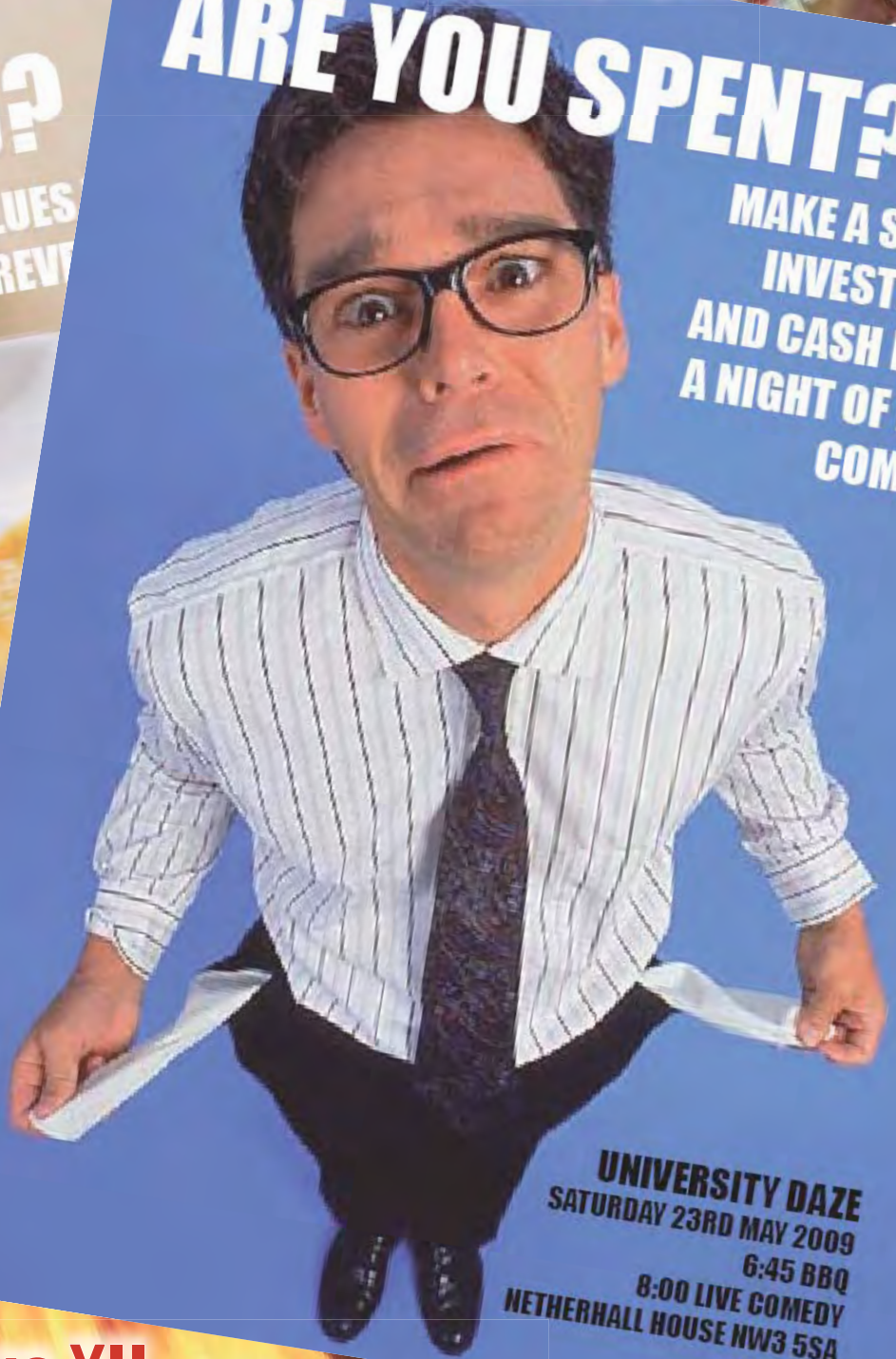
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# Netherhall News

a bi-monthly magazine

London, July 2009

Issue 29

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## GUEST ARTICLE

# 'My Wife and I Grew Up Hating Pope Pius XII'

While some of Pope Pius XII's loudest critics have been baby-boomer Catholics, a growing number of Jews are springing to the wartime pontiff's defence.

Flicking through images on his BlackBerry, Gary Krupp shows me a picture of himself embracing Pope John Paul II. 'I loved him!' he exclaims. 'He is the guy who knighted me,' he continues, in reference to his admission to the Pontifical Equestrian Order of St Gregory the Great, then moving on to an image of himself with Pope Benedict XVI, he adds: 'And this is the guy who promoted me [as a Knight commander of the same order].'

Flight delays made our meeting in the bar of a London hotel very late and Krupp and his wife Meredith were tired. We had been talking about Pope Pius XII for nearly two hours and were about to call it a day after none of us could recall the name of Pius's Secretary of State (Cardinal Luigi Maglione) who, on his orders, protested

to Ernst von Weizsacker, the German Ambassador, against the deportation of Rome's Jews by the SS.

In spite of the grim subject matter the conversation lightens as fatigue begins to kick in. Krupp is a sociable man, a New Yorker who exudes the charm and quick wit that make many East Coast Americans so likeable. It is easy to have a drink with men like him; you don't feel a stranger for very long. He is in London because a British television firm is making a documentary about his work on Pius. He is an interesting enough figure to warrant such attention. He is proudly Jewish, a Zionist who, after a successful career fitting hospital suites with new imaging technologies, is spending his retirement battling to restore the reputation of a pontiff maligned as a Nazi sympathiser. Correcting this revision of history is a

'Jewish issue', argues Krupp, because Pius was a man who 'in just one day hid 7,000 Jews from the Nazis' - nearly six times more than Oscar Schindler saved during the entire war.

The Pave the Way Foundation, the organisation the Krupps founded in 2002 to help to remove non-theological obstacles between faiths, has identified the role of Pius as the biggest stumbling block in Catholic-Jewish relations for the

To find such proof the foundation has commissioned the German historian Michael Hesemann to search the Vatican archives opened two years ago by Pope Benedict XVI. These cover the period from 1922 to 1939, the years when Eugenio Pacelli served as nuncio to Bavaria and then as Pope Pius XI's 'Jew-loving' Secretary of State, as he was referred to by the Nazis.



Pope Pius XII

Krupp says he was surprised to learn that 'literally none' of the 'Monday-morning quarter-backs' who criticise Pius have visited the archives. Yet the same critics, he says, continue to wrongfully dismiss each new finding as either old or irrelevant as they 'defend their theories at the expense of historical accuracy'. Some of the new evidence is hard to ignore, however. One piece, discovered in the

diary of a Rome convent, revealed that Pius directly ordered the religious houses of Rome to hide the city's Jews on October 16 1943, the same day his protest at their deportation was ignored.

When I met Krupp he was buzzing about a separate project the foundation was due to begin in cataloguing the private archives of Fr Robert Graham, a Californian Jesuit who until his death in 1997 was considered to be the world's leading expert on the wartime role of Pius. The collection of 25,000 documents contained photocopies of wartime papers from the Vatican's Secret Archives which will not be released until 2013. 'It's as though the Vatican archives have opened as of today,' said Krupp. But after the project became public, permission to publicise the documents was denied.

last 46 years when in fact it should be a reason for closer unity. 'Merry and I grew up hating Pius XII,' Krupp explained. 'I did two years of personal research before we decided that we should tackle this project. With further research, I was 100 per cent convinced that my past impression of him was completely wrong. I was then angry because I was misled by those who call themselves historians.'

He believes that Pius will eventually be exonerated. All most people know about him is that he was 'Hitler's Pope', says Krupp: 'But if you go to an average person with the information that we have found they can only come to one conclusion - that this guy was the greatest hero of World War Two. We can prove it. We have something on our side - documented proof - where the revisionists haven't a scrap of paper to support their theories.'

## 'My Wife and I Grew Up Hating Pope Pius XII', cont...

It would represent the second setback Krupp, 61, has suffered recently. Last September he sponsored a symposium on Pius in Rome. He invited Pius's most

neatly into a long line of prominent Jews to defend Pius. These date to at least 1940 when Albert Einstein vigorously defended the Catholic Church as the

chief rabbi of Rome, Israel Zolli, became a Catholic and took as his baptismal name Eugenio in tribute to the Pope. When Pius died in 1958 Golda Meir, Israel's foreign minister and future prime minister, praised him for raising his voice 'when fearful martyrdom came to our people'. Since the Sixties most of the evidence in defence of Pius has been unearthed by Jewish historians, most notably by Pinchas Lapid who used Yad Vashem's [Israel's Holocaust Martyrs' and Heroes' Remembrance Authority] records to show that the Church under Pius saved up to 850,000 lives - more than all the international agencies put together.

Most recently, the American professor David Dalin, a rabbi, has used historical evidence to demonstrate that the attacks on Pius are ideologically motivated, largely emanating from 'lapsed and angry Catholics' intent on damaging the papacy, and which, he argues, in reality amount to a form of Holocaust denial because they disparage the testimonies of survivors. Sir Martin Gilbert, the world's leading authority on the Holocaust, is among those who believe Pius should be considered as a Righteous Gentile.

In this light, the restoration of Pius's reputation is an issue of truth and justice. But to Krupp it remains principally a Jewish issue because it has the potential to alienate his people from a billion Catholics whom they should consider as historic allies. 'Today, with the dangers to the Jewish people and to the state of Israel, we need to do everything possible

to eliminate these obstacles when they are simply not based on facts,' Krupp explained. 'We really need every friend we can get.'

In this respect his work is a deadly serious venture and is as much concerned with the future as the past. It should be seen by Christians and Jews alike as a mitzvah - a Jewish good deed.

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*The Hall of Names at Yad Vashem*

trenchant critics to attend, but they not only refused but also then attacked the symposium as one-sided, which was 'comical', according to Krupp, because they were complaining about a situation of their own making. Pope Benedict used the symposium, however, to express his own conviction that, when 'free from ideological prejudices', Pius could be seen as a 'noble pope' who 'spared no effort in intervening' on behalf of the Jews, 'either directly or through instructions given to other individuals or to institutions of the Catholic Church'. Those rabbis who attended the event went away convinced that Pius was one of the unsung heroes of the Holocaust, says Krupp.

Not all Jews approve of what Krupp is doing. There is a substantial body of opposition among them to the beatification of Pius XII, leading to claims that Krupp does not represent the views of the Jewish mainstream and that he is something of a maverick. Yet he fits

only institution in Nazi Germany that 'stood squarely across the path of Hitler's campaign for suppressing truth'.

Throughout that decade tributes to Pius came from Chaim Weizmann, Israel's first president; Moshe Sharett, Israel's first foreign minister, and Isaac Herzog, the chief rabbi of Israel. Pius granted an audience to 80 concentration camp survivors who wanted to thank him personally for helping to save lives. The



*Jews sheltered at Castel Gandolfo*

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July 29, 2009 | Vol. 48, No. 17

## Local man defends Pope Pius XII's war record

By Pete Sheehan  
[sheehan@licatholic.org](mailto:sheehan@licatholic.org)

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Gary Krupp

**LONG BEACH** — Retired Jewish businessman Gary Krupp is a leader of efforts to “pave the way” among people of different religions; he’s been honored by the Vatican for fostering Catholic-Jewish relations and is now working to defend Pope Pius XII against criticism over his record during the Holocaust.

“I think that when you look at all the evidence and consider the time and circumstances in which Pope Pius lived, you can reach only one conclusion: That Pope Pius was one of the greatest heroes of World War II,” helping save an estimated 800,000 or more Jewish lives, Krupp said.

He and his wife co-founded the Pave the Way Foundation, which works to remove nontheological obstacles between religions. In 2000, he became one of the few Jewish people to receive the papal honor of knight commander in

the Pontifical Order of St. Gregory the Great and in 2007 received an additional silver star in the order from Pope Benedict XVI.

Still, in the past, he noted, “My wife, Meredith, and I believed what was widely said and reported in the media — that Pius was silent during the Holocaust and did little if anything to save Jews.” That changed when Krupp was asked to assist historian Dan Kurzman on a book, “The Special Mission: Hitler’s Secret Plot to Seize the Vatican and Kidnap Pope Pius XII.”

“There is evidence that Pope Pius had written his letter of resignation and placed it in his desk. He directed that if the Vatican were to be invaded, all Vatican officials were to flee to a neutral country and hold a conclave to elect a new

Letters to the Editor

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pope," Krupp said.

Pave the Way Foundation gathered evidence and posted about 4,000 pages of documents on its Web site, <http://pavethewayfoundation.org>.

Documents, eyewitness testimony, and other evidence show clear, personal involvement by Pope Pius to save Jews from being sent to Nazi concentration camps, he noted. There is also documentation of a Nazi plot to kidnap Pope Pius and reports that the 1963 play, "The Deputy," by Rolf Hochhuth, alleging papal silence toward the Holocaust, was a part of a KGB plot to discredit the Catholic Church.

Pave the Way also attempts to place the pope's actions in historical context. The Web site gets "700 to 2,000 hits every day from 71 countries," Krupp said. The foundation sponsored a symposium last September at the Vatican. The symposium drew scholars including Eugene Fisher, formerly with the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Secretariat for Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs. Krupp was disappointed that scholars more critical of Pope Pius did not attend.

"We're also working on a documentary" laying out the evidence and arguments, Krupp said.

As Krupp became more aware of Pope Pius' efforts, Pave the Way employed scholars and researchers to find more documentation. "A lot of it is difficult because much of what they did was not written down or was encrypted or burned out of fear that the Nazis would discover evidence of what the Church was doing."

Because Vatican archives are kept sealed while the archives are being catalogued, Krupp said, much of what remains is unavailable for now. "So we looked in other Italian dioceses and other archives and found copies of correspondence of the Vatican."

Among the points that Krupp cites in support of Pope Pius is a 1944 telegram from Pope Pius to Nicholas Horthy, the regent for the Nazi-supported regime in Hungary. The telegram protested Hungary's planned deportation of Jews and pleaded with Horthy to stop it. "That saved 200,000 lives," Krupp said.

There is also communication from a member of a women's religious community instructing convents to give hospitality to Jews despite the difficulty, citing the explicit wish of "the Holy Father."

Pave the Way also presents video testimony by Msgr. Giovanni Ferrofino, who worked for the papal nuncio for Haiti and the Dominican Republic. He carried the pope's personal request to General Rafael Trujillo, leader of the Dominican Republic, to accept large numbers of Jews — more than the U.S. "That saved over 10,000 Jews," Krupp said.

In 1943, Pope Pius acted personally to prevent the deportation of 7,000 Jews in Rome. There were also almost 400 Jews in the Vatican City State. "There were 9,000 Jewish and other refugees who were hidden in the pope's summer residence, Castel Gandolfo," Krupp said. "Are you going to try to tell me that anyone would have done that without Pius' permission?"

Critics of Pope Pius are correct that the pope made no explicit condemnation of Hitler and the Holocaust, Krupp said, but they miss the significance of what Pope Pius did — including statements, widely praised in the press at the time, that implicitly criticized Nazi genocide, and his many covert actions.

"People forget the times that Pope Pius was acting in. There were German rifles 200 yards from his window," Krupp said. "He had to be cautious" or risk greater

loss of life.

Krupp noted that a number of rabbis came to Pave the Way's symposium on Pope Pius last year and reevaluated their position on Pope Pius after hearing the evidence.

Krupp, who made his living developing such medical facilities as diagnostic imaging centers and kidney dialysis centers, received papal honors in 2000 for recruiting medical equipment companies to donate \$15 million worth of equipment for the Casa Sollievo della Sofferenza, an Italian hospital started by Padre Pio.

The honor motivated him to found Pave the Way, involving Christians, Jews, and Muslims. The foundation sets up cultural exchanges, pilgrimages, speakers, and youth projects.

Krupp has found that many Catholics as well as Jewish people harbor negative impressions of Pope Pius and he hopes to reach a broad audience. "Bishop Murphy has been a big help to me.

"This isn't just an issue for Catholics," Krupp said. "It is also a Jewish issue because we have a responsibility to recognize this man for all he did to save Jews."

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SATURDAY, DECEMBER 19, 2009

## Pope Pius XII & Pope John Paul II Declared Venerable; Miracle for Canonization Approved for Bl. Andre` Bessette, Bl. Mary Mackillop & Others

### Pope Pius XII Declared Venerable

Today in Rome, Pope Pius XII and Pope John Paul II were both declared venerable by Pope Benedict XVI — the first step on the road to canonization as saints for both men

By Robert Moynihan, *reporting from America*

=====

In a dramatic move, after long hesitation, Pope Benedict XVI has signed a decree declaring Pope Pius XII -- the Pope who led the Church during the Second World War and has been repeatedly accused by many Jewish and progressive Catholic groups of not doing enough to help the Jews during the Nazi persecution -- as "venerable," the first major step on the road toward canonization as a Catholic saint.

In the same decree, Benedict has declared Pope John Paul II, known for his friendship with the Jewish people and his dramatic visits to the synagogue of Rome in 1986 and to the Western Wall in Jerusalem in 2000, as also worthy to be called "venerable" in the Church.

Benedict's decree, published today in connection with the 40th anniversary of the founding of the Congregation for the Causes of Saints, recognizes the "heroic virtues" of the two Popes, paving the way for their beatification and canonization, which can come with the approval of first one, then a second miracle attributed to their intercession.

Also approved were the martyrdom of the Polish priest Fr Popielusko and a miracle attributed to Mary McKillop (Australia).

Pius XII, the Pope who led the Church during the Second World War (he was Pope from 1939 to 1958), and John Paul II (Pope from 1978 to 2005) are now officially to be called "Venerable" (meaning able to be venerated), because Benedict XVI has confirmed that their lives displayed "heroic virtues," that they were heroes because of their remarkable virtue.

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Saturday, December 19, 2009

## Pope Pius XII, John Paul II Declared Venerable

Posted by Matthew

The following is an excerpt. My comments are in brackets. Emphasis is in bold.



Image Source: AP

Today in Rome, **Pope Pius XII and Pope John Paul II were both declared venerable by Pope Benedict XVI** — the first step on the road to canonization as saints for both men

By Robert Moynihan

In a dramatic move, after long hesitation, Pope Benedict XVI has signed a decree declaring Pope Pius XII -- the Pope who led the Church during the Second World War and has been repeatedly accused by many Jewish and progressive Catholic groups of not doing enough to help the Jews during the Nazi persecution -- as "venerable," the first major step on the road toward canonization as a Catholic saint.

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#### Matthew

Matthew is an undergraduate student seeking a B.A. Major in Accountancy from a private Catholic University in St. Paul, Minnesota. Matthew lives in both St. Paul, Minnesota and Chicagoland, Illinois, although he is usually only in the Chicago area during the summer months. Matthew's personal interests include seeking a preservation of authentic traditional Catholicism, as practiced before the Second Vatican Council. He attends the Tridentine Latin Mass offered by the Priestly Fraternity of St. Peter (FSSP), the Institute of Christ the King Sovereign Priest, the Society of St. Pius X (SSPX), and various other orders and priests. Matthew is a writer of catechism lessons for CatechismClass.com and is available for speaking at conferences, retreats, and other gatherings around the United States. He is also available to assist any parishes seeking to start the Tridentine Latin Mass and is able to assist as an altar server at the Tridentine Latin Mass. Specific requests should be directed to Matthew through email.

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called "Venerable" (meaning able to be venerated), because Benedict XVI has confirmed that their lives displayed "heroic virtues," that they were heroes because of their remarkable virtue.

**This is particularly dramatic with regard to Pius, because he has been accused, not only of not being a hero, but even of being evil, of being "Hitler's Pope."** (A book under that title was published several years ago by British author John Cornwell, who later retracted much of what he had written.) The attacks on Pius seem to have given Benedict pause. Not because he believed their truth, but because he knew that many did believe they were true, and would be scandalized if Pius was declared "Venerable" without clarifying that the charges against him were false. This explains why the documentation to sign the Pius XII decree was given to Pope almost two years ago, and not signed until now.



Many Vatican observers had noted that Benedict was taking his time before signing the decree. Senior Vatican officials told me that he was waiting until Jewish and progressive Catholic groups themselves recognized that the charges of anti-Semitism raised against Pius XII were without foundation. And this is what has occurred.

Over the past several years, due in large measure to the work of committed Catholic and Jewish scholars and activists ranging from Sr. Margherita Marchione, an American Catholic nun, to Gary Krupp, an American Jewish businessman, **clear evidence that Pius XII worked heroically "behind the scenes" to save nearly 1 million Jews from deportation to Nazi concentration camps has now been discovered and published.** (We have

printed much of this in the pages on Inside the Vatican magazine.) In fact, this evidence even suggests that Pius XII did more to help victims of the persecution than virtually any other single person in Europe during the war years, making his denigration all the more unjust. And because an increasing number of scholars have come to conclude that the charges raised against Pius XII were a calumny, the opinion about Pius in the world's Jewish community has slowly been transformed from an absolutely negative one to a far more positive one.

"I received a call from Rome just now to inform me that the Holy Father proclaimed Pius XII as venerable," Krupp emailed to me this morning. "Congratulations to all of you for the hard work over the years to right a terrible wrong perpetrated by the historical revisionists."

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## STUDENTS AT JEWISH COLLEGE SEE PIUS XII'S WWII EFFORTS

### Ready to "Set the Record Straight"

NEW YORK, DEC 11, 2009 ([Zenit.org](#)).- A group of New York university students were the first to see a compilation of new evidence on Pope Pius XII's efforts to save Jews during the Holocaust.

The response of one rabbinic student, Noah Greenfield, was to be "inspired to help in any way I can to set the record straight."

Greenfield was giving his impression after seeing a presentation from the New York-based Pave the Way Foundation, a group that aims to promote interreligious dialogue.

The founder, Gary Krupp, has brought to light some 7,000 pages of documentation showing how Pius XII worked to save Jews during World War II. The foundation is working on a nomination of the Pope for the Yad Vashem title of "Righteous Among the Nations."

The presentation of this evidence was made Tuesday at Yeshiva University to a group of about 70 students. This was the first public presentation for many of the documents.

#### Fanatic

Greenfield said that "Gary Krupp's meticulous documentation convinced me that not only was Pope Pius XII innocent of all charges against him, but that he was the shining exemplar of humanity, faith and courage during the Holocaust."

The research shows how there was worldwide affection and appreciation shown Pius XII until a fictitious 1963 play, called "The Deputy."

The students expressed their amazement at seeing how a single play was able to overshadow proof of the Pope's efforts.

Krupp, himself a Jew, said his research has shown him that "the only phrase that fits the actions of Pope Pius XII in his personal efforts to save the Jewish people from the Nazi onslaught is 'borderline fanatical.'"

He explained: "[The Pope] acted to save as many Jews as he could, even to use trickery to send Jews to countries that said no Jews [could] be admitted. Pacelli ordered false baptismal papers to be issued to the refugees and called them 'Non Aryan Catholic-Jews,' and then many were allowed to emigrate to countries like Brazil, the U.S. and Canada.

"Had these people been really baptized then they would have simply been referred to as Catholics. Many critics have misinterpreted this deception and stated that Pius XII only worked hard to save converted Jews."

Krupp further stated that one characteristic of the Holy Father's work merits special acclaim: "[H]is life saving efforts were done anonymously, which in Jewish tradition is the highest form of charity. He did this when literally no other religious leaders or political leaders of the era did anything by comparison."

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# Jesuit's archive adds to evidence showing Pius XII to be 'greatest hero of World War II'

Comments: 6



New York City, N.Y., Apr 24, 2009 / 05:26 am (CNA). - The Pave the Way Foundation has told CNA that the archives of the late Fr. Robert Graham S.J., who was the Vatican's top expert on the wartime role of Pope Pius XII, will add to the evidence showing Pope Pius XII to be "the greatest hero of World War II."



Pope Pius XII

The Vatican has been collecting evidence of Pope Pius XII's assistance to Jews in Italy, which will be opened in 2013 when its cataloguing efforts are complete.

However, some Jewish groups have accused Pope Pius XII of not doing enough to stop Nazi persecution of Jews in the Holocaust.

The non-sectarian Pave the Way Foundation (PTWF), based in New York City, will have exclusive access to the documents of Fr. Graham.

On its website the Pave the Way Foundation says it is "dedicated to achieving peace by closing the gap in tolerance, education and the practical relations between religions, through cultural, technological and intellectual exchanges. We strive to eliminate the use of religion as a tool which, historically has been used, by some, to achieve personal agendas and to cause conflicts."

CNA contacted PTWF for comment and spoke with Gary Krupp, who is president of the Pave the Way Foundation.

Krupp told CNA that Fr. Dennis McManus will head the analysis team, probably in Washington, D.C.

Fr. McManus, a visiting professor of theology and interreligious studies at Georgetown University, is also a Consultant on Jewish Affairs for the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops.

The research team will first digitize the documents and then assemble them, as they are in disarray. Once the documents are assembled and analyzed, they will be published on the Internet in order "to end this problem between Jews and Catholics," said Krupp, who is Jewish.

Krupp said the digital version of many of the documents will be available in the Education section of the PTWF website, and that many related documents are already on-line.

However, Fr. Graham's Archive includes 25,000 pages of original documents and testimony never before seen.

According to a summary on the PTWF website written by Fr. McManus, the Graham Archive

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"(1) government *demarches*; (2) media reports; (3) eyewitness accounts, taken either by Graham himself or offered in signed format by others; (4) personal interviews; (5) summaries of books and other studies on the papacy of Pius XII and (6) classified and unclassified military and diplomatic reports from field officers in embassies and chanceries from across Europe."

The documents studied by the foundation are under the control of the Jesuits. Krupp said the Vatican archives are sealed because canon law requires cataloguing to be completed, though the process has been accelerated by papal order.

However, the archives of the papacy of Pope Pius XI have been completed and contain much information relevant to the work his successor did until 1939.

"Of the critics who have accused Pius XII, nobody has come to the Vatican archives to see what was open until 1939, which represents a great percentage of his public life."

Krupp said that German historian Michael Hesemann has been investigating the open archives. Each time he enters the archive, Krupp said, he comes out with an "astounding" document about Pius XII fighting anti-Semitism or saving Jewish lives.

"This information is so readily available, but nobody has gone to look," he said, saying historians and critics of Pius XII's pontificate do not have to wait for the sealed archives to open when they have "so much material they can look at."

"That's the disappointing part."

Krupp told CNA that PTFW's purpose is to address non-theological obstacles between religions, and allegations surrounding Pope Pius XII have been "one of greatest obstacles."

"I put in two years of investigation before deciding to take this project on," he said. He advised people to go to the archives of the New York Times or the Palestinian Post and search on the keywords "Pope" and "Jews" from 1939 to 1958.

"You will not find one negative article about this man," he said, speaking of Pius XII. "If he was such an evil 'Hitler's Pope,' you would find so much negativity.

"This man hated Hitler, despised him, and Hitler felt the same way about him.

"A final solution was planned for the Catholics as well as the Jews and the Vatican knew about this, he said, pointing to recent revelations about the Vatican's plans to set up a papacy-in-exile in Portugal in the event of Pope Pius XII's detention by the Nazis.

The evidence, he said, was "against every belief that Pius was anti-Semitic" and caused him to change his mind.

"I was angered because I grew up hating him. This discovery was a personal affront to me because I trust historians to report history correctly. When a historian makes a mistake like this, it's like a moral sin," Krupp told CNA.

"This man was actually the greatest hero of World War II. He saved more Jews than any other religious leaders combined.

"Even under threat of being kidnapped and killed, he tried to stop the arrest of Roman Jews. He managed to save all Jews of Rome except 1,000. In one day he hid 6,000 Jews, supported and fed them.

"This black legend will end," Krupp continued, saying the documents would provide a "flood" of new information that will create an "absolute 180 degree turn" in the Pope's reputation among his detractors.

"There are too many anti-Semites already. We don't need to invent anti-Semites where none exist."

Krupp told CNA that the KGB used Rolf Hochhuth's play *The Deputy* to smear Pius XII as a silent bystander in the Holocaust. He said one historian has called the play "The greatest character assassination of the twentieth century."

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**Published by:** Jonathan Levy  
Hilton Head, South Carolina, United States 04/25/2009 08:28 AM EST

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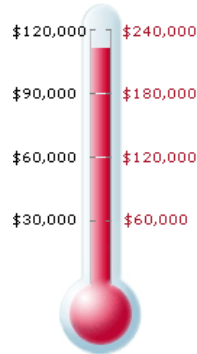
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**Pius XII's New Status Draws Criticism and Praise**

POSTED BY **EDWARD PENTIN**  
Tuesday, December 22, 2009 3:39 PM

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Pope Benedict XVI's decision to proclaim Pope Pius XII as "venerable" surprised and delighted many who have been campaigning to clear the wartime Pope's name, but provoked predictable protests among some Jewish leaders.

Although an increasing number of Jewish and Catholic historians say there is plenty of well-documented evidence to suggest Pius was one of the Second World War's greatest heroes, critics still accuse him of being "silent" and doing nothing to save Jews during the war.

Benedict XVI issued a decree Dec. 19 attesting to the "heroic virtue" of Eugenio Pacelli, pope from 1939 to 1958, giving him the title of "Venerable." Now a panel of medical experts and Vatican theologians can proceed with investigations into alleged miracles attributed to the late Pontiff's intercession. Once a miracle is approved, Pius XII can be beatified.

There are said to be several miracles under investigation. Sister Margherita Marchione, a Religious Teachers Filippini nun who has written more than 60 books on the late Pope, records some of them in a new book soon to be published. They include testimonies of a boy cured of leukemia and parents who were able to have a child after praying to Pope Pacelli.

Following the Dec. 19 announcement, the World Jewish Congress called the move "inopportune and premature," while Yad Vashem in Jerusalem described the move as "regrettable." At the time of this writing, Pope Benedict's planned historic visit to Rome's synagogue on Jan. 17 continued to be "under review." Most of the critics complained that Benedict XVI issued the decree before Vatican Archives documents on Pius' pontificate had been made available to historians.

The Vatican argues that the document volume is vast — 16 million files in total, all of which need to be catalogued. The process not likely to be completed until 2014 at the earliest, according to Vatican spokesman Father Federico Lombardi.

By issuing the decree now, the process can move forward, even if beatification may be years ahead. Father Lombardi stressed "there is nothing hidden or to hide" and that the archives are unlikely to reveal anything historians don't already know. The Vatican also points out that some archives, for example those relating to Pius' life just before his election as pope, are already open to scrutiny by the general public, but are hardly ever examined.

Recently uncovered evidence has led to a growing consensus among respected historians and some prominent Jews that Pius XII acted heroically in saving and protecting Jewish lives. It's widely believed that he was the victim of a smear campaign orchestrated after his death by the Soviet Union, which saw the Church as a threat. Pius was also a fervent anti-communist.

Although unwilling to comment on the beatification process because he is a non-Catholic, Gary Krupp, the Jewish president of Pave the Way, a foundation promoting interreligious dialogue, says Pius should be honored as Righteous Among Nations at Yad Vashem in Jerusalem — the sort of equivalent, he says, of a Jewish canonization.

Over a four-year period, Krupp said his organization has uncovered "a ton of information" supporting the case that Pius XII acted heroically to save thousands of Jews, possibly as many as 860,000 in total. "Through our research of documented proof, we have discovered that secretly he saved more Jews than all of the world's religious and political leaders combined," he added.

Krupp stressed that many of Pius's heroic acts were carried out anonymously and undercover. He and historians also argue that Pius was sometimes silent in condemning the persecution because it had been proven that the louder the Church spoke out, the more the Jews suffered at the hands of the Nazis.

What Krupp finds difficult to fathom is why Jewish leaders today, most of whom were born after the war, refuse to acknowledge these facts, while those who were alive during the war, or knew the Pope personally, had nothing but words of tribute for Pius when he was alive.

"It's the most absurd thing," he said. "I challenge any writers to go to the archives of *The New York Times* or the *Palestine Post* and look up every single article written about Pius XII and the Jews. You'll see hundreds of articles, and not one is negative."

One criticism leveled by Italy's Jewish leaders after Benedict XVI's announcement was that 1,021 Jews



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were deported from Rome to Auschwitz on Oct. 16, 1943, "amidst the silence of Pius XII." But the accusation was denied by Sister Margherita.

"What the Jewish leaders neglect to state is that as soon as Pius XII learned about the deportation of 1,021 Jews to Auschwitz, he ordered his secretary of state, Cardinal Maglione, to protest," she said. "The Nazi commander immediately stopped the deportation of the remaining 5,000 Jews. They were saved because Pius XII sent word to the 155 convents and monasteries in Rome to open their doors and hide the Jews."

Adding to Sister Margherita's research, Krupp's foundation recently discovered a telegram showing an order from Berlin to take those Jews as hostages to Mauthausen rather than send them to Auschwitz.

"There is every reason to believe that the Vatican thought, based on the orders from Berlin and probably through their contacts, that they would be able to negotiate the release of the 1,021 Jews," Krupp said. "No one knows who sent them to Auschwitz."

Earlier this year, Krupp's foundation unearthed further evidence, already provided by a former German general, that Hitler planned to kidnap Pius and loot the Vatican.

"We've proven without any question that this man was the greatest hero of World War II," said Krupp. "It's time Pius XII is recognized for his life-saving efforts even while his very life was in danger during this terrible period in history."

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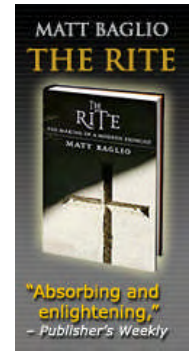
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## Jews Split On Pius Sainthood Action



*Pope Benedict XVI: Is Pius XII back on the fast track to sainthood? getty images*

by Steve Lipman  
Staff Writer

A cloud of suspicion will hover above the Bishop of Rome when he crosses the Tiber River to visit Rome's Great Synagogue next month.

Pope Benedict XVI's planned visit on Jan. 17 to the synagogue — the second in history by the leader of the Roman Catholic Church — will take place in the shadow of renewed controversy over Pope Pius XII, the pontiff during World War II whose ambiguous record has soured Jewish-Catholic relations for four decades.

Benedict XVI's announcement last week that he decreed the "heroic virtues" of Pius XII, and of John Paul II and 15 other Catholics, a step toward their eventual canonization as saints, has deeply divided the Jewish community.

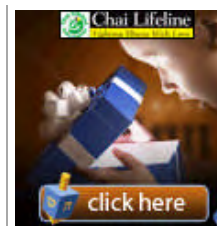
The move, say some participants in

interfaith dialogue, could be a setback in ties between the Jewish community and Catholics, and is premature until the Vatican fully opens archives that would reveal that extent of Pius XII's opposition to the Third Reich's murder of European Jews.

But other Jewish leaders say Benedict XVI's decision to honor his predecessor's memory, which may not necessarily put Pius XII on the "fast track" to sainthood, is less important to inter-religious relations than the upcoming papal visit to the synagogue.



While arguing that Jewish-Christian relations remain strong, some scholars said the Vatican's apparent placating of conservative elements in the church, following the declining support for Israel among many liberal Protestant churches, is a sign of the Jewish community's weakening role in interfaith relations. "We're getting squeezed a little on both sides," said Holocaust historian Michael Berenbaum. Jewish leaders said they plan no steps against the recent papal action beyond issuing



[Westchester Jewish Conference](#)  
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statements of protest.

"The symbolism of [Pope Benedict] going to the synagogue," a visit that will feature the participation of prominent Jewish representatives from Israel and the diaspora, "trumps everything else," said Abraham Foxman, national director of the Anti-Defamation League. "It says to the church world that Judaism is viable," said Foxman, who survived the Holocaust because his Polish Catholic nanny hid him in her home.

Pope Benedict's apparent fast-tracking of Pius XII's road to sainthood follows two other actions in the last two years that have drawn criticism in parts of the Jewish community — his reinstatement of a Latin prayer that calls for the conversion of Jews to Catholicism, and his lifting of the excommunication of Bishop Richard Williamson, an outspoken denier of the Holocaust.

Foxman said the Vatican addressed Jewish concerns when the pope overturned Bishop Williamson's excommunication. Church spokesman later apologized. "They did listen. They did reconsider," Foxman said. "This papacy has shown that it does listen and it does correct itself."

According to Berenbaum, "Even if the Vatican makes [Pius XII] a saint, it will not cleanse his record. We have found that individual Roman Catholics," both members of the clergy and members of the laity, "behaved better than the Vatican leadership" during the Shoah, he said.

Berenbaum said the Vatican's behavior in rehabilitating both a Holocaust-denying bishop and praising the record of a controversial pope are signs that the impact of the 1965 Second Vatican Council, which helped remove centuries of Catholic hostility to Jews and Judaism, might be reduced by a generation of Catholic leaders who grew up after Vatican II.

The current generation "probably has not embraced this [ecumenical] tradition," he said. "We're entering an era in which [Jewish-Catholic relations] may suffer from benign neglect."

Jonathan Sarna, professor of American Jewish history at Brandeis University, said, "I don't think [Benedict XVI's recent action] is going to be a major problem." While Pius XII's behavior during WWII "would not fit any Jew's definition of sainthood," the current controversy is simply the latest step in the debate over the wartime pope, Sarna said.

Proponents of inter-religious dialogue remain optimistic about relations remaining strong, he said, while Benedict XVI's action will persuade critics of the Vatican that "Jewish-Christian relations are not as high" on the Catholic Church's "hierarchy" as they were for Pope Benedict's predecessor, John Paul II.

While liberal factions of Christianity, mostly Protestant, have become increasingly hostile to Israel in recent years, support for the Jewish state has grown in Evangelical circles, in effect replacing the loss, Sarna said.

A member of the Italian Jewish community with close ties to the community leaders told The Jewish Week that the papal visit is "at risk," but a spokeswoman for Rome's Chief Rabbi Riccardo Di Segni said this week that the visit is still on.

The ADL and several other Jewish organizations here, in Israel, Italy and Germany criticized Pope Benedict's recent action as insensitive to Jewish feelings, while recognizing the church's primacy in determining whom it honors.

Pope Benedict's decree about Pius XII's "heroic virtues" was "a big mistake," said Fred Rosenbaum, a San Francisco-based Jewish educator who spent a recent sabbatical year conducting archival research in Rome about Pius XII. "Most historians have come to the conclusion that Pius XII was not a friend of the Jews. There is no solid evidence that he was working behind the scenes" to save Jewish lives.

"The pope's woeful inaction was due to his feelings that Nazism was the lesser of two evils, compared to communism," Rosenbaum said. "Any fair-minded person would come to the conclusion that the pope was a bystander at best and is not qualified for sainthood."

Benedict XVI will likely feel pressured to discuss — or explicitly defend — his recent action during the synagogue visit, Rosenbaum said.

"This needs to be a front-and-center priority of every ecumenical meeting," said Menachem Rosensaft, World Jewish Congress general counsel.

\

Pope Benedict's visit to the Rome synagogue will be his second to a Jewish house of worship — in 2005 he visited a synagogue in Cologne, Germany. The pope's predecessor, John Paul II, visited the Rome synagogue in 1986, calling Jews "our beloved elder brothers."

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"The response of Eugenio Pacelli [Pope Pius XII] to the policies of the National Socialist regime — notably his failure to condemn publicly the genocide of the European Jews — has long been the topic of debate and controversy," according to a statement by the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum. "At the time of the Holocaust, questions about Pius XII's public silence were raised by Myron Taylor, the U.S. representative to the Vatican, and Taylor's assistant Harold Tittman, who requested that the Holy See speak out on the issue."

Giuseppe Laras, president of the Association of Italian Rabbis, said he was saddened by Pope Benedict's action because Pius XII "did not shout out loud his outrage and his opposition to the Shoah and against the extermination of people whose only crime was that of being Jewish."

However, Gary Krupp, founder of the Pave the Way Foundation, a New York-based independent nonsectarian organization that fosters closer relations between Judaism and Catholicism, denied that the possible canonization of Pius XII will harm Jewish-Catholic ties, and he said the eventual opening of the Vatican archives will "find only positive stuff" about the pope's conduct during the Holocaust.

Krupp, who is Jewish, said Pius XII enjoyed a stellar reputation among world Jewry until the 1963 publication of Rolf Hochhuth's "The Deputy," a play that depicted the pope as an unfeeling diplomat-turned-pontiff who remained silent during the Final Solution.

Krupp, whose foundation is to publish a series of books on this subject next year, presented his findings earlier this month to a group of students at Yeshiva University.

Benedict XVI is not speeding up the process to canonize Pius XII, Krupp said. While a Vatican commission had voted two years ago in favor of proclaiming Pius XII's "heroic virtues,"

Pope Benedict called for further research, in effect delaying a decision. His decision last week to approve the commission's recommendation was a surprise to Jewish participants in interfaith dialogue.

The process to declare Pope Pius a saint, which requires the proof of miracles attributed to him, will still take several years.

"It doesn't mean [Benedict XVI] is putting [Pius XII] on the fast track for canonization," said Rabbi David Rosen, the American Jewish Committee's director of inter-religious affairs. He said the statement about Pius XII's "heroic virtues," a matter of "atrocious timing" on the eve of the synagogue visit, may be a concession to satisfy the conservative wing of the church that holds Pius XII in high regard.

The pope's act last week was certain to upset a large part of the Jewish community, the rabbi said, but "it's a price he's willing to pay" in order to help unify the Catholic Church.

Rabbi Rosen stressed that most Catholic leaders "see themselves as friends of the Jewish people," but he repeated his call for the opening of the Church archives.

The Vatican has indicated that the 16 million documents from Pius XII's pontificate, 1939-1958, won't be made public until at least 2014.

Only the opening of the sealed wartime archives, Jewish representatives stressed, could definitively prove whether Pius XII turned a blind eye to Jewish suffering in the Holocaust or clandestinely saved Jews.

World Jewish Congress President Ronald Lauder, in a prepared statement, called on the Vatican "to immediately open all existing archives about the Pius era to international researchers."

"It is up to historians, on the base of reliable documents, to dispel the doubts that still surround Pius XII," said Tullia Zevi, president emeritus of the Italian Jewish Community.

Pope Benedict, like many Vatican officials, has said that Pius XII worked "secretly and silently" to save Jews.

Benedict XVI is "rewriting history without having permitted a serious scientific discussion," said Stephan Kramer, general secretary of the Central Council of Jews in Germany.

The Vatican alone will determine when to open the archives, and has remained immune to the Jewish community's calls for the archive's early opening, Foxman said. "They're holding the key to opening the archives."

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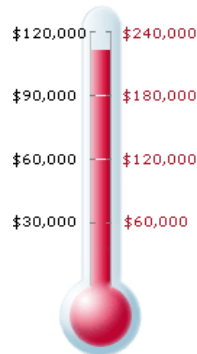
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**Pius XII's New Status Draws Criticism and Praise**

POSTED BY EDWARD PENTIN  
 Tuesday, December 22, 2009 3:39 PM

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Pope Benedict XVI's decision to proclaim Pope Pius XII as "venerable" surprised and delighted many who have been campaigning to clear the wartime Pope's name, but provoked predictable protests among some Jewish leaders.

Although an increasing number of Jewish and Catholic historians say there is plenty of well-documented evidence to suggest Pius was one of the Second World War's greatest heroes, critics still accuse him of being "silent" and doing nothing to save Jews during the war.

Benedict XVI issued a decree Dec. 19 attesting to the "heroic virtue" of Eugenio Pacelli, pope from 1939 to 1958, giving him the title of "Venerable." Now a panel of medical experts and Vatican theologians can proceed with investigations into alleged miracles attributed to the late Pontiff's intercession. Once a miracle is approved, Pius XII can be beatified.

There are said to be several miracles under investigation. Sister Margherita Marchione, a Religious Teachers Filippini nun who has written more than 60 books on the late Pope, records some of them in a new book soon to be published. They include testimonies of a boy cured of leukemia and parents who were able to have a child after praying to Pope Pacelli.

Following the Dec. 19 announcement, the World Jewish Congress called the move "inopportune and premature," while Yad Vashem in Jerusalem described the move as "regrettable." At the time of this writing, Pope Benedict's planned historic visit to Rome's synagogue on Jan. 17 continued to be "under review." Most of the critics complained that Benedict XVI issued the decree before Vatican Archives documents on Pius' pontificate had been made available to historians.

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"It's the most absurd thing," he said. "I challenge any writers to go to the archives of *The New York Times* or the *Palestine Post* and look up every single article written about Pius XII and the Jews. You'll see hundreds of articles, and not one is negative."

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*News Feature*

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## New historical evidence supports Pope Pius XII

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January 14, 2008

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An organization devoted to inter-religious understanding has uncovered a large amount of evidence to rebut the charge that Pope Pius XII was indifferent to Jewish suffering during the Holocaust.

The Pave the Way Foundation has announced discovery of a large quantity of evidence showing that Pope Pius XII actually worked to save the lives of Jews. Gary Krupp, the group's president, says that most of this evidence is already "available publicly but simply not known."

The Pave the Way Foundation points, for example, to "a personal verbal plea from Pope Pius XII to General Rafael Trujillo to issue 400 visas to the Dominican Republic for Jews trying to escape Europe." The group also notes that the efforts of the wartime Pontiff had enraged Adolph Hitler, who made plans to kidnap the Pope and seize the Vatican. Pope Pius XII was aware of these plans, the group says, adding: "The Vatican had actually begun forming a government-in-exile" in case Hitler's plan was carried out.

The foundation's research efforts, Gary Krupp notes, are "completely independent of any official Vatican archival records." He said that his information was being forwarded to the Yad Vashem Holocaust memorial in Jerusalem, in an effort to increase understanding of the role Pope Pius XII played during World War II.

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## In Depth Analysis

# The unexpected revival of the cause for beatification of Pius XII

by Phil Lawler, December 23, 2009



Virtually no one saw it coming. No one predicted that Pope Benedict would advance the cause for beatification of Pope Pius XII last Saturday.

There had been plenty of speculation about other candidates for beatification. A week ago we [passed along the report](#) that at the ordinary consistory on December 19, Pope Benedict XVI would affirm the “heroic virtue” of his predecessor, John Paul II. In Australia, the media had buzzed with anticipation that Blessed Mary MacKillop would be cleared to become that nation’s first saint. But no one foresaw that [Pius XII would also be named](#) in the decrees from the Congregation for the Causes of Saints.

In retrospective it’s clear that we should all have been more alert to the possibility that two recent Popes, not just one, would be on that list. In May 2007, it was widely reported in the Italian media (albeit never officially acknowledged at the Vatican) that the Congregation for the Causes of Saints had [voted to approve a decree](#) testifying to the heroic virtue of the wartime Pontiff. All that was required was the Pope’s approval for that decree, and Pius XII would have the title “venerable.”

But the months passed without an announcement from Rome— presumably because Pope Benedict chose to postpone his approval of that decree. By the end of 2007, some Vatican-watchers were ready to conclude that the [cause for beatification of Pius XII had been stalled](#). In 2008, as the Vatican planned a series of events commemorating the 50th anniversary of that Pope’s death, the director of the Vatican press office told reporters that there was [no reason to expect the beatification of Pius XII](#) in the near-term future.

Still that decree was presumably sitting on the Pope’s desk, awaiting action. In his own [comments on the 50th anniversary](#), Pope Benedict swept aside any suspicion that he himself was skeptical about the merit of the wartime Pontiff. He said that the work of Pius XII during World War II bore witness to “a love made manifest in the intensity with which he promoted works of charity in defense of the persecuted, with no distinction of religion, ethnicity, nationality or political views.”

That same year 2008 saw several new developments in historical research into the policies of Pius XII. The Pave the Way Foundation, set up to advance mutual understanding between Catholics and Jews, [found volumes of evidence](#) “available publicly but simply not known,” demonstrating that Pope Pius had worked energetically to save Jewish people from the genocidal Nazi drive. John Cornwell, the author of *Hitler’s Pope*-- perhaps the most damaging indictment of the late Pontiff’s reputation-- [essentially retracted](#) that indictment, conceding that Pius XII had opposed the Nazis but “his scope for action was severely limited.”

Still many Jewish leaders continued to oppose the beatification of Pope Pius XII, and after an October 2008 meeting with Pope Benedict, Rabbi David Rosen of the American Jewish Committee

emerged to tell reporters that he was confident the [cause would be delayed for at least several years](#). In light of the continued official silence at the Vatican, that statement seemed quite plausible.

Still the new historical evidence continued to weigh in favor of Pius XII—as indeed the evidence (as opposed to imaginative fiction) has always supported the wartime Pope. In February of this year, research in the archives of an Italian monastery yielded [a personal directive from Pius II](#) directing the monks to shelter Jews: one more concrete sign of the Pope's efforts.

Sober historians no longer argue that Pius XII was sympathetic to the Nazi regime or that he was indifferent to the suffering of the Jewish people. The documentary evidence, the historical research, the post-war tributes from Jewish leaders all refute any such claims. In June of this year Mordechai Lewy, the Israeli ambassador to the Holy See, [told the \*Boston Globe\*](#):

It is wrong to look for any affinity between him and the Nazis. It is also wrong to say that he didn't save Jews. Everybody who knows the history of those who were saved among Roman Jewry knows that they hid in the church.

Anyone who studies the evidence knows that Pope Pius XII is innocent of the charges that have been so frequently and irresponsibly lodged against him. By delaying the approval of the decree that he finally issued on December 19, Pope Benedict gave the world extra time to study the historical record, knowing that a bit of extra scrutiny would favor the cause of this Pope's beatification.

So now the approval of a miracle attributed to the intercession of Pius XII will fulfill the last requirement for his beatification. The delay may have been frustrating to the many Catholics who nurture a special love for Pius XII. But it is not an injustice to the man himself. After all, he himself is not waiting for the beatification ceremony. When it comes, that honor will only testify to a judgment that God made more than 50 years ago.



*Phil Lawler - Director of the Catholic Culture Project*

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## About Me

ULTRAMONTANE

GRUMPY OLD

CATHOLIC

Born in Liverpool and educated by the Jesuits, I am a nuclear physicist by training.

[View my complete profile](#)

THURSDAY, 24 DECEMBER 2009

## Pius XII and the Nazis

I distrust and despise the zestful trendies, articulate and polemical who make a name for themselves and lots of money by writing *faction* – calumnies on historical figures such as Pius XII who are safely dead. Such is the nature of our society that there are plenty of people who will eagerly lap up such rubbish. They would rather believe a lie because it fits with their outlook and makes them feel smug than the boring truth.

People say that Pope Pius XII did not speak out enough against the Nazi persecution of the Jews. This criticism sits well with today's exhibitionist-moralists, whose idea of protest is to wear a band on their wrists to protest against slavery to show how nice they are, or to march in democratic countries dressed up as a polar bears. Their other comfort gesture is to apologise for something for which they had no responsibility and which happened a long time ago. They are stuffed with cant and hypocrisy.

So what did they expect would have happened if the Pope spoke out against Nazi atrocities? An appearance on a Berlin chat show to be interviewed by a Nazi equivalent of Jeremy Paxman?

The Pope had to be very careful about when to speak out. He saw that every time there was a protest, the Nazis adopted even harsher measures. So what would protest achieve? Far better to work below the radar and provide practical help.

On occasion, he did speak out. In response to the Pope's Christmas message of December 1942, the Reich Security Main Office sent a telegram to all representatives in countries where there were Catholic populations.

'In a manner never known before, the Pope has repudiated the National Socialist New European Order. Here in this declaration he has virtually accused the German People of injustice to the Jews and has made himself a mouthpiece for Jewish War Criminals.

When Pius died in 1958, many world famous Jews made their tributes:

**Golda Meir**, later to become Prime Minister of Israel: “We share the grief of the world on the death of His Holiness Pope Pius XII. During the 10 years of Nazi terror, when our people passed through the horrors of martyrdom, the Pope raised his voice to condemn the persecutors and to commiserate with their victims”.

**Naham Goldman**, President of World Jewish congress ‘with special gratitude we remember all he has done for the persecuted Jews during the darkest period of their history’.

**Chief Rabbi of Rome**: ‘More than anyone else, we have had the opportunity to appreciate the great kindness filled with compassion and magnanimity that the Pope displayed during those terrible years of persecution and terror.

Earlier **Albert Einstein (died 1953)** had said that ‘only the Catholic Church protested against the Hitlerian onslaught on liberty. Up until then I had not been interested in the Church, but today I feel a great admiration for the Church, which alone has had the courage to struggle for spiritual truth and moral truth. I am forced thus to confess that what I once despised, I now praise unreservedly’

Proper historians like Sir Martin Gilbert, who himself is Jewish and has has praised Pius XII’s efforts to save Jews and says that Pius personally saved more Jews in Rome (percentagewise) than was saved in any other capital city under the Nazis, except Budapest, which was also a Papal initiative.

For example, when the Germans had occupied Rome except the Vatican, Pius was informed in the early hours of one morning that 8000 Roman Jews would be rounded up the next day and deported. He immediately arranged as many as possible to be spirited away and hidden in convents and monasteries and in the Vatican itself. Just 1000 Jews were eventually deported to the death camps. 1000 too many, but 7000 were saved.

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.



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.

Sir Martin Gilbert says that Nations continually rewrite history to fit in with their current fears and perspectives, but there is such a thing as true history. The interview with Sir Martin Gilbert can be accessed [here](#). It's a long interview but worth listening to carefully. It is very rewarding to hear the measured tones of an expert in his field, without polemic.

He also mentions the role of the Polish nation and the number of Catholics who were executed by the Nazis for trying to help their Jewish compatriots.

New York Jewish businessman and philanthropist Gary 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."

American Rabbi David Dalin has proposed that Yad Vashem recognize Pius as "righteous among the nations."

People say that the Holy Father should have waited until the archives had been opened to satisfy the critics. Would they have ever been satisfied? Probably not. Once a head of steam has been generated in a protest, it's almost impossible to relieve the pressure. There is too much *amour propre* invested in it for the supporters ever to admit they were wrong.

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Posted by ultramontane grumpy old catholic at [02:40](#)

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## Pope Pius XII's Path to Sainthood

Wednesday, 23 Dec 2009 09:33 AM  
By: Edward Pentin

Pope Benedict XVI's decision to proclaim Pope Pius XII as having shown "heroic virtues" delighted many who have been campaigning to clear the wartime Pope's name, but provoked stern condemnation from some Jewish leaders.

Pius XII has been accused of being "silent" and not doing enough to save Jews during the Second World War, while his supporters say there is plenty of well-documented evidence to suggest he was not only a defender of the Jews but one of their greatest protectors.

Benedict XVI issued a Dec. 19 decree attesting to the "heroic virtues" of Eugenio Pacelli, Pope from 1939 to 1958, giving him the title of 'Venerable'. Now a panel of medical experts and Vatican theologians can proceed with investigations into alleged miracles attributed to the late pontiff's intercession. Once a miracle is approved, Pius XII can be beatified.

Many Jewish leaders have expressed "pain" and "regret" at the news of the decree. At the time of writing, Pope Benedict's planned historic visit to Rome's synagogue on Jan. 17 was still "under review." Most of the critics complained that Benedict XVI made the decision before Vatican archives on Pius's pontificate had been made available to historians.

The Vatican argues that they will not be opened before 2014 because so many files need to be catalogued. The Vatican also stressed that the decree must be understood as evaluating "the witness of Christian life that the person showed (his intense relationship with God and continuous search for evangelical perfection) and not the historical impact of all his operative decisions".

Still, many Catholics understand the anger felt by Jewish groups about this issue. "We understand the cry 'he did not do enough' as a cry of deep pain coming from the sense of betrayal among the Jewish people at the time of their trial," said Father David Neuhaus, head of Hebrew-speaking Catholics in the Holy Land and a former Jew himself. "The world indeed did not do enough ... Ultimately, there can be no "enough" in the attempt to confront a tragedy of the dimensions of the Shoah (Holocaust)!"

Historians believe the question of whether he did do "enough" will be endlessly debated, but recently uncovered evidence has led to a growing consensus that Pius XII acted heroically in saving and protecting Jewish lives. It's widely believed he was victim of a smear campaign orchestrated by the Soviet Union after his death. The late Pope was fervently anti-Communist and, according to a former high ranking KGB agent, the Soviets tried to assassinate Pius's character to counter the Church's threat to the atheistic regime.

Gary Krupp, the Jewish president of Pave the Way, a foundation promoting interreligious dialogue, believes Pius should be honoured as Righteous Among Nations at Yad Vashem in Jerusalem — the sort of equivalent, he says, of a Jewish canonization.

Over a four year period, Krupp said his organization had uncovered "a ton of information" supporting the case that Pius XII acted heroically to save thousands of Jews, possibly as many as 860,000 in total. "Through our research of documented proof, we have discovered that secretly, he saved more Jews than all of the world's religious and political leaders combined," he said.

Krupp stressed that many of Pius's heroic acts were carried out anonymously and under cover. He and other historians also argue that Pius was sometimes silent in condemning the persecution because it had been proven that the louder the Church spoke out, the

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more the Jews suffered at the hands of the Nazis.

What Krupp finds difficult to fathom is why Jewish leaders today, most of whom were born after the war, refuse to acknowledge these facts while those who were alive during the war, or knew the Pope personally, had nothing but words of tribute for Pius when he was alive. "It's the most absurd thing," he said. "I challenge any writers to go to the archives of the New York Times or the Palestine Post and look up every single article written about Pius XII and the Jews. You'll see hundreds of articles and not one is negative."

One criticism levelled by Italy's Jewish leaders after the Dec. 19 announcement was that 1,021 Jews were deported from Rome to Auschwitz on October 16, 1943, "amidst the silence of Pius XII." But the accusation was denied by Sister Margherita Marchionne, a nun who has written over 60 books in defense of Pius.

"What the Jewish leaders neglect to state is that as soon as Pius XII learned about the deportation of 1,021 Jews to Auschwitz, he ordered his Secretary of State, Cardinal Maglione, to protest," she said. "The Nazi commander immediately stopped the deportation of the remaining 5,000 Jews. They were saved because Pius XII sent word to the 155 convents and monasteries in Rome to open their doors and hide the Jews."

Adding to Sister Marchionne's research, Krupp's foundation recently discovered a telegram showing an order from Berlin to take those Jews as hostage to Mauthausen, a work camp in Austria, rather than be sent to Auschwitz, an extermination camp. "There is every reason to believe that the Vatican thought, based on the orders from Berlin and probably through their contacts, that they would be able to negotiate the release of the 1,021 Jews," Krupp said. "No one knows who sent them to Auschwitz."

Earlier this year, Krupp's foundation unearthed further evidence, already provided by a former German general, that Hitler planned to kidnap Pius and loot the Vatican.

"We've proven without any question that this man was the greatest hero of World War II," said Krupp. "It's time Pius XII is recognized for his life-saving efforts even while his very life was in danger during this terrible period in history."

In a new forthcoming book on Pius, Sister Marchionne says these attacks are as much "political and ideological attacks on Christianity" as they are against Pius XII. Such attacks, she insisted, "can be refuted by anyone who carefully examines the evidence."

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LEGACY OF PIUS XII IN WAR

## The silent helper

December 26, 2009

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RE: "POPE moves pair closer to sainthood" (Dec. 20, Page A7). Despite efforts to cast a dark shadow over Pope Pius XII's good character, it is irrefutable that Pius II and the Catholic Church saved more Jews in Europe in World War II than any other party, except the Allied liberating armies. He often acted secretly and silently because, in the light of the practical situations of that complex period, he foresaw that only in this way could he save the greatest possible number of Jews.

In 1946, Isaac Herzog, chief rabbi of Jerusalem, wrote a letter to Pius XII thanking him for helping Jews during the Holocaust and for "sheltering thousands of children, who were hidden in Catholic institutions." Herzog

further stated: "May history remember that when everything was dark for our people, His Holiness lit a light of hope for them." It is estimated by Gary Krupp of the Pave the Way Foundation that Pius XII and the Catholic Church saved the lives of 850,000 Jews and other Nazi persecutees. Pope Pius XII promoted intense charitable work without distinction of religion, race, nationality, or political affiliation.

PAUL KOKOSKI  
*Hamilton, Ontario*

**Shed more light**  
OPENING THE sealed Vatican archives holding the papers associated with Pius XII would give scholars the opportunity to examine more than this pope's activities related to the extermination of Polish and European Jews. The Polish Jews were not the first victims of Nazi racial policy. When Hitler invaded this Catholic country on Sept. 1, 1939, he had already determined that Poland would be a slave state with no room for Polish intellectuals. He began a systematic slaughter of educated Poles.

The opened archives might help us understand if Pius XII tried to aid the Jews; we could also learn if this Pope did enough to help the Polish Catholics. We know that Pius XII ex-communicated Soviet communists and did not take similar church action against Nazi Catholic officials or the Nazi government. The archives might contain some explanation why Christ's deputy apparently took little action to save his church in Poland.

SOL GITTLEMAN  
*Medford*  
*The writer is a professor of German at Tufts University.* ■

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## LETTER TO EDITOR: Hopes from and for popes

Sunday, December 27, 2009

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By

I commend the Vatican for moving Pope John Paul II and Pope Pius XII a step closer to sainthood ("John Paul II, Pius closer to sainthood," World, Dec. 20). John Paul II, a

man of deep faith, will one day be canonized a saint by the Catholic Church. The Holy Father was an inspiration and model witness to the life of Christ - a Shepherd of Truth immersed in profound humility and immense love for both God and man.

His many writings and worldwide pilgrimages of faith were a source of strength, encouragement, confidence, optimism and enlightenment - not only to Catholics but to all men of good will.

A champion of the poor and ardent exponent of Christian unity, the Polish pontiff was - in such capacities as teaching, governing and sanctifying - both a beacon of light and salt of the Earth.

In addition to his historic role in the fall of communism, John Paul II was the world's most influential and uncompromising defender of the dignity of human life. His tenacious pleas for the development of a "culture of life" and parallel denunciations of the "culture of death" have been instrumental in rallying opposition to violence, sexual depravity, abortion, euthanasia and embryonic-tissue research. I pray for his well-deserved heavenly reward that is promised by the giver of every gift to his good and faithful servants.

Pius XII also possessed heroic virtue. Despite efforts to cast a dark shadow over his good character, he and the Catholic Church saved more Jews in Europe during the Second World War than any other party, save only the Allied forces themselves. He often acted surreptitiously because, in light of the practical circumstances at that time, he knew this was the only way he could save the greatest possible number of Jews.

In 1946, Isaac Herzog, chief rabbi of Jerusalem, wrote a letter to Pius XII thanking him for helping Jews during the Holocaust and for "sheltering thousands of children, who were hidden in Catholic institutions." Herzog further stated: "God willing, may history remember that when everything was dark for our people, His Holiness lit a light of hope for them."

Gary Krupp of the Pave the Way Foundation estimates that Pius XII and the Roman Catholic Church saved the lives of 850,000 Jews, as well as others who were persecuted by the Nazis, during the Second World War.

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Pius XII promoted intense charitable work on behalf of the persecuted, without distinction of religion, race, nationality or political affiliation. Relatives and other witnesses have attested to the fact that he voluntarily deprived himself of food, heating, clothes and other comforts in order to share the condition of the people, so harshly tried by the sufferings of war.

PAUL KOKOSKI

Hamilton, Ontario, Canada

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# Stop persecuting Pius -- WWII pontiff is branded "Hitler's Pope," but he did much to save the Jews

By Gary Krupp

2009-12-26



"I, along with several researchers, have discovered many documents detailing little-known activities of Pacelli." Krupp

Friday, May 1st 2009

[Pope Pius XII](#), born [Eugenio Pacelli](#), was pontiff during WWII and considered by many one of the greatest heroes of the war. To others, he is simply "Hitler's Pope."

The 46-year-old controversy surrounding Pacelli casts a shadow over [Pope Benedict](#)'s trip this week to the Holy Land. Benedict's visit will include a stop in [Israel](#), where he will pay respects to Holocaust victims at [Yad Vashem](#) but refrain from visiting the museum there that features an exhibit critical of [Pius](#). The exhibit includes a photo of the wartime pontiff with a caption that says he failed to protest the Holocaust and maintained a "neutral position."

In an effort to blast the academic logjam, I launched my own investigation into Pius' role during the Holocaust.

In 2007, Pope Benedict ordered the [Vatican secret archives](#) up to 1939 and other sections up to 1947 to be opened. Recently, he ordered the balance of the war year's archives to be opened as quickly as possible. Unfortunately, many historians say they will reserve their decision until the full archives are open. It surprises me that critics continue to defend their outdated theories and assumptions without studying the newly opened archives covering the vast majority of Pacelli's ministry.

I, along with several researchers, have discovered many documents detailing little-known activities of Pacelli. In 1917, for example, he intervened to protect Jews in [Palestine](#) from the Ottoman Turks. In 1925 he helped the head of the [World Zionist Organization](#) meet with [Vatican](#) officials to promote a Jewish homeland in Palestine. We found a confidential U.S. Foreign Service document reporting the Pope's hatred of Nazi dictator [Adolf Hitler](#), and a letter signed by Pacelli moving to overturn a proposed Polish law against kosher slaughtering. We located a nun's diary entry stating that her community received orders from the Pope to protect the Jews.

Hundreds of pages of documents can be viewed at [pavethewayfoundation.org](#).

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More evidence shows Pius secretly moved Jews out of [Europe](#). We conducted dozens of video interviews, among them a witness account of a priest who revealed a secret "underground railroad," directly ordered by the Pope, sending more than 10,000 Jews to the [U.S.](#) via the [Dominican Republic](#). Many countries would not accept "Jews," so they were given false baptismal papers to travel as Catholics. Pius successfully stopped the deportation of tens of thousands of Hungarian Jews when he appealed to the Regent of [Hungary](#). Similarly, he desperately tried to impact the deportation policies of many other countries to, in his words, "save this vibrant community."

Aware of Hitler's plan to kidnap him and seize the Vatican, Pius formed a government in exile and still managed to directly stop the arrest of Roman Jews on Oct. 16, 1943. In literally one day, the Vatican managed to hide, feed and support more than 7,000 Jews in Catholic institutions and private homes - all with German rifles posted 200 yards beneath Pius' windows.

Prominent Jewish and Israeli leaders like [Albert Einstein](#), [Golda Meir](#) and [Joseph Lichten](#), as well as the Italian Jewish community, praised Pius after the war. Upon Pius' death in 1958, Israeli historian and diplomat [Pinchas Lapide](#) reported that many had suggested a forest of 860,000 trees be planted in the Judean hills to represent the Jews Pius had helped to save.

The public controversy began in 1963 with a negative portrayal of Pius in a fictitious play called "The Deputy." The highest ranking [KGB](#) agent to ever defect recently wrote an article detailing how the KGB planned, financed and edited this play in an operation called "SEAT TWELVE." This illicit KGB effort to discredit the church has been the most successful character assassination of the 20th century.

It's time for our "historians" to correct this academic negligence and honestly research the open archives. Jewish teaching says, if you save one life you save all humanity. We must acknowledge what Pius actually did rather than criticize him for what he should have done. Pope Pius should be commended for his courageous actions that saved more Jewish lives than all the world's leaders combined.

*Krupp, who is Jewish, along with his wife, Meredith, founded the [Pave the Way Foundation](#). ([www.pavethewayfoundation.org](http://www.pavethewayfoundation.org))*

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[Andy W.](#) wrote on December 27th, 2009

To continue to make these claims about Pius XII reflects great ignorance of widely known history.

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## Pastor Angelicus, Santo Subito!

Dec. 27th, 2009 at 1:04 AM



"Catholics everywhere rejoice that His Holiness Benedict XVI proclaimed Pope Pius XII eligible for beatification in a decree issued on December 19, 2009. The announcement was made after a meeting with Cardinal Angelo Amato, prefect of the Congregation for the Causes of Saints. The faithful are now asked to submit information if a miracle can be attributed to his intercession. Pope Pius XII's cause for beatification was initially introduced by the United States Episcopal Conference and was followed by other Conferences, as well as by petitions from hundreds of thousands of faithful throughout the world.

On the 50th anniversary of Pius XII's death, October 9, 2008, His Holiness Benedict XVI exhorted the faithful to pray that his beatification take place! Now, after careful, painstaking examination by the Vatican's Congregation for Saints, and two years after the cause was unanimously approved for advancing to the final stage of the process, an official announcement about his beatification has been announced.

Soon after Pius XII's death on October 9, 1958, Pope John XXIII referred to him in his first Christmas Message as "our Father and Pontiff, whom we see already among God's saints in heaven. ..." He unofficially 'canonized' Pius XII, and stated that "the triple title Doctor Optimus, Ecclesiae sanctae lumen, divinae legis amator would be most suitable to his memory." (Michael Chinigo, *The Teachings of John XXIII*, 1967) Pope Pius XII is indeed worthy of the words: "Great Doctor, Light of the Holy Church, Lover of the Divine Law." Pius XII worked with great devotion for peace; condemned Nazism prior to and during hostilities; alleviated the suffering and saved the lives of Jewish and Christian war victims. His virtuous life speaks for itself and is supported by an abundance of incontestable documentary evidence. The truth regarding his service to the Church and the World, as a diplomat and during his pontificate, prior to and through the World War II period, is also historically established. He has been the victim of an unjust smear campaign for fifty years. Now, however, there is overwhelming evidence which proves beyond doubt that he labored without pause for peace, that he sought to assist in every way possible the victims of war, especially Jews, hundreds of thousands of whom were spared through his efforts, and that he constantly warned the world of the horrors of Nazism and Communism.

On March 2, 1939, Eugenio Pacelli was unanimously elected, took the name of his predecessor and, as Pope Pius XII, led the papacy in a ceaseless search for peace during a period of unprecedented violence and change (1939-1958). He restored Church prestige and provided the faithful and the world with extraordinary leadership. He won more admiration and praise than any of his pontifical predecessors. Since the Reformation the papacy had not achieved such wide respect. A good Samaritan, a man whose faith in God gave hope and courage to millions during World War II, he saved more Jewish victims from the Nazis than any other individual, army, or entire nation. The charge against him that he was indifferent to the fate of Jewish victims is unjust and contradicted by ample witnesses who praised his help.

Padre Pio, a mystic from Pietrelcina, in the province of Benevento, Italy, was one of the most charismatic figures of the twentieth-century. The mystic states in his *Diario* (p. 225) that when Pope Pius XII died on October 9, 1958, he was consoled "by a vision of this pontiff in his heavenly home." On February 22, 2001, Bernard Tiffany quoted the following from Padre Pio's secretary, Reverend Dominic Meyer, OFM, Cap.: "Padre Pio told me he saw the Pope in Heaven during his Mass. And many miracles have been attributed to His intercession in various parts of the world. Dated December 8, 1958, pictures of the Pope have been printed with a prayer [in Italian] for His beatification. But so far I have not seen any with the prayer in English." In fact, immediately after Pius XII's death, the world at large proclaimed him worthy of Sainthood. Michael Bobrow is among the many contemporary Jews who favor the canonization of Pius XII. An American Jew and foreign correspondent in the Holy Land in the late 1960s, he stated that "his cousin was hidden by Catholic nuns and saved in Holland, thanks to the directives of Pius XII whose canonization would be an act of supreme justice, charity, and truth..." (Letter to Margherita Marchione, December 26, 1998)."

Pius XII was a prayerful, serene, tranquil individual. He was a modern man with a fantastic memory. A friend of Guglielmo Marconi, he was among the first to use all modern means of communication. His superior intelligence did not intimidate his collaborators. His candor revealed his soul and he smiled lovingly. He was a special, clear-minded realist with a mystical sense of human existence, always in contact with the world's most powerful leaders. He was knowledgeable in many disciplines; his official speeches and writings consist of more than 22 volumes. He always prepared himself conscientiously for each discourse. Then, sometimes without notes, he would improvise and abandon himself to his inspiration. He protected the Church and, for many years, diligently worked with learned churchmen to prepare for the

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*Second Vatican Council. Although very humble, he was not timid and was always ready to respond clearly. In all his words and actions, he was guided by his love of God, his devotion to Our Lady and his concept of the dignity of the papacy.*

*Inspired by Pope Pius XII's fatherly concern, his smiling face, his inspiring words, millions of visitors to the Vatican experienced intense faith, hope and love of God and of neighbor. He did not fear death and was ready to sacrifice his life in defending the rights of the Church and fulfilling his pastoral duties. When word spread that the Nazis intended to capture and deport him and he learned about plans being implemented to insure his safety, he stated clearly that he would not leave the Vatican and that he would have to be taken away physically. He also refused to go to air-raid shelters; instead he remained in his chapel in prayer. During the bombing of Rome, he left the Vatican to help the suffering and wounded, to comfort them and assist them both spiritually and materially. He never feared for his life and, abandoning himself to the Will of God, accepted the suffering during his sickness with Christian resignation and fortitude. He died in Castelgandolfo on October 9, 1958.*

*A telegram (No. 2341, March 9, 1944) confirms the fact that Jews and other refugees were hidden in the pontifical palace in Castelgandolfo when the Allies bombed the village. Nazi soldiers with heavy military equipment were stationed there and exchanged fire that, according to Allen Dulles, Secretary of State of the United States of America, "...resulted in the injury of about 1,000 people and the death of about 300 more. ... The Vatican protested the bombing of its territory." (Hitler's Doorstep: The Wartime Intelligence Reports of Allen Dulles, 1942-1945).*

*Everywhere the Catholic Church denounced the deportations and the treatment of Jews. Courageous churchmen defied Hitler. On July 16, 1942, when the police rounded up 13,000 Jews in Paris, the French bishops issued a joint protest: "Our Christian conscience cries out in horror. In the name of humanity and Christian principles we demand the inalienable rights of all individuals...." Volumes of testimony confirm the heroic actions of Pope Pius XII and the Catholic clergy throughout the world.*

*Gary Krupp wrote: "I would not comment on a Catholic procedure such as beatification. This is not my business. However, I believe that Pope Pius XII should be recognized by the Jewish people as Righteous Among Nations at Yad Vashem in Jerusalem. Through Pave the Way Foundation's research of documented proof, we discovered that secretly he saved more Jews than all of the world's religious and political leaders combined. He did this anonymously. No one knew that he acted to save them. In Judaism this is the highest form of charity according to our tradition." ~ Sr. Margherita Marchione; New Jersey, 19th December 2009*

May God bless you, Sister, and all the work you do in defense of the memory of the Venerable Pius XII and the cause for his beatification.

**Mood:**  thankful

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# Friend to the Jews

## Pius XII's real wartime record

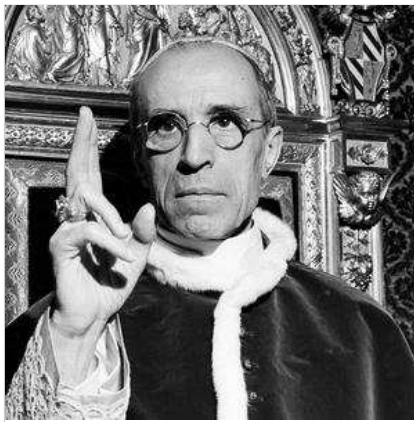
By GARY L. KRUPP  
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A recent papal decree moved Pope **Pius XII**, among others, closer to sainthood -- returning to the forefront the controversy over his role in **World War II** and the Holocaust.

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

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



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

After years of research in documentary evidence and eyewitness testimony, what we found shocked us. We found nothing but praise and positive news articles concerning Pius' actions from every Jewish, Israeli and political leader of the era who lived through the war.

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

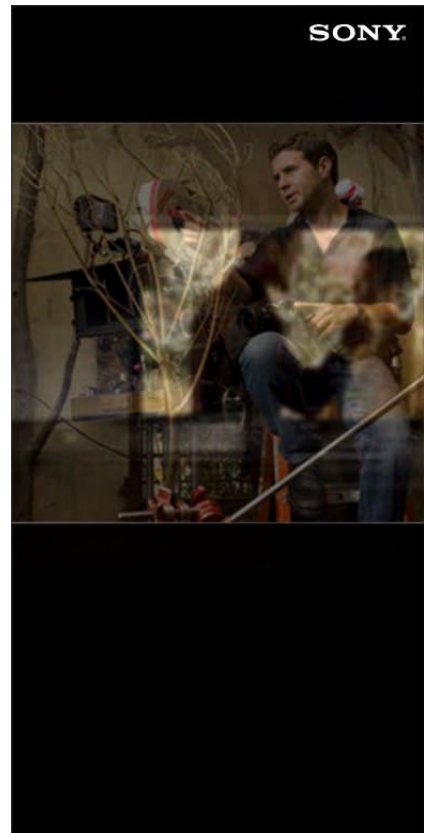
The evidence strongly suggests this was part of a KGB-directed and -financed bid to smear Pius, a Soviet disinformation campaign meant to discredit the Catholic Church, which at that time was profoundly anti-Communist.

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

It is unquestionable that Pius XII intervened to save countless Jews at a time most nations -- even FDR's America -- refused to accept these refugees. He issued false baptismal papers and obtained visas for them to emigrate as "Non Aryan Catholic-Jews." He smuggled Jews into the Americas and Asia. He ordered the lifting of cloister for men and women to enter monasteries, convents and churches to hide 7,000 Jews of Rome in a single day.

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

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



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

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

\* In 1939, A.W. Klieforth, the US consul general based in Cologne, Germany, wrote a confidential letter to Washington reporting on the "extremeness" of Pacelli's hatred of National Socialism and of Hitler.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Were all these witnesses who lived through the war misguided?

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

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## Pope Pius XII's Path to Sainthood

Wednesday, 23 Dec 2009 09:33 AM  
By: Edward Pentin

Pope Benedict XVI's decision to proclaim Pope Pius XII as having shown "heroic virtues" delighted many who have been campaigning to clear the wartime Pope's name, but provoked stern condemnation from some Jewish leaders.

Pius XII has been accused of being "silent" and not doing enough to save Jews during the Second World War, while his supporters say there is plenty of well-documented evidence to suggest he was not only a defender of the Jews but one of their greatest protectors.

Benedict XVI issued a Dec. 19 decree attesting to the "heroic virtues" of Eugenio Pacelli, Pope from 1939 to 1958, giving him the title of 'Venerable'. Now a panel of medical experts and Vatican theologians can proceed with investigations into alleged miracles attributed to the late pontiff's intercession. Once a miracle is approved, Pius XII can be beatified.

Many Jewish leaders have expressed "pain" and "regret" at the news of the decree. At the time of writing, Pope Benedict's planned historic visit to Rome's synagogue on Jan. 17 was still "under review." Most of the critics complained that Benedict XVI made the decision before Vatican archives on Pius's pontificate had been made available to historians.

The Vatican argues that they will not be opened before 2014 because so many files need to be catalogued. The Vatican also stressed that the decree must be understood as evaluating "the witness of Christian life that the person showed (his intense relationship with God and continuous search for evangelical perfection) and not the historical impact of all his operative decisions".

Still, many Catholics understand the anger felt by Jewish groups about this issue. "We understand the cry 'he did not do enough' as a cry of deep pain coming from the sense of betrayal among the Jewish people at the time of their trial," said Father David Neuhaus, head of Hebrew-speaking Catholics in the Holy Land and a former Jew himself. "The world indeed did not do enough ... Ultimately, there can be no "enough" in the attempt to confront a tragedy of the dimensions of the Shoah (Holocaust)!"

Historians believe the question of whether he did do "enough" will be endlessly debated, but recently uncovered evidence has led to a growing consensus that Pius XII acted heroically in saving and protecting Jewish lives. It's widely believed he was victim of a smear campaign orchestrated by the Soviet Union after his death. The late Pope was fervently anti-Communist and, according to a former high ranking KGB agent, the Soviets tried to assassinate Pius's character to counter the Church's threat to the atheistic regime.

Gary Krupp, the Jewish president of Pave the Way, a foundation promoting interreligious dialogue, believes Pius should be honoured as Righteous Among Nations at Yad Vashem in Jerusalem — the sort of equivalent, he says, of a Jewish canonization.

Over a four year period, Krupp said his organization had uncovered "a ton of information" supporting the case that Pius XII acted heroically to save thousands of Jews, possibly as many as 860,000 in total. "Through our research of documented proof, we have discovered that secretly, he saved more Jews than all of the world's religious and political leaders combined," he said.

Krupp stressed that many of Pius's heroic acts were carried out anonymously and under cover. He and other historians also argue that Pius was sometimes silent in condemning the persecution because it had been proven that the louder the Church spoke out, the

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more the Jews suffered at the hands of the Nazis.

What Krupp finds difficult to fathom is why Jewish leaders today, most of whom were born after the war, refuse to acknowledge these facts while those who were alive during the war, or knew the Pope personally, had nothing but words of tribute for Pius when he was alive. "It's the most absurd thing," he said. "I challenge any writers to go to the archives of the New York Times or the Palestine Post and look up every single article written about Pius XII and the Jews. You'll see hundreds of articles and not one is negative."

One criticism levelled by Italy's Jewish leaders after the Dec. 19 announcement was that 1,021 Jews were deported from Rome to Auschwitz on October 16, 1943, "amidst the silence of Pius XII." But the accusation was denied by Sister Margherita Marchionne, a nun who has written over 60 books in defense of Pius.

"What the Jewish leaders neglect to state is that as soon as Pius XII learned about the deportation of 1,021 Jews to Auschwitz, he ordered his Secretary of State, Cardinal Maglione, to protest," she said. "The Nazi commander immediately stopped the deportation of the remaining 5,000 Jews. They were saved because Pius XII sent word to the 155 convents and monasteries in Rome to open their doors and hide the Jews."

Adding to Sister Marchionne's research, Krupp's foundation recently discovered a telegram showing an order from Berlin to take those Jews as hostage to Mauthausen, a work camp in Austria, rather than be sent to Auschwitz, an extermination camp. "There is every reason to believe that the Vatican thought, based on the orders from Berlin and probably through their contacts, that they would be able to negotiate the release of the 1,021 Jews," Krupp said. "No one knows who sent them to Auschwitz."

Earlier this year, Krupp's foundation unearthed further evidence, already provided by a former German general, that Hitler planned to kidnap Pius and loot the Vatican.

"We've proven without any question that this man was the greatest hero of World War II," said Krupp. "It's time Pius XII is recognized for his life-saving efforts even while his very life was in danger during this terrible period in history."

In a new forthcoming book on Pius, Sister Marchionne says these attacks are as much "political and ideological attacks on Christianity" as they are against Pius XII. Such attacks, she insisted, "can be refuted by anyone who carefully examines the evidence."

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## Friend to the Jews

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

GARY L. KRUPP

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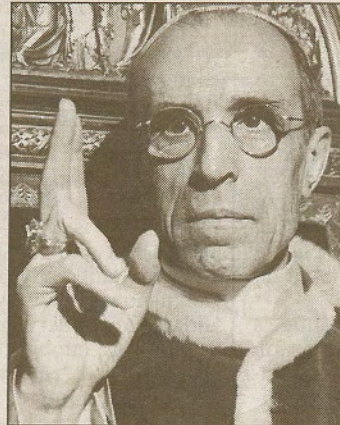
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**Pius XII: Unfairly tarred as Nazi sympathizer and anti-Semite.**

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## A POLITICAL TEST FOR TEACHERS

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

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

ADAM KISSEL

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

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

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

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MONDAY, DECEMBER 28, 2009

## Friend to the Jews: Pius XII's real wartime record

By GARY L. KRUPP

Last Updated: 3:33 AM, December 28, 2009

Posted: 1:03 AM, December 28, 2009

(New York Post) - A recent papal decree moved Pope Pius XII, among others, closer to sainthood -- returning to the forefront the controversy over his role in World War II and the Holocaust.

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

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

### PRAYER REQUEST

Please pray that I will be healed.

Please pray for the healing of Swissmiss.

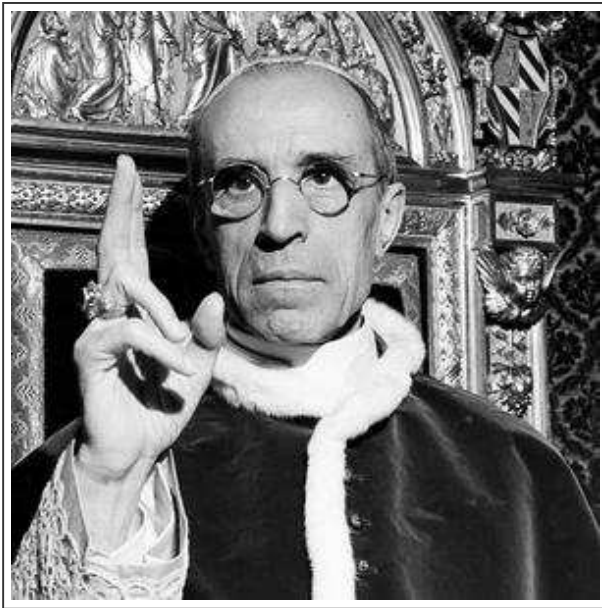


*"Prayer is helplessness casting itself on Power, infirmity leaning on Strength, misery reaching to Mercy, and a prisoner clamoring for Relief."* -Fulton J Sheen

### SACRED SCRIPTURE REFERENCE

[Biblia Clerus Concordance](#)





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

After years of research in documentary evidence and eyewitness testimony, what we found shocked us. We found nothing but praise and positive news articles concerning Pius' actions from every Jewish, Israeli and political leader of the era who lived through the war.

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

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

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

It is unquestionable that Pius XII intervened to save countless Jews at a time most nations -- even FDR's America -- refused to accept these refugees. He issued false baptismal papers and obtained visas for them to emigrate as "Non Aryan Catholic-Jews." He smuggled Jews into the Americas and Asia. He ordered the lifting of cloister for men and women to enter monasteries, convents and churches to hide 7,000 Jews of Rome in a single day.

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Pray the Chaplet of Divine Mercy

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

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

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

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

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\* In 1939, A.W. Klieforth, the US consul general based in Cologne, Germany, wrote a confidential letter to Washington reporting on the "extremeness" of Pacelli's hatred of National Socialism and of Hitler.

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

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

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*"Except about 20 people around him. There is no possibility of his being shot at INSIDE St...."*

Garry commented on [cohors helvetica](#) and [word about vatican](#):  
*"Right .. let's lift the Pope high on a chair where he has no protection at all!"*

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*"Off subject: I love the beautiful new picture of our most Holy Father kneeling in prayer, and the..."*

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

Were all these witnesses who lived through the war misguided?

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Vincenzo commented on pagan propagandist's other attack on: *"Thanks Jeff!"*

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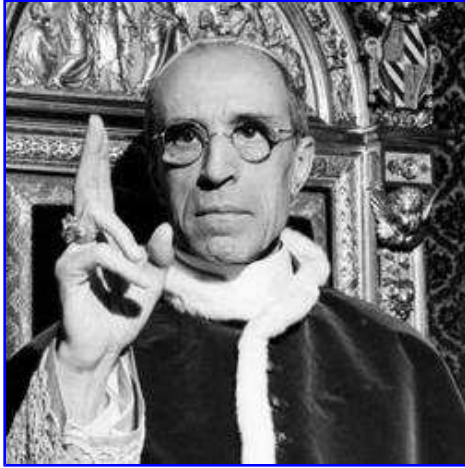
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He goes on to enumerate several examples of Pius' generosity toward the Jewish people -- some of which I'd never heard about. [Read more here.](#)

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**kenneth**

December 28, 2009 9:33 PM

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## Defending Pius

**Monday December 28, 2009**

**Categories:** [Pope](#), [Ripped from the headlines](#)

A Jewish writer and researcher is [defending](#) the now-venerable pope's record on the Nazis:

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

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From what I can see, Pius tried to do what he could to mitigate the consequences of a decision he made which helped enable and legitimize the Nazi regime. He certainly did so under duress, and I can't fault people for not rising to the level of a hero/martyr in such circumstances. As most people and all politicians are wont to do, he walked the fine line between self-preservation and doing good. That doesn't make him a villain, but it sure doesn't rate sainthood in my book either.



Rick

December 28, 2009 10:25 PM

Kenneth, what decision did he make to "enable and legitimize" the Nazi regime? Are you referring to the concordat?



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Posted by Lawrence Auster at December 29, 2009 01:05 PM | [Comment](#) |

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# The Editrix' Roncesvalles

Iconoclastic News and Views from the German Backwaters

Wednesday, December 30, 2009

## Just because it's the truth

In the Sixties, a so far unknown West German writer named Rolf Hochhuth came to fame with the play "Der Stellvertreter. Ein christliches Trauerspiel" (The Deputy, a Christian Tragedy). It stated that Pius XII had supported Nazi Germany and encouraged Hitler to go ahead with the Holocaust of the Jews of Europe. Since then, Pius XII WAS the man who supported the German Holocaust of the Jews and, somewhat predictably, it didn't make much headlines when it transpired that Hochhuth had been employed by the KGB. I have covered the very topic [here](#) and [here](#) already. Now I've noticed with great pleasure that Lawrence Auster [posted this at VFR](#):

Setting the record straight on the maligned Pius XII

Much of the Jewish community has tarnished itself in recent years by its support for the demonization of Pope Pius XII by such writers as John Cornwell, author of *Hitler's Pope*. Gary Krupp [writing](#) in the *New York Post* sets the record straight on the man he calls the friend of the Jews.

Friend to the Jews  
By GARY L. KRUPP  
December 28, 2009

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

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*"We should wake up and tell ourselves: You're not a xenophobe, you're not a racist, you're not crazy if you say, 'My culture is better than yours.' A culture based on Christianity, Judaism, humanism is better. Look at how we treat women, look at how we treat apostates, look at how we go with the separation of church and state. I can give you 500 examples why our culture is better."*

*This blog supports Geert Wilders without reservation.*

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I may edit this list from time to time.

### -- All But Forgotten:

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[In Memoriam Peter Fechter](#)  
[Jan Ziniewicz' Longest Night Obituary for David Reimer](#)  
[The Wilhelm Gustloff](#)

### -- Germany Past and Present:

["Schaut auf diese Stadt!"](#)

political leader of the era who lived through the war.

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[Dear Editrix your forked venomous tongue is so obv...](#)  
Googleguru

November 9, 2009

[By the way, here's what Terry Morris was referring...](#)  
Pastorius

November 8, 2009

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Terry Morris

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Terry Morris

October 24, 2009

[IT'S ALL ABOUT ISLAM Osama Bin Laden and his kil...](#)  
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[Maybe it's worth to mention that the deadline for ...](#)  
draM

October 12, 2009



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[Here](#) I have outlined the rules for commenting at this blog.

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- [05/13: The "Fission Fungus"](#)
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-- A Crucial American Fallacy:

Dear American conservative! Did you know that there is a 99,9% probability that somebody you call appreciatively a German (or Austrian, for that) patriot will hate your guts?

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

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

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

Were all these witnesses who lived through the war misguided?

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

This is not about apologetics and it's certainly not history revision, at least not in the sense it is usually applied. It's simply the truth. Will people notice? I doubt it.

[Here](#) all entries that mention Pius XII can be found.

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Posted by The\_Editrix at 09:43

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## Pope Pius XII: A REAL Friend to the Jews

Written by [barbarany\\_9](#) on Dec-29-09 1:12am

From: [barbarany\\_9.blogspot.com](#)

Email

by GARY L. KRUPP

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



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

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

After years of research in documentary evidence and eyewitness testimony, what we found shocked us. We found nothing but praise and positive news articles concerning Pius' actions from every Jewish, Israeli and political leader of the era who lived through the war.

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

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

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#### About the Author



**barbarany\_9**

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

It is unquestionable that Pius XII intervened to save countless Jews at a time most nations -- even FDR's America -- refused to accept these refugees. He issued false baptismal papers and obtained visas for them to emigrate as "Non Aryan Catholic-Jews." He smuggled Jews into the Americas and Asia. He ordered the lifting of cloister for men and women to enter monasteries, convents and churches to hide 7,000 Jews of Rome in a single day.

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

Some highlights:

- In 1917, at the request of World Zionist Organization Director Nachum Sokolow, Nuncio Pacelli intervened with the Germans to protect the Jews of Palestine from extermination by the Ottoman Turks.
- In 1925, Pacelli arranged for Sokolow to meet with Pope Benedict XV to discuss a Jewish homeland in Palestine.
- In 1930, Pacelli supported the German bishops' orders excommunicating anyone who joined "the Hitler Party."
- In 1938, Pacelli intervened to defeat a Polish anti-koshering law.
- In 1939, A.W. Klieforth, the US consul general based in Cologne, Germany, wrote a confidential letter to Washington reporting on the "extremeness" of Pacelli's hatred of National Socialism and of Hitler.
- In 1947, at the United Nations, he encouraged the 17 Catholic countries out of the 33 in favor to vote for the partitioning of Palestine to create the State of Israel.
- A 1948 deposition by Gen. Karl Wolff, the SS commandant for Italy, revealed the Nazis' wartime plan to kidnap the pope, kill countless cardinals and seize the Vatican.

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



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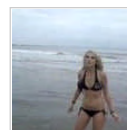
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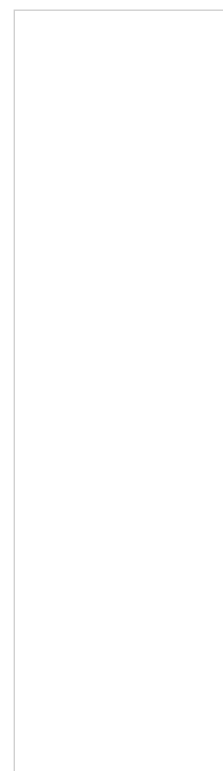
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## Gary Krupp – Pave the Way Foundation

Submitted by [Greg](#) on 01/04/2010 – 10:20 am [No Comment](#)



Gary Krupp is president of the [Pave the Way Foundation at ptwf.org](#) and a passionate Jewish defender of the Pope Pius XII's actions during WWII and the Holocaust.

For more information about this story, check out Gary's [recent editorial in the New York Post that can be found here](#).

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# DOMINUS JESUS CHRISTUS (PHILIPPIANS 2:11)

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WEDNESDAY, 6 JANUARY 2010

## Pius XII's New Status Draws Criticism and Praise

Posted by Edward Pentin

Tuesday, December 22, 2009 3:39 PM

Pope Benedict XVI's decision to proclaim Pope Pius XII as "venerable" surprised and delighted many who have been campaigning to clear the wartime Pope's name, but provoked predictable protests among some



Jewish leaders. Although an increasing number of Jewish and Catholic historians say there is plenty of well-documented evidence to suggest Pius was one of the Second World War's greatest heroes, critics still accuse him of being "silent" and doing nothing to save Jews during the war.

Benedict XVI issued a decree Dec. 19 attesting to the "heroic virtue" of Eugenio Pacelli, pope from 1939 to 1958, giving him the title of "Venerable." Now a panel of medical experts and Vatican theologians can proceed with investigations into alleged miracles attributed to the late Pontiff's intercession. Once a miracle is approved, Pius XII can be beatified. There are said to be several

### ABOUT ME



FATHER TED

I am a Catholic priest of the diocese of Parramatta (Sydney), Australia. I have served

in various parishes since my ordination, including in South America. I have studied philosophy, theology, the humanities and religious education in various institutes and universities, and my Ph.D was on Cardinal Newman's understanding of what the conscience reveals of God. At this point I serve in the parish of St Thomas Aquinas, Springwood, near Sydney.

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miracles under investigation. Sister Margherita Marchione, a Religious Teachers Filippini nun who has written more than 60 books on the late Pope, records some of them in a new book soon to be published. They include testimonies of a boy cured of leukemia and parents who were able to have a child after praying to Pope Pacelli.

Following the Dec. 19 announcement, the World Jewish Congress called the move "inopportune and premature," while Yad Vashem in Jerusalem described the move as "regrettable." At the time of this writing, Pope Benedict's planned historic visit to Rome's synagogue on Jan. 17 continued to be "under review." Most of the critics complained that Benedict XVI issued the decree before Vatican Archives documents on Pius' pontificate had been made available to historians.

The Vatican argues that the document volume is vast — 16 million files in total, all of which need to be catalogued. The process not likely to be completed until 2014 at the earliest, according to Vatican spokesman Father Federico Lombardi. By issuing the decree now, the process can move forward, even if beatification may be years ahead. Father Lombardi stressed "there is nothing hidden or to hide" and that the archives are unlikely to reveal anything historians don't already know. The Vatican also points out that some archives, for example those relating to Pius' life just before his election as pope, are already open to scrutiny by the general public, but are hardly ever examined.

Recently uncovered evidence has led to a growing consensus among respected historians and some prominent Jews that Pius XII acted heroically in saving and protecting Jewish lives. It's widely believed that he was the victim of a smear campaign orchestrated after his death by the Soviet Union, which saw the Church as a threat. Pius was also a fervent anti-communist.

Although unwilling to comment on the beatification process because he is a non-Catholic, Gary Krupp, the Jewish president of Pave the Way, a foundation promoting interreligious dialogue, says Pius should be honored as Righteous Among Nations at Yad Vashem in Jerusalem — the sort of equivalent, he says, of a Jewish canonization.

Over a four-year period, Krupp said his organization has uncovered "a ton of information" supporting the case that Pius XII acted heroically to save thousands of Jews, possibly as many as

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860,000 in total. "Through our research of documented proof, we have discovered that secretly he saved more Jews than all of the world's religious and political leaders combined," he added. Krupp stressed that many of Pius's heroic acts were carried out anonymously and undercover. He and historians also argue that Pius was sometimes silent in condemning the persecution because it had been proven that the louder the Church spoke out, the more the Jews suffered at the hands of the Nazis. What Krupp finds difficult to fathom is why Jewish leaders today, most of whom were born after the war, refuse to acknowledge these facts, while those who were alive during the war, or knew the Pope personally, had nothing but words of tribute for Pius when he was alive.. "It's the most absurd thing," he said. "I challenge any writers to go to the archives of *The New York Times* or the *Palestine Post* and look up every single article written about Pius XII and the Jews. You'll see hundreds of articles, and not one is negative."

One criticism leveled by Italy's Jewish leaders after Benedict XVI's announcement was that 1,021 Jews were deported from Rome to Auschwitz on Oct. 16, 1943, "amidst the silence of Pius XII." But the accusation was denied by Sister Margherita. "What the Jewish leaders neglect to state is that as soon as Pius XII learned about the deportation of 1,021 Jews to Auschwitz, he ordered his secretary of state, Cardinal Maglione, to protest," she said. "The Nazi commander immediately stopped the deportation of the remaining 5,000 Jews. They were saved because Pius XII sent word to the 155 convents and monasteries in Rome to open their doors and hide the Jews." Adding to Sister Margherita's research, Krupp's foundation recently discovered a telegram showing an order from Berlin to take those Jews as hostages to Mauthausen rather than send them to Auschwitz. "There is every reason to believe that the Vatican thought, based on the orders from Berlin and probably through their contacts, that they would be able to negotiate the release of the 1,021 Jews," Krupp said. "No one knows who sent them to Auschwitz."

Earlier this year, Krupp's foundation unearthed further evidence, already provided by a former German general, that Hitler planned to kidnap Pius and loot the Vatican. "We've proven without any question that this man was the greatest hero of World War II," said Krupp. "It's time Pius XII is recognized for his life-saving efforts even while his very life was in danger during this terrible period in history."

In her new book on Pius, Sister Margherita said these attacks are as much “political and ideological attacks on Christianity” as they are against Pius XII. Such attacks, she insisted, “can be refuted by anyone who carefully examines the evidence.”

POSTED BY FATHER TED AT 5:35 PM

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## Pius defender responds to ADL

By [Ami Eden](#) · January 6, 2010

We recently cited a column in The New York Post by Gary Krupp of the Pave the Way Foundation defending defending the World War II-era record of Pope Pius XII and the rebuttal from the Anti-Defamation League.

Now the foundation has sent in a response to the ADL's response:

Pave the Way foundation is Saddened by the Recent Attack on our Work by Abe Foxman Executive Director of the ADL.

Pave the Way Foundation, is a non-sectarian organization, which sought to bring this 46 year old negativity between Jews and Catholics concerning the papacy of Pope Pius XII (Eugenio Pacelli) to a public forum. To correct Foxman's fallacious statements, we held our symposium in Rome in September 2008 not 2009. All of the Holocaust institutions and the critics (including Prof. Paul O'Shea) were invited to attend. We hoped to open an exchange of information in order to reveal newly discovered documents and eye witness testimonies. All of the critics declined our invitation since they didn't consider it a scholarly forum and it was going to be open to a public group of Rabbis and Jewish leaders. These same critics claimed that the symposium was one sided, which is comical since their refusal to participate created that impression.

The documents, Foxman is referring to, were only recently discovered in Campagna and only showed that there are thousands of Vatican WWII documents that are available for study by those who wish to simply look. To correct Foxman again, according to the report Prof. Paul O'Shea sent to me, the Campagna documents did in fact show how Pius XII directed efforts to send financial aid specifically for care of the Jews. This was in one small diocese in Italy. Just like General Eisenhower, Pius XII had his army of trusted clergy to carry out his instructions and verbal orders. He physically couldn't do everything as Foxman seems to demand as proof of his benevolence. He acted to save Jews when no one else would. He did this, according to our original documents, fully expecting a full scale invasion of the Vatican where he would have be kidnapped and the clergy would be killed.

The significant evidence that we have gathered is from many other countries. More importantly the testimony from eye witnesses who describe the secret actions that they were ordered to take by the Vatican to save Jewish lives. Pius XII took these actions with German guns 200 yards under his very windows when he expected the imminent attack on the Vatican. He still managed to save more

Jews than all of the world's religious and political leaders combined. Pacelli acted directly to stop the arrest of the Roman Jews 2 PM on the day it began October 16, 1943 and managed to hide over 7000 Jews in just one day. He accomplished all of this anonymously (this is our highest form of charity).

Foxman is calling for the Vatican Archives to be opened when curiously just over 2 years ago Pope Benedict XVI ordered the opening of the archives up to 1939 along with the documents of the Inter Arma Caritas up to 1947. According to the sign in sheets in Rome, none of the recognized critics or institutions showed up to study this material. What should be questioned is why did virtually every Jewish organization, (including the ADL), every major Jewish religious personality and Israeli leader of that era, who lived through the war, praise Pius XII unreservedly? What happened? What smoking gun? What documents were discovered to change this?

I Invite Foxman and all others to devote 56 minutes to view a narrated power point illustrating just a small part of the evidence we discovered, then you be the judge. Additional documented proof and video testimonies can be viewed on <http://www.ptwf.org>. I further challenge the ADL to host its own open forum on this subject and, like in our cherished jury system, allow the public to decide whether Eugenio Pacelli is guilty of these charges.

The ADL shows no signs of backing down. In fact, it's stepping things up, with a [lengthy report](#) attempt at rebutting the documents that Krupp has taken to citing.



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THURSDAY, JANUARY 7, 2010

### Venerable Pius XII, ora pro nobis!

*"Ok, I know I have been posting a lot of stuff with regards to Venerable Pius XII lately, however I believe it is necessary to spread the truth as much as possible. This saintly Pope is being attacked, slandered, and falsely accused from all sides. The truth of this Pontiff's courage is there for all to see. I wish to do all in my power to see that others see this Pope the way he was, a true servant and*

*Vicar of Our Lord Jesus Christ!"-Ashley*

### **Pius defender responds to ADL**

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### **POPE BENEDICT XVI**



**Vicar of Christ, Successor of Saint Peter, and Supreme Pastor of the Holy Roman Catholic and Apostolic Church**

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POSTED BY ASHLEY AT 2:02 AM



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Thursday 7 January, 2010



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## End this misguided criticism of 'Hitler's Pope'

Jewish interference in papal moves to canonise Pius XII are entirely misplaced

By David Conway, January 7, 2010



Few familiar with John Cornwall's book, *Hitler's Pope* will ever forget the photograph on its cover. It shows the controversial, wartime Pope leaving a building in full clerical regalia. Majestically, he sweeps past saluting, steel-helmeted German soldiers to an awaiting car whose door is held open by a uniformed, saluting footman.

Those who know or care little about that Pope, Pius XII, beyond what they might think they have learned from the cover of Cornwall's book — or from reading it for that matter — will be likely to agree with those Jewish leaders who have protested at the recent Vatican decision to initiate Pius's canonisation by recognising him as having exhibited the "heroic virtues" of faith, hope and charity.

Without much further thought, they are likely to accept the claim of Israel's Ashkenazi Chief Rabbi that "This is a man... who may not have done enough during the Holocaust to save Jews". Likewise, they will probably concur with the rabbi of Rome's synagogue that: "We must remember... the death trains that carried 1,061 Jews on the 16th October 1943 to Auschwitz, while Pius XII remained silent".

In reality, the photograph adorning the cover of Cornwall's book was taken in 1927, years before Pius became Pope or the Nazis gained power. It shows him, while still papal nuncio to Germany, leaving a reception for its elected President, Paul von Hindenburg.

Pius had long returned to Rome when the Nazis assumed power in 1933, and he deliberately absented himself when Hitler visited the eternal city in 1938. The only senior Nazi whom Pius ever met was German Foreign Minister Ribbentrop, and then only to give him a dressing-down for Nazi

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atrocities, described at the time by the New York Times thus: “In... burning words... [Pius] came to the defence of Jews in Germany and Poland.”

Pius's reprimand of Ribbentrop was far from his only words and deeds opposing the Nazis and their treatment of Jews. Books published since Cornwall's, such as Rabbi David Dalin's *The Myth of Hitler's Pope* (2005), plus published research by the likes of Gary Krupp, founder of the Pave the Way Foundation, cite innumerable ways Pius spoke out and acted against the Nazis.

Pius risked his life plotting against Hitler. He also saved thousands of Jewish lives by securing forged papers to facilitate Jews' emigration to Palestine, as well as by ordering Jews to be hidden and cared for in buildings belonging to the Church.

Apart from getting wrong the date of the first mass shipment of Rome's Jews — it occurred two days after their rounding-up, Rome's rabbi is also wrong to claim Pius said nothing about it. When he first learned of the round-up on the morning of the 16th, he immediately summoned the German ambassador, who then dispatched a warning to Berlin that, if further round-ups occurred, Pius would speak out publicly, regardless of personal consequences. Pius also got the German commander in Rome to send a similar communiqué. As a result, there were no further mass round-ups and few of Rome's Jews were transported to the death camps by comparison with other places under Nazi occupation.

Several Catholic clerics accorded righteous gentile status by Yad Vashem have testified they were acting on the orders of Pius. He too, should be made a righteous gentile, not reviled as a Jew-hater.

*David Conway is senior research fellow at Civitas*

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**Last updated: 10:53am, January 7 2010**



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## Cath Pews

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### Pius XII and the Jews - Pave the Way Foundation

Posted by Sharon on 9/1/2010, 6:17 pm

138.217.110.208

Exy has been posting about the Pave the Way Foundation and its founder Garry Krupp. This foundation has been investigating the role Pope Pius XII played in saving Jewish lives during WWII. "Pave the Way Foundation is dedicated to achieving peace by closing the gap in tolerance, education and the practical relations between religions, through cultural, technological and intellectual exchanges."

I have just watched a fascinating interview with Garry Krupp on EWTN's World Over programme hosted by Raymond Arroyo. Garry Krupp grew up hating Pius XII but his investigations and his commitment to the truth led him to revise his opinion and then to work to put the real story about Pius before the eyes of the world. Garry has uncovered material that the Vatican didn't know existed and has published them on his website.

The interview with Garry Krupp is not in the EWTN archives yet; I will post the link as soon as it appears.

Link: [Pave the Way Foundation](#)

6

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#### Message Thread:

- [Pius XII and the Jews - Pave the Way Foundation](#) - Sharon 9/1/2010, 6:17 pm
  - [Thanks Sharon and here is an interview with Gary Krupp](#) - Exy 9/1/2010, 6:39 pm

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## Society That Thinks Pope Pius XII Rules

Sunday, January 10, 2010

### Pius XII And The Jews

There has been a lot of talk recently about Pius XII and his actions during World War II and the Jewish People, now that Pope Benedict has declared him to be a Venerable and furthering his cause for canonization. Most of the secular media has slandered the good name of Pius XII based on ignorance and a complete lack of facts. They have bought into a lie that was told back in the 60's that Pius was "Hitler's Pope." Nothing could be further from the truth. Pius XII did more to save the Jewish People from Hitler than any other leader in the world during World War II.

However, there is one group, [Pave the Way Foundation](#), led by Gary Krupp (who is himself Jewish) that has done a considerably amount of work on finding documents and evidence to show that Pius XII was indeed a righteous gentile and a man of heroic virtue who saved thousands of Jews from the Holocaust. His website is full of eyewitness interviews, documents, transcripts, etc. that prove this. Please check out the facts for yourself on the website and if you know of anyone slandering Pope Pius XII direct them there as well!

For more info, check out these great books:

[The Myth of Hitler's Pope: Pius XII and His Secret War Against Nazi Germany](#) by Rabbi David Dalin.  
[Did Pius XII Help the Jews?](#) by Margherita Marchione

Also, these two posts:

[Nun Defends Man Some Call "Hitler's Pope."](#)  
[Unprecedented Slander](#)

Also posted at [Irish, Catholic and Dangerous](#)

Labels: [David Dalin](#), [Margherita Marchione](#), [Pave the Way Foundation](#), [Pius XII](#)

posted by Danny Garland Jr. at [11:16 AM](#)

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January 19th, 2010, 3:53 am

# 1

[JohnCraven](#)

Offline

Man On The Street

Join Date: Oct 2008  
Posts: 597

## Investigating the papacy of Pope Pius XII - the redemption of a great and holy man

The Pave The Way Foundation [ [www.ptwf.org](http://www.ptwf.org) ] is based in New York City and was founded by a Jewish man, Gary Krupp and his wife Meredith.

Among its many projects has been an investigation into the papacy of Pope Pius XII which you can view at the following website - <http://www.ptwf.org/Projects/Educati...1%20Videos.htm>.

This investigation is extensive and has uncovered many previously unheard of documents regarding the papacy of Pope Pius XII, especially with regard to his reign during WWII and what Pope Pius XII did with regard to Hitler's extermination of the Jews in Europe.

What's especially notable about this investigation is that Gary Krupp grew up despising the name Pope Pius XII. However, his investigation has led to a complete change of heart in him with regard to Pius XII whose cause for canonization Pope Benedict XVI has recently moved forward.

What I think you will find in the Pave the Way Foundation's Investigation into the papacy of Pius XII is the complete exoneration of a great and holy man from the slanders and libels and invective that has been thrown at him for the last 50 years by people who have harbored a very evil and hidden agenda to discredit Pius XII for reasons that are still mystifying.

Please go to the Pave The Way Foundation's website and view for yourself many video interviews and documents that redeem and exonerate Pius XII and show just how much he truly did not only to save as many Jews from Hitler as possible but also to help create the modern state of Israel.

JohnCraven  
New Orleans 🇺🇸

**"Americans can do anything" -- Governor Bobby Jindal (R) La.**

Quote

January 19th, 2010, 4:01 am

#2



Gabby

Offline

Hannitized

Join Date: Mar 2007  
Posts: 9,727



I'm glad to see this.

A couple of years ago I looked into this topic and was suprised to find out that the popular nonsense about Pius XII was unfounded propaganda.

Quote

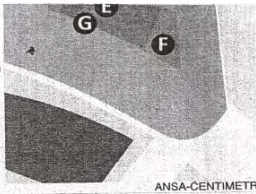
Reply

Il Giornale pag. 11 - 17.1.2010

brei, questi incidenti al percorso" sono più mediatici che reali. È certo che come accade in un rapporto tra due, una parte può non percepire sempre perfettamente tutte le sensibilità dell'altra, ma questo vale in entrambe le direzioni. Penso ad esempio all'offesa recata senza volere ai cattolici di

per via Catalana, fermandosi dove morì Stefano Taché (2 anni) in un attentato del 1982

16.45 €  
Ai piedi della scalinata è ricevuto dal Gran Rabbino



(nuovo ulivo) va al museo

€ 18.00

Nella Schola spagnola, sotto il Tempio, incontra rappresentanti ebrei

### pontificato il mondo ebraico?

«Lo conosce poco. Infatti un compito urgente del dialogo sarebbe proprio quello di ottenere una migliore conoscenza della Chiesa e della sua fede da parte del mondo ebraico. Negli ultimi decenni la Chiesa giustamente

«Il giudizio è già stato emesso da Benedetto XVI: è stato un cristiano dai meriti del tutto eccezionali, che ha esercitato le virtù umane e cristiane in grado davvero eroico. Questo giudizio non impedisce una discussione serena e rispettosa su qualche scelta operativa del pon-

mento del lavoro, ma anche all'esigenza di libertà per i singoli e per i popoli; all'intero arco dei diritti umani, radicati nella rivelazione biblica, e soprattutto al diritto alla libertà da ogni coercizione sociale e civile in materia di coscienza e di religione».

## Il documento

# La rete clandestina di Pacelli che aiutava gli ebrei braccati

Rino Cammilleri

Non tutte le voci ebraiche sono irriconoscenti nei confronti di Pio XII. Anzi, sembra proprio che i denigratori, in questo ambito, siano una minoranza. Certo, non di rado si tratta di una minoranza qualificata, in grado perciò di vanificare, agli effetti pratici, la marea di testimonianze di gratitudine a Papa Pacelli per avere salvato con la sua opera più di ottocentomila ebrei dalla persecuzione nazista. Nella benemerita opera di sfatare la leggenda nera sui cosiddetti «silenziosi» di Pio XII si distingue la newyorkese *Pave the Way Foundation* - organizzazione internazionale ebraica creata da Gary Krupp e rappresentata in Italia dall'avvocato Daniele Costi - che ha trovato una testimonianza straordinaria della rete clandestina di aiuto agli ebrei braccati posta in essere da Pio XII tramite preti e religiosi cattolici in tutto il mondo. Lo straordinario in questa testimonianza è sia il fatto che riguarda un protagonista, sia che quest'ultimo sia ancora vivo. Si tratta di don Giancarlo Centioni, 97 anni e una memoria perfettamente lucida. Interventi

stato da Jesús Colina dell'agenzia *Zenit.org* e in video da *www.h2onews.org* il 14 gennaio scorso, l'anziano sacerdote ha raccontato di essere stato cooptato nella rete di soccorso in quanto cappellano della Milizia fascista e, pertanto, più libero di muoversi nella Roma occupata. I padri Pallottini tedeschi (nome ufficiale della congregazione fondata da S. Vincenzo

### IL PRETE Un'organizzazione ebraica internazionale trova testimonianza inedita di un anziano sacerdote

Pallotti: Società dell'Apostolato Cattolico) avevano creato ad Amburgo la «Raphael Verein» (associazione intitolata a san Raffaele, l'arcangelo che nella Bibbia accompagna e protegge Tobia) per aiutare gli ebrei a fuggire dalla Germania attraverso l'Italia, la Svizzera

o il Portogallo, contando sui confratelli residenti in questi Paesi. Il loro superiore era il p. Josef Kentenich, di Schönstatt (poi arrestato e internato a Dachau fino alla fine della guerra). Il p. Anton Weber ne dirigeva la filiale romana di Via Pettinari 57 (più di dodici religiosi, quasi tutti tedeschi) in stretto contatto col Papa tramite la Segreteria di Stato vaticana. La rete forniva denaro e passaporti agli ebrei. Di essa faceva parte anche un poliziotto, il vicequestore Romeo Ferrara, che (potendo contare su acquiescenze all'interno della polizia italiana) segnalava gli indirizzi della gente da aiutare. Il Centioni, nell'intervista, ricorda in particolare la famiglia Bettoja, proprietaria di alberghi. Ci andò di notte e dovette giurare di essere un prete per farsi aprire. Si salvarono tutti, con i loro bambini. In quell'occasione fu il vicequestore Romeo a fornirgli una divisa da cappellano militare per non dare nell'occhio. La se-

### CANONIZZAZIONE

Papa Pio XII, Eugenio Pacelli, in un'immagine d'archivio. Al centro di polemiche tra cattolici ed ebrei la sua canonizzazione



de della rete serviva anche a nascondere ebrei troppo noti per poter fuggire inosservati. Come il famoso letterato Melchiorre Gioia e l'allora celebre compositore viennese Erwin Frimm. Ma anche lo stesso Centioni corse dei rischi. Come quando, per esempio, fornì aiuto all'ebreo Ivan Basilius senza sapere che costui era una spia dei russi: le SS acciuffarono il fuggitivo e nel suo taccuino trovarono il nome di don Centioni. Questi riuscì a sottrarsi di misura all'arresto con la fuga grazie a una soffiata da

parte di un prelado tedesco, mons. Hudal, in Vaticano. Centioni, in qualità di cappellano della Milizia, era in contatto col comandante della Gestapo, Herbert Kappler, colui che ordinò - per rappresaglia all'attentato partigiano di via Rasella - l'esecuzione dei 335 italiani, ebrei e non, alle Fosse Ardeatine. Subito dopo l'eccidio, don Centioni ricorda di avere chiesto al Kappler come mai non erano stati ammessi i cappellani militari sul luogo delle fucilazioni. L'ufficiale tedesco aveva risposto che, se l'aves-

se fatto, avrebbe dovuto eliminarli, compreso don Centioni. Quest'ultimo venne poi insignito dal governo polacco in esilio di un'alta onorificenza, la Croce d'oro con Spade; motivazione: «Per la nostra e la vostra libertà». Ma la memoria più grata sono le manifestazioni di riconoscenza da parte delle centinaia di ebrei salvati, i Mar-

### DINAMICA Don Centioni, 97 anni, racconta come il gruppo fornisse denaro e passaporti falsi

ni, i Di Tivoli, i Tagliacozzo, i Ghiron. Tutti costoro - assicura il testimone oculare (nonché, ricordiamolo, protagonista e ultimo sopravvissuto) - erano perfettamente a conoscenza del fatto che il vero motore dell'iniziativa era Pio XII, il quale agiva attraverso i suoi uomini. L'arzillo quasi centenario ci tiene a sottolinearlo. Servirà, quest'ulteriore prova? Temiamo di no. Com'è noto, la sordità di chi non vuol sentire è invincibile. I «silenziosi» di Roosevelt e Churchill non valgono quelli di Pio XII.

neamente musicale evocata nel 1988 in occasione del suo tardivo, straordinario esordio poetico. Più che altro, in questo intrecciarsi di impegni e di suggestioni, Ranchetti era rimasto fedele alla sua condizione di credente, irregolare finché si vuole, ma appassionato e sincero. Un cattolico forse poco romano, si potrebbe azzardare con un minimo gioco di parole, tendenzialmente refrattario alle istanze del Magistero e propenso a riconoscersi - lui, studioso del modernismo nella profezia contemporanea di personalità come don Milani, padre Turoldo e l'intero gruppo milanese di Corsia dei Servi, oltre che nell'eclettismo spirituale di gesuiti come Hopkins o De Certeau. Senza dimenticare l'intensa frequentazione con il mondo ebraico, da Benjamin e Scholem fino a Taubes e Celan, di cui era stato traduttore. È la filigrana di autori, spesso con relativa componente polemica, che affiora anche dalle pagine di "Ulteriori e ultimi", che si conclude con una breve sezione di ricordi personali dove, non diversamente da quanto accade nelle testimonianze affidate al video, si impone quello che è stato forse il tratto più caratteristico di Ranchetti: un'umiltà radicale, che lo portava a parlare per sé (e cioè concretamente, non per astrazione) e ad affermare di aver ricevuto senza merito i doni di cui sarebbe potuto andare fiero. Come la casa di via di Giramonte, appunto. A sentir parlare di "grazia", forse, Ranchetti sarebbe rimasto perplesso, poi si sarebbe acceso una Gauloise e ci avrebbe pensato su.

DI LORENZO FAZZINI

**H**a la voce tremolante di chi ne ha viste tante nella vita, dall'alto dei suoi 98 anni («sono nato a Grottaferrata il 5 luglio 1912»), ma la mente a volte si illumina rievocando particolari limpidi: «Ricordo che andavo in giro per la città di Roma, ma mi spingevo anche a Rovigo e Trieste con i soldi cuciti addosso ai vestiti per aiutare gli ebrei. Ed erano soldi che venivano da Pio XII». Padre Giancarlo Centioni, religioso pallottino, lavorava in Vaticano alla vigilia della Seconda guerra mondiale. Già dal 1937 era cappellano militare, prima nelle Milizie volontarie per la sicurezza nazionale, poi nella Guardia Nazionale Repubblicana. Proprio tale ruolo permise a questo sacerdote di operare meglio all'interno della rete di salvataggio messa in piedi, in silenzio ma con grande efficacia, dalla Santa Sede a favore degli ebrei perseguitati dai nazisti. Padre Centioni ha spiegato in dettaglio alla Pave the Way Foundation di New York, un ente ebraico americano di carattere interreligioso, la struttura del sistema ideato dal Vaticano per soccorrere gli ebrei. Un impegno che per padre Centioni iniziò già in Croazia, tra il 1942 e il '43, quando si recava nei campi di prigionia di Ogulin e Cirkvenitz per consegnare soldi in aiuto dei reclusi, «denaro erogato dalla Santa Sede e dalla Croce rossa internazionale», come afferma il religioso in una dichiarazione ufficiale del dicembre 2008. A seguire, tra il settembre '43 e il giugno '44, Centioni è protagonista di soccorsi filoebraici a Roma: «Abitavo nella

Casa generalizia dei Pallottini: fu qui che i miei colleghi sacerdoti tedeschi mi invitarono a partecipare al sistema di aiuti. Siccome ero cappellano fascista, era più facile soccorrere gli ebrei», ha raccontato padre Centioni in una video-intervista visibile sul sito [www.h2onews.org](http://www.h2onews.org) e curata

**«Portavo di nascosto soldi della Santa Sede ai perseguitati. Salvai Franca Bettoja, poi moglie di Ugo Tognazzi. Il Vaticano forniva passaporti agli ebrei per fuggire negli Usa»**

da Daniele Costi, presidente della sezione italiana di Pave the Way Foundation: «Allora - prosegue il religioso laiale - i miei colleghi sacerdoti Pallottini, venuti da Amburgo, avevano fondato una società che si chiamava Raphaels

Verein (Società di San Raffaele), istituita proprio per l'aiuto agli ebrei». Raggiunto telefonicamente, padre Centioni spiega ad *Avvenire*: «Questa associazione aveva sede ad Amburgo, a Roma e a Lisbona e serviva per far scappare gli ebrei. Ci aiutava anche Romeo Ferrara

della Questura di Roma». Ferrara, con la qualifica di vicequestore, era capo del settore politico dell'organismo governativo nella Capitale. «Ricordo di aver nascosto, era piccola, quella che sarebbe diventata la moglie di Ugo Tognazzi, Franca Bettoja, di un'importante famiglia ebraica». Il sacerdote romano racconta come a costituire il punto nevralgico della rete pro-ebrei fosse padre Josef Kentenich, fondatore del

Movimento apostolico di Schönstatt. «A Roma il capo di tutta questa attività era padre Weber, il quale aveva un contatto con Pio XII e la Segreteria di Stato vaticana. Il denaro e i passaporti venivano dati da padre Anton Weber e consegnati alle persone. Però lui li otteneva direttamente dalla Segreteria di Stato di Sua Santità, per nome e conto di Pio XII. Molti di questi denari li ho portati in casa degli ebrei. Mi hanno aiutato almeno altri 12 sacerdoti tedeschi a Roma». I passaporti vaticani forniti agli ebrei servivano per «entrare in Spagna e Portogallo, e di qui negli Usa», afferma ancora Centioni. Un particolare già rilevato due anni fa da monsignor Giovanni Ferrofino, segretario di nunziatura ad Haiti durante la guerra: «Dal Vaticano partiva l'indicazione di aiuto, poi in nunziatura ad Haiti si preparavano i visti per gli ebrei in Portogallo, che partivano da Lisbona grazie all'interessamento del rappresentante vaticano locale». Destinazione finale, come conferma Centioni, i tanto sospirati Stati Uniti d'America. L'anziano reverendo indica anche il nome di alcuni altri ebrei che lui stesso aiutò: «Abbiamo nascosto due ebrei: un letterato, Melchiorre Gioia, e un grande musicista compositore di Vienna del tempo, che scriveva le canzoncine e faceva le operette, Erwin Friml Kozab». Sulle polemiche riguardanti il presunto silenzio di Pacelli rispetto alla persecuzione di Hitler verso il popolo ebraico, padre Centioni ha un'opinione precisa e motivata dall'esperienza: «Dovrebbero capire che Pio XII era davvero a loro favore».

## LA POLEMICA

**Ma «Shalom» critica di nuovo l'operato di papa Pacelli**

In occasione della visita di Benedetto XVI al Tempio Maggiore di Roma il prossimo 17 gennaio, la Comunità ebraica ha curato una edizione straordinaria del mensile «Shalom» diretto dal giornalista Giacomo Kahn. Il giornale - che reca in copertina una foto del Papa e del capo rabbino Riccardo Di Segni con il titolo «Dopo 24 anni si rinnova l'incontro in sinagoga» - ospita contributi di Arrigo Levi, Gad Lerner e Clemente Mimmi. Lo storico Gad Luzzatto Voghera torna sulla polemica verso papa Pacelli e scrive: «Rimane sospesa la valutazione sul perché della mancanza di una posizione esplicita di Pio XII sullo sterminio degli ebrei, anche quando questo avvenne sotto le sue finestre. Il timore di rappresaglie anticattoliche, radicato sentimento anticomunista che induceva a prudenza nel condannare esplicitamente l'operato nazista, meditata strategia diplomatica, retaggio di un antigioiandismo mai esplicitamente rinnegato, sta di fatto che in quegli anni la persecuzione degli ebrei non figurò tra i problemi primari che assillarono la Chiesa e la Santa Sede».

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## Pius XII A Hero

### Editor:

As a Jew growing up in New York, I know exactly how Rabbi Dr. Bernhard Rosenberg and other recent letter writers felt about Pope Pius XII ("Papal Dance").

I, too, hated Pius XII until we began to reveal documented proof of his secret actions to save Jewish lives when no one else would do so. Because of our work with Pave the Way Foundation, we began an independent study to retrieve the proof your readers want to see. The original documents and eyewitness testimonies are at [ptwf.org](http://ptwf.org), as is a 288-page book that you can download and a narrated PowerPoint. Once you review all of the material, the only conclusion you can reach is that Pope Pius XII was not only one of the greatest heroes of WWII, but saved more Jews than all of the world's religious and political leaders combined.

Read yourself and you decide.

**Gary Krupp**  
**President**  
**Pave the Way Foundation**  
*New York City*

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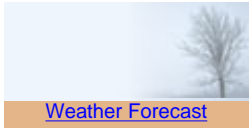
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## Livingston Resident Harry Epstein Works to Uncover the Truth About Pope Pius XII

By Michael M. Shapiro  
2/11/2010



LIVINGSTON, NJ - For Livingston resident Harry Epstein, a guiding principle of his life can best be summed up by Maimonides who said, "Truth does not become more true by virtue of the fact that the entire world agrees with it, nor less so even if the whole world disagrees with it." "I encourage all Jews to research the facts. We should not be persecuting somebody who did good. It is up to us as Jews to not follow the crowd and instead, to actually investigate it for ourselves," Epstein recently told The Alternative Press over breakfast at Livingston Bagel in Livingston.



Get the Treatment  
You Deserve

Pope Pius XII who has been targeted by Jewish groups and others that claim he was anti-Semitic and did not help the Jews during the Holocaust.

So what are Epstein, a Jew from Livingston, and a fellow Jew and brother-in-law of Epstein Gary Krupp, doing not only advocating for Pope Pius XII but even completing a book about the Pope that historically documents the Pope's virtues? "We want to get the truth out about Pope Pius," Epstein said.

This isn't the first time that Epstein and Krupp have helped the Catholic Church. Through their Pave the Way Foundation, they have been breaking down barriers between religions. "We talk and resolve problems and help the religions come together," said Epstein.

About 25 years ago, Krupp, who built medical facilities, intervened to help to provide multiple modalities of medical equipment for a hospital in Italy founded by a Catholic Saint, Padre Pio. Pope John Paul learned that it was Krupp who had supplied the equipment. To thank him for his 25 years of service, the Pope knighted Krupp. Krupp was the seventh Jew to ever be knighted by the Catholic Church to the Pontifical Order of St. Gregory the Great.

The experience changed Krupp's life. He gave up his career and became an emissary between Israel and the Holy See, with the mission of breaking down boundaries between the religions. He created the Pave the Way Foundation and enlisted his brother-in-law Harry Epstein to help him. Epstein said the Foundation's mission is about "embracing the similarities and savoring the differences" between the religions.

Pave the Way Foundation's most recent project before its Pope Pius work was helping to acquire the Bodmer Papyrus. Father Richard Donahoe, rector of the Cathedral of St. Paul in Birmingham, Alabama, contacted Krupp and told him that the oldest edition of the Lord's Prayer was up for sale. Krupp called the prefect of the Vatican Library and asked about the importance of the document to the Catholic Church. The prefect contacted Pope Benedict who relayed that it would be the most important acquisition by the Church this century, according to Epstein. Epstein said "the document was important for many reasons: it tied together the gospels of Luke and John and showed standardization in the religion at an early stage of its existence and of equal importance is the closer any document is to the original text, the more original (unchanged) the words are." The Bodmer was written between 150 and 175 CE.

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Father Donahoe tried to raise the \$8M to purchase the document but no one had the funds available. He informed Epstein who then called American businessman Frank Hanna III, a friend of Epstein's. With help from Vatican Ambassador to the United States Archbishop Pietro Sambi, who serves as the link between the Vatican and the United States, Hanna was convinced of the document's importance to the Catholic Church. After discussions, Hanna purchased the document for the Vatican. It took many months to get the paperwork done and then the document was delivered via a motorcade and private flight to the Vatican.

Fast forward three years and now Pave the Way Foundation and Epstein and Krupp are on a new mission: to "get the truth out about Pope Pius."

Epstein's and Krupp's adventure began when they learned from a Jewish historian that there had been a plot by Pope Pius XII to kill Hitler. Surprised about this claim, Epstein and Krupp began researching Pope Pius XII and found Sister Margarita Marchione in Morristown who had a wealth of documents about the Pope. These documents further picqued the interests of Krupp and Epstein, who decided to research the Pope and see what they could learn.

According to Epstein, "Pius was a good man, a righteous man. He should be celebrated and honored for saving, we believe, 800,000 Jews." To justify his claims, Epstein points to a treasure trove of documents that help make his case.

Pope Pius XII was formerly known as Cardinal Pacelli before he was made Pope. According to a 1944 telegram from Pius to Hungary's Regent, Miklos Horthy, the Pope protests the deportation of Jews from Hungary and asks Horthy to use his power so that "many unfortunate people may be spared further afflictions and sorrow."

According to 1940 letters from Luigi Cardinal Maglione, Vatican Secretary of State and Assistant to the Cardinal Archbishop Giovanni Montini, Pope Pius sent money on several occasions to Campagna specifically for the support of the Jews being protected there.

In 1938, before he became Pope, Cardinal Pacelli wrote to the apostolic nuncio in Poland to encourage opposition to an anti-Koshering Polish law, because he considered it to be persecution of the Jews.

Numerous documents provided by Epstein show Pius advocating for the State of Israel. For example, in 1945, he met with Jewish survivors of the Holocaust in the Vatican and

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told them "soon you will have a Jewish state." Much before that, he intervened at the request of Nachum Sokolow in 1917 to protect the Jews of Palestine from the Ottoman Turks.

An affidavit from General Karl Wolff, German commander in Italy, testified of a plan he was ordered to develop, by Hitler, to kidnap Pius. An internal Gestapo report lists Pacelli as a co-conspirator in a plot to kill Hitler in 1944.

A day after Pacelli was elected pope, a Confidential U.S. Foreign Service letter was sent to Washington by a U.S. diplomat in Germany. In part it read, "His views while well known to me surprised me by their extremeness. He said that he opposed unalterably every compromise with National Socialism. He regarded Hitler not only as an untrustworthy scoundrel, but as a fundamentally wicked person."

So how did Pius become labeled as an anti-Semite? According to Epstein, it was through a play called *The Deputy*, which disparaged the Catholic Church and Pope Pius. Epstein says that the play was a plot by the KGB to undermine the effectiveness of bishops who were being sent by the Catholic Church into communist countries to convert people to Catholicism. According to Epstein, this was Russia's way to stop the Vatican from influencing the communist bloc through non-violence.

To read more about Pope Pius XII and the Pave the Way Foundation, visit [www.ptwf.org](http://www.ptwf.org)



# Dominus Jesus Christus (Philippians 2:11)

The purpose of this blog is to share news of religious interest as well as thoughts on life and and religion. This blog is meant to be a journal on various topics of current interest, considered especially in a rational and religious light. It ought be read in conjunction with my website, of which it is a part: [www.catholic-thoughts.info](http://www.catholic-thoughts.info)

Saturday, 13 February 2010

## Vatican Secret Archives Documents Going Online

Pave the Way Foundation Proposal Approved

By Jesús Colina

VATICAN CITY, FEB. 12, 2010 (Zenit.org).- The Holy See is planning to publish on the Internet, free of charge, several documents from the Vatican Secret Archives in relation to World War II.

The initiatives is partially in response to a petition from Pave the Way Foundation, an organization dedicated to bridging gaps between religions.

The foundation proposed making digital files of, and later publicizing, some 5125 descriptions and copies of documents from the closed section of the Vatican archives, from the period of March 1939 to May 1945.

Gary Krupp, the foundation's president and founder, told ZENIT that "the 'Actes et Documents du Saint Siège relatifs a la Seconde Guerre Mondiale [Acts and Documents of the Holy See relative to the Second World War],'" which were "previously published and mostly ignored," will "shortly be available for worldwide scrutiny and study online, free of charge."



He explained that these documents will be available on the Web site of his foundation as well as that of the Vatican.

This project is part of the mission of the foundation, a non-sectarian organization that works to remove obstacles between religions, foster cooperation and to end the misuse of religion for private agendas.

The organization's president, who is from New York but of Jewish decent, stated, "In the furtherance of our mission we have recognized the papacy of the war time Pope Pius XII (Eugenio Pacelli) as a source of friction impacting over one billion people."

A plot

"Controversy abounds on whether he did enough to prevent the slaughter of Jews at the hands of the Nazis," Krupp affirmed.

He continued: "Our research has revealed that five years after Pius XII's death, the KGB hatched a plot to discredit their enemy, the Roman Catholic Church, called 'Seat 12.'

"A dirty trick, which condemned Pope Pius XII for his 'silence' during the Holocaust in the form of Rolf Hochhuth's fictitious 1963 play 'The Deputy.' The result was the worst character assassination of the twentieth century."

Based on his foundation's research, Krupp stated that in 1964, Pope Paul VI asked a team of three Jesuit historians, Father Pierre Blet, Father Burkhardt Schneider, and Father Angelo Martini, to "conduct intensive research to identify relevant documents from the war years from the closed section of the Vatican Secret Archives."

He added: "A few years later Father Robert Graham joined the group. The first volume was published in 1965, the last in 1981."

Krupp explained that in 1999, Cardinal Edward Cassidy, at that time the president of the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity, called for a special commission of Jewish and Catholic scholars to come together to

study these documents.

"This positive advance unfortunately ended July 21, 2001 in failure," he added, "partly because the scholars simply did not read the languages of the collection."

"They issued a list of 47 questions and demanded the opening of the yet un-catalogued archives" from the 1939-1958 period, the foundation president said.

He stated that his foundation "sought to gain permission to digitize this collection, making it broadly available for study" so as to further "our mission to publicly disclose as many documents as possible to help to move this obstacle between Jews and Catholics into the light of documented truth."

Black legend

Krupp explained that "this effort is simply to show clear evidence of Pope Pius XII's efforts to mitigate suffering during the war and that the 'black legend,' which besmirched his name, is simply not true."

He added that this initiative is "not meant to be a substitute for the full access" to the archives, "but will absolutely show the unique efforts of Pope Pius XII and the dangers he was forced to operate under a direct threat from the Nazi regime."

"Ironically," he said "the Vatican Secret Archives [from the period prior] to 1939 were opened over two years ago," and they showed that "65% of Pacelli's ministry has simply been ignored by the critics who call for the war years to be opened."

On behalf of the foundation, the president expressed gratitude to the Pope's Secretary of State and the Libreria Editrice Vaticana "for their confidence in us by allowing us this unprecedented privilege."

He continued: "We sincerely hope that international historians will carefully scrutinize these records. We expect the digitization process of over 9000 pages will take about four weeks to complete [at which time] we will announce their posting on Internet."

In the meantime, the foundation already has thousands of documents and eyewitness videos available on their

Web site for study.

Krupp concluded by requesting that "French, Italian and German scholars consider helping us by translating documents into English and forward this work to Pave the Way Foundation so that we can make the information available to more scholars for research."

He added, "We also would like to receive any comments, positive or negative, relative to the content of these documents."

posted by Father Ted at 2:51 PM

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Father Ted

I am a Catholic priest of the diocese of Parramatta (Sydney), Australia. I have served in various parishes since my ordination, including in South America. I have studied philosophy, theology, the humanities and religious education in various institutes and universities, and my Ph.D was on Cardinal Newman's understanding of what the conscience reveals of God. At this point I serve in the parish of St Thomas Aquinas, Springwood, near Sydney. Visit my website: [www.catholic-thoughts.info](http://www.catholic-thoughts.info)

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On the Net:

Pave the Way Foundation: <http://www.ptwf.org>

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February 14, 2010

ROME (JTA) -- The Vatican plans to post selected documents from its World War II secret archives online, according to a Catholic news agency.

The move came at the initiative of Pave the Way, a U.S.-based foundation that promotes interfaith dialogue and has striven to counter criticism that wartime Pope Pius XII ignored Jewish suffering during the Holocaust, Zenit news agency reported Friday.

Pave the Way offered to digitize some 5,125 descriptions and copies of documents from the closed section of the Vatican archives, from the period of March 1939 to May 1945, Zenit reported. These would then be posted on the Web sites of both the Vatican and Pave the Way.

Pave the Way head Gary Krupp told Zenit that the documents in question had been "previously published and mostly ignored," such as "the 'Actes et Documents du Saint Siège relatifs a la Seconde Guerre Mondiale [Acts and Documents of the Holy See relative to the Second World War]'" between 1965 and 1981.

Krupp told Zenit that the publication of these documents was "not meant to be a substitute for the full access" to the Vatican archives, "but will absolutely show the unique efforts of Pope Pius XII and the dangers he was forced to

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## Pius The XII: The World War II Pope

[Holly J. Harrington](#) on Feb 13, 2010

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The question is did he do the right thing in WWII? This is a story, commentary on Pope Pius XII.

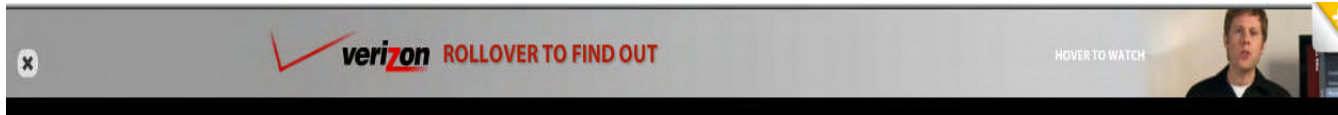
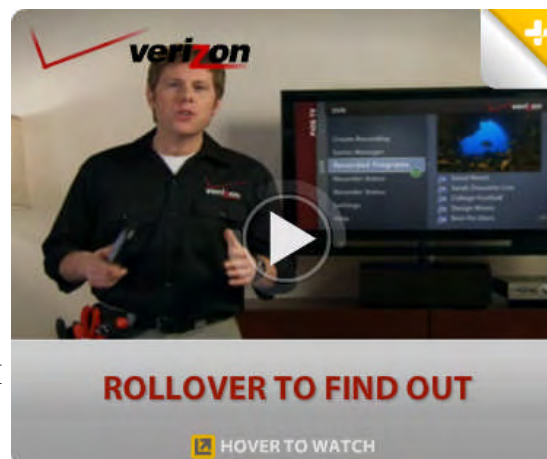
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Image via [Wikipedia](#) (Pope Pius the XII)

As one of the last of the Baby Boomers I have to say that I am a person who understands somewhat the mentality of the generation who fought and held up during World War II. I am the outsider looking in at those who lived it and who I lived with that experienced it.

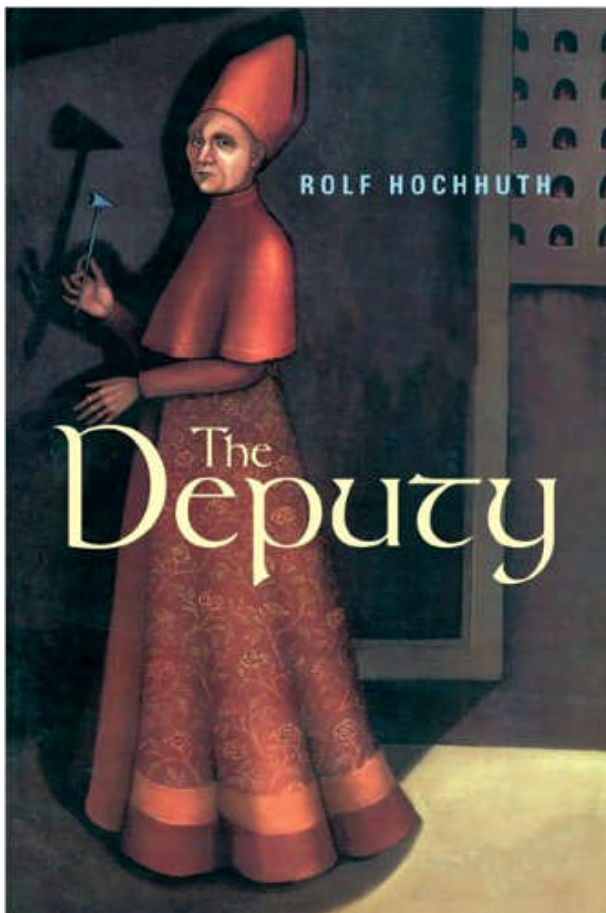
My father served in World War II with his brothers and comes from a long line of veterans. My mother lived during this time but was a child who saw with the eyes of a child but lived through the Great Depression as young person as my father did. I hope that I can be half the person the people of this historical dilemma and struggle that took place prior to WWII who were and very few are still left today. May we hope that we learned from them of this time.



of the times. Who were these people? You have to understand the somewhat being relived today but in a different framework. Its called political and I live in it. If it takes me a lifetime I will never learn everything even of you know the more you realize how little you know.” This should not be the case about history.

Pius the XII born in March 2, 1876 and Servant of God until his death October 9, 1958. He is part of one generation born before my grandmother and lived and died during the beginning of the Baby-Boomers.

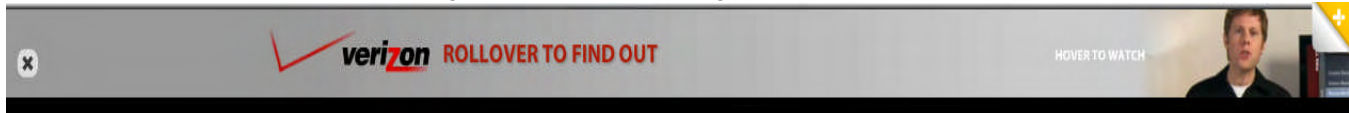
He was Cardinal and Pope in the most turbulent time following the after revolution of Europe and the after during the last reigning days of the Last of the Monarchs of Europe. He, himself an Aristocrat from an Italian family. He was born during the most turbulent times of Europe and served during its darkest times of the 20th Century. He was Priest, Monsignor, [Archbishop](#), Nuncio to the German Empire during WWI and eventually Pope during WWII. Its no wonder he was maligned as during a dark period of historical memory. Today in [modern times](#) he is still maligned as “Hitler’s Pope”.



Cover of [The Deputy \(Black cat book\)](#)

Documentation states otherwise. After his death a play surfaced called “The Deputy” by Rolf Hochhuth [acting](#) out to the public that Pius XII did nothing and that he sided with Hitler and silent about the [Jewish](#) Holocaust.

This is not so. It also doesn’t take a genius who lived during the





ch has always been a bulwark  
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She has been maligned for 2000 years as Christ predicted. He said if they hate me they will hate you. So whats new.

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Two people stand out who are trying valiantly to exonerate this man, Pius XII from the scourge of lies perpetuated in the world today.

One is Gary Krupp of Pave the Way Foundation and the other is Sr. Margherita Marchione. My hope is that their research in the Vatican Archives will show that this Pope did more than any person from all the nations put together during the dark days of World War II.

It is true if you forget the past you are doomed to repeat it. The shadows cast on Pope Pius XII are casting light on this statement and we must not repeat the past but remember it for its truths.

I invite all of you to look these two websites up and decide for yourselves about Pope Pius XII. In my heart I know he did the right thing because as I have said he was the Servant of God and the Servant of [Jesus Christ](#) guided by the [Holy Spirit](#). You are not obligated to believe as I do but through the eyes of my soul and faith this is how I see that God works among we "little ones" on this little vulnerable [planet](#) in the Universe.

Gary Krupp and his witness:

<http://www.pavethewayfoundation.org/Projects/Education/Pope%20Pius%20XII%20Videos.htm>

Sr. Margherita Marchione, Ph.D. and her witness:

<http://www.piusxiipope.info/sister.htm>

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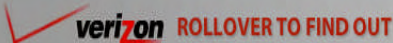
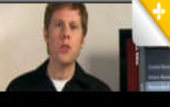
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# CathNews - a Service of Church Resources

## Over 2,000 pages of evidence clear Pius XII: Findings

Published: June 17, 2009

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The Pave the Way Foundation for interreligious dialogue has announced it has found more than 2,300 pages of original documents illustrating Pope Pius XII's efforts to help Jews in the face of Nazism.

Gary Krupp, president of the New York based foundation, affirmed this in a statement to *Zenit*, and stated the documents from the years 1940-1945 will be made available to the public for research.

The president, himself a Jew, reported these papers, found through the organisation's private research, give "strong support to the argument that Pope Pius XII - Eugenio Pacelli - worked diligently to save Jews from Nazi tyranny."

As a part of a private research project, the foundation found the documents in a monastery in Avellino, Italy.

The foundation's statement noted the possibility that "many more vital documents could be found in larger dioceses, if researchers simply took the time to look."

Krupp continued: "Since presumed history has been the justification for hatred, vendettas and wars throughout civilized human existence, aren't the historians charged with a moral and vital responsibility to get the story straight? People are killed every day because of historical vendettas.

"A personal disappointment resulting from our research was the realisation that we all have been let down by many who represent themselves as historians.

"These individuals, with private agendas, have simply failed to research the evidence of this era properly and have remained silent when the absurd fanatics manipulate the truth."



If our foundation, he said, as "amateur fact finders, can uncover so much information, how is it that the so-called historians and academic institutions have allowed the 46 year old assessment of Pius XII to continue unchallenged, impacting the opinions and relationships of over one billion people?"

The foundation will offer these documents for worldwide historical study on its website.

The statement observed that "universal" gratitude to Pius XII was "radically changed" five years after his death, through a fictional play by Rolf Hochhuth called "The Deputy."

The foundation reported the "confirmed testimony that this play was part of a KGB plot called 'seat 12,' which was strategically planned to destroy the reputation of the Catholic Church."

This research, the foundation stated, supports the "undeniable conclusion" that "Pope Pius XII was a true hero" of World War II.

## FULL STORY @

[New evidence says Pius XII helped Jews \(Zenit\)](#)

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# Vatican WW2 secret archives to go online

Posted: Sunday, February 14, 2010 11:46 pm

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The Holy See has announced plans to publish secret archive documents from World War II on the internet.

The Pave the Way Foundation, an organization dedicated to bridging gaps between religions, has begun making digital files of about 9,000 pages of documents, descriptions from the closed section of the Vatican archives, from the period of March 1939 to May 1945. The documents will be available on the Pave the Way and Vatican websites.



Pope Pius XII

Gary Krupp, the Jewish president and founder of Pave the Way explained that they had decided to make the documents in order to clarify the role of Pope Pius XII during World War II.

"Controversy abounds on whether he did enough to prevent the slaughter of Jews at the hands of the Nazis. Our research has revealed that five years after Pius XII's death, the KGB hatched a plot to discredit their enemy, the Roman Catholic Church, called 'Seat 12.'"

Krup said Rolf Hochhuth's fictitious 1963 play about Pius XII, 'The Deputy', was "the worst character assassination of the twentieth century."

He explained that in 1964, Pope Paul VI had asked a team of Jesuit historians to "conduct intensive research to identify relevant documents from the war years from the closed section of the Vatican Secret Archives."

They had begun the project, but not completed it, he said. In 1999, Cardinal Edward Cassidy, at that time the president of the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity, called for a special commission of Jewish and Catholic scholars to come together to study these documents. Again, the work was never completed.

Krup his foundation wanted to publish as many documents as possible, and make them publicly available so they can be studied by all.

He has requested that "French, Italian and German scholars consider helping us by translating documents into English and forward this work to Pave the Way Foundation so that we can make the information available to more scholars for research."

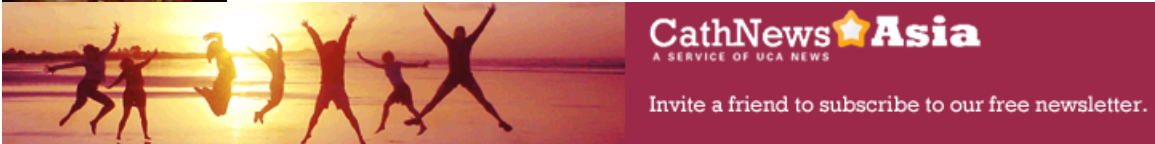
"We also would like to receive any comments, positive or negative, relative to the content of these documents."

He said: the initiative was "not meant to be a substitute for the full access" to the archives, "but will absolutely show the unique efforts of Pope Pius XII and the dangers he was forced to operate under a direct threat from the Nazi regime."

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## Vatican to publish WWII documents online



Published Date: February 15, 2010

The Holy See is planning to publish over 9,000 pages of World War II era documents from the Vatican Secret Archives free of charge on the internet.

The documents are expected to highlight the “unique efforts” of wartime pope, Pius XII, ZENIT reports.

The move to more publicly provide the “previously published and mostly ignored” documents is in part a response to a petition from Pave the Way Foundation, said the Zenit news agency quoting the foundation’s president Gary Krupp.

Krupp, a New Yorker of Jewish descent, was cited saying that “the ‘Actes et Documents du Saint Siège relatifs a la Seconde Guerre Mondiale [Acts and Documents of the Holy See relative to the Second World War],” will “shortly be available for worldwide scrutiny and study online”.



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## After Pius move, Pope Benedict practices delicate Jewish dance

By [Ruth Ellen Gruber](#) · December 31, 2009

ROME (JTA) -- For at least the third time in his papacy, Pope Benedict's XVI is doing the Jewish dance that takes him one step back, one step forward.

The step back came when Benedict made a move in mid-December to bring Holocaust-era Pope Pius XII a bit closer to sainthood. The step forward -- the penitence, some might say -- will come in mid-January, when Benedict visits Rome's main synagogue.

The question is whether this bid to smooth over Catholic-Jewish relations will work.

"It is an important event, a milestone in the dialogue," Rome's chief rabbi, Riccardo Di Segni, told Vatican Radio about the planned synagogue visit. "We have great expectations for what it can mean in terms of the general climate."

"If we stop at the things that divide us deeply, we won't get anywhere," he said. "The differences are important to move forward."

Benedict's visit -- set to take place Jan. 17, the Catholic Church's annual Day of Dialogue with Judaism -- will come a month after he recognized the religiously defined "heroic virtues" of both John Paul II and Pius XII, putting them one step away from beatification.

The Polish-born John Paul made fostering Catholic-Jewish relations a hallmark of his papacy. But critics have long accused Pius of having turned a blind eye to Jewish suffering during the Holocaust. The Vatican and other supporters say Pius acted behind the scenes to help Jews. Gary Krupp, a Jew and the head of Pave the Way, a nonsectarian foundation that promotes interfaith dialogue, wrote in a recent Op-Ed in The New York Post that criticism of Pius XII began in the 1960s as part of a Soviet smear campaign against the Catholic Church, which at the time was profoundly anti-Communist. The Anti-Defamation League responded with a call on the pope to disregard Krupp's "flawed" evidence.

Scholars and Jewish organizations for years have called on the Vatican to fully open its secret archives in order to clarify the issue before Pius is moved any further toward sainthood. Benedict's decision to green-light Pius's advance drew widespread criticism from Jewish bodies. While many Jewish organizational leaders said it was up to the Vatican to decide whom to honor with sainthood, they renewed calls for the archives to be opened.

"As long as the archives of Pope Pius about the crucial period 1939 to 1945 remain closed, and until a consensus on his actions -- or inaction -- concerning the persecution of millions of Jews in the Holocaust is established, a beatification is inopportune and premature," the World Jewish Congress' president, Ronald Lauder, said in a statement.

The Vatican responded with a conciliatory statement saying Benedict's move was in no way "a hostile act towards the Jewish people" and should not be considered "an obstacle on the path of dialogue between Judaism and the Catholic Church."

The uproar over Pius XII is not the first episode where the Vatican had to backpedal, clarify or explain a Pope Benedict decision that angered Jews.

In 2008, Jewish protests over the reinstatement of a Good Friday Latin prayer that appeared to call for the conversion of the Jews led the Vatican to change some of the prayer's wording. Still, Italian rabbis were so angry over the issue that they boycotted participation in last year's January 17 Day of Dialogue with Judaism.

One year ago, the pope's lifting of a 1988 excommunication order against Richard Williamson, a renegade Bishop who turned out to be a Holocaust denier, sparked outrage among political figures and mainstream Catholics as well as Jews. Williamson was one of four bishops rehabilitated as part of the pope's effort to bring their ultra-conservative movement, the Society of St. Pius X, back within the mainstream Catholic fold.

The Vatican ordered Williamson to recant and admitted that the pope had not been aware of his views -- despite a video of Williamson that was widely circulated on YouTube.

The pope himself issued a strong message of support to a visiting delegation from the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations and announced to the group the plans for his May 2009 visit to Israel, his first to the Jewish state as pontiff.

Analysts said Benedict's move on Pius is part of the pope's effort to shore up conservative forces within the church.

"The pope apparently has chosen to balance his unquestionable commitment to the Catholic Church's good relations with world Judaism with his commitment to recuperating the religious right wing of Catholicism," said Lisa Palmieri Billig, the American Jewish Committee's liaison to the Vatican. "Obviously his path is strewn with warring obstacles."

Rabbi Gary Bretton-Granatoor, an expert in interfaith relations and the vice president of the World Union for Progressive Judaism, said, "The great struggle of this moment is shoring up the most traditional elements of his church as he fights the growing secularization and Islamification of the European stage, which is right before his eyes."

Bretton-Granatoor said that the visit to the synagogue in Rome is "far more telling about the state of Catholic-Jewish relations" than the move to elevate Pius.

His visit to the shul in two weeks will mark only the second time that a pope has crossed the Tiber River from the Vatican to visit the synagogue in Rome. As pope, Benedict has visited synagogues in his native Germany and in the United States, and he made the trip to Israel last May.

But the Rome synagogue has particular significance. Rome is said to have the oldest continuous Jewish community in the Diaspora. The visit to the synagogue in 1986 by Benedict's predecessor, Pope John Paul II, was the first time any pope had set foot in any shul since the time of St. Peter.

Bretton-Granatoor put some of the Benedict's apparent gaffes down to differences in style and substance that set this pope apart from his predecessor.



John Paul "was an actor and a pastor -- he understood that every gesture had meaning," Bretton-Granatoor said. Benedict, on the other hand, "was an academic and was never a pastor -- he doesn't get seem to get it in the same way as his predecessor."

He added, "This pope is vastly different from his predecessor. He is a German and, therefore, cannot speak about the Shoah in the way that [John Paul], a Pole, could."

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The Vatican plans to post selected documents from its World War II secret archives online, according to a Catholic news agency.

The move came at the initiative of [Pave the Way](#), a U.S.-based foundation that promotes interfaith dialogue and has striven to counter criticism that wartime Pope Pius XII ignored Jewish suffering during the Holocaust, Zenit news agency reported Friday.

Pave the Way offered to digitize some 5,125 descriptions and copies of documents from the closed section of the Vatican archives, from the period of March 1939 to May 1945, Zenit reported. These would then be posted on the Web sites of both the Vatican and Pave the Way.

Pave the Way head Gary Krupp told Zenit that the documents in question had been “previously published and mostly ignored,” such as “the ‘Actes et Documents du Saint Siège relatifs a la Seconde Guerre Mondiale [Acts and Documents of the Holy See relative to the Second World War]’” between 1965 and 1981.

Krupp told Zenit that the publication of these documents was “not meant to be a substitute for the full access” to the Vatican archives, “but will absolutely show the unique efforts of Pope Pius XII and the dangers he was forced to operate under a direct threat from the Nazi regime.”



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## RADICAL PAPIST

"TU ES PETRUS ET SUPER HANC PETRAM AEDIFICABO ECCLESIAM MEAM ET PORTAE INFERI NON PRAEVALEBUNT ADVERSUM EAM" MATTHAEUM XVI:XVIII



**"Furthermore, We declare, We proclaim, We define that it is absolutely necessary for salvation that every human creature be subject to the Roman Pontiff."- Pope Boniface VIII, *Unam Sanctam***

THURSDAY, JANUARY 7, 2010

### Venerable Pius XII, ora pro nobis!

*"Ok, I know I have been posting a lot of stuff with regards to Venerable Pius XII lately, however I believe it is necessary to spread the truth as much as possible. This saintly Pope is being attacked, slandered, and falsely accused from all sides. The truth of this Pontiff's courage is there for all to see. I wish to do all in my power to see that others see this Pope the way he was, a true servant and*

Vicar of Our Lord Jesus Christ!"-Ashley

### **Pius defender responds to ADL**

By [Ami Eden](#) · January 6, 2010

*We recently cited a column in The New York Post by Gary Krupp of the Pave the Way Foundation defending defending the World War II -era record of Pope Pius XII and the rebuttal from the Anti-Defamation League.*

Now the foundation has sent in a response to the ADL's response:

"Pave the Way foundation is Saddened by the Recent Attack on our Work by Abe Foxman Executive Director of the ADL.

Pave the Way Foundation, is a non-sectarian organization, which sought to bring this 46 year old negativity between Jews and Catholics concerning the papacy of Pope Pius XII (Eugenio Pacelli) to a public forum. To correct Foxman's fallacious statements, we held our symposium in Rome in September 2008 not 2009. All of the Holocaust institutions and the critics (including Prof. Paul O'Shea) were invited to attend. We hoped to open an exchange of information in order to reveal newly discovered documents and eye witness testimonies. All of the critics declined our invitation since they didn't consider it a scholarly forum and it was going to be open to a public group of Rabbis and Jewish leaders. These same critics claimed that the symposium was one sided, which is comical since their refusal to participate created that impression.

The documents, Foxman is referring to, were only recently discovered in Campagna and only showed that there are thousands of Vatican WWII documents that are available for study by those who wish to simply look. To correct Foxman again, according to the report Prof. Paul O'Shea sent to me, the Campagna documents did in fact show how Pius XII directed efforts to send financial aid specifically for care of the Jews. This was in one small diocese in Italy. Just like General Eisenhower, Pius XII had his army of trusted clergy to carry out his instructions and verbal orders. He physically couldn't do everything as Foxman seems to demand as proof of his benevolence. He acted to save Jews when no one else would. He did this, according to our original documents, fully expecting a full scale invasion of the Vatican where he would have be kidnapped and the clergy would be killed.

### **THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY**



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### **POPE BENEDICT XVI**



**Vicar of Christ, Successor of Saint Peter, and Supreme Pastor of the Holy Roman Catholic and Apostolic Church**

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The significant evidence that we have gathered is from many other countries. More importantly the testimony from eye witnesses who describe the secret actions that they were ordered to take by the Vatican to save Jewish lives. Pius XII took these actions with German guns 200 yards under his very windows when he expected the imminent attack on the Vatican. He still managed to save more Jews than all of the world's religious and political leaders combined. Pacelli acted directly to stop the arrest of the Roman Jews 2 PM on the day it began October 16, 1943 and managed to hide over 7000 Jews in just one day. He accomplished all of this anonymously (this is our highest form of charity).

Foxman is calling for the Vatican Archives to be opened when curiously just over 2 years ago Pope Benedict XVI ordered the opening of the archives up to 1939 along with the documents of the Inter Arma Caritas up to 1947. According to the sign in sheets in Rome, none of the recognized critics or institutions showed up to study this material. What should be questioned is why did virtually every Jewish organization, (including the ADL), every major Jewish religious personality and Israeli leader of that era, who lived through the war, praise Pius XII unreservedly? What happened? What smoking gun? What documents were discovered to change this?

I Invite Foxman and all others to devote 56 minutes to view a narrated power point illustrating just a small part of the evidence we discovered, then you be the judge. Additional documented proof and video testimonies can be viewed on <http://www.ptwf.org/>. I further challenge the ADL to host its own open forum on this subject and, like in our cherished jury system, allow the public to decide whether Eugenio Pacelli is guilty of these charges. "

The ADL shows no signs of backing down. In fact, it's stepping things up, with a [lengthy report](#) attempt at rebutting the documents that Krupp has taken to citing.

See also:

[Catholic league: Attack on Pius XII is Unseemly](#)

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## Vatican putting wartime archives on Internet

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VATICAN CITY(AP)

The Vatican plans to make some of its World War II archives available on the Internet soon to calm down the controversy over Pope Pius XII's actions during the Holocaust.

The Vatican's newspaper announced the plan, saying it will "render service to the historic truth," and officials said Tuesday the material will be accessible soon.

However a panel of Jewish and Catholic scholars who examined the 11 volumes of material a decade ago concluded that more information was required to decide whether Pius did everything he could to head off the Nazis' efforts to exterminate European Jews.

Some Jews and others contend Pius should have done more, and are angered by Pope Benedict XVI's recent decision to move Pius closer to sainthood.

The Vatican's daily newspaper L'Osservatore Romano said Gary Krup, an American who heads the Pave the Way Foundation, which seeks to strengthen Catholic-Jewish relations, was behind the online initiative. It quoted him as saying that the Pius XII papacy "has become a source of friction."

Benedict sparked renewed outrage among Jewish groups in December when he signed a decree on Pius' heroic virtues, paving the way for him to be beatified once a miracle attributed to his intercession is confirmed.

During a visit to Rome's main synagogue last month, Benedict didn't mention Pius by name but said the Vatican "itself provided assistance, often in a hidden and discreet way" to Jews during the war. Benedict said Catholics acted courageously to save Jews during World War II.

The panel of Catholic and Jewish scholars that examined the material said it suspended its work because the Vatican had not released all of its archives from the World War II years.

The Vatican has said those archives won't be catalogued and ready until 2014 at the earliest.

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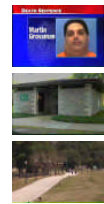
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## Wartime Vatican archives to go online

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The Vatican will soon make some of its World War II archives available for free on the internet.

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The Vatican will soon make some of its World War II archives available for free on the internet, the Holy See's daily l'Osservatore Romano said.  
 The 8,000 pages of documents to be put online will however not include material directly relating to Pius XII, the wartime pope whose attitude towards the Holocaust has been the subject of controversy. 'We noted that the papacy of Pius XII during World War II has become a major cause of friction....' Gary Krupp, the head of the Pave the Way Foundation which led the move to digitalise the archives, was quoted saying.  
 The Vatican Library has already published the documents that will appear online, following an order from Pope Paul VI in 1964.  
 Material relating to Pius will not be published for another five or six years, the head of the Vatican secret archives Monsignor Sergio Pagano said last July.  
 The current pope Benedict XVI's decree in December giving his wartime predecessor the title 'venerable' - a step towards sainthood - prompted anger among Jewish communities.  
 Jewish groups have long criticised Pius' silence as Germany's Nazi regime killed millions of Jews during the Holocaust.

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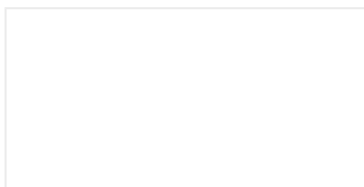




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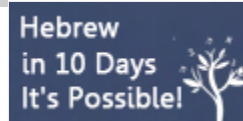
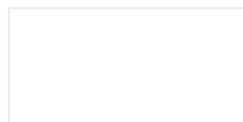
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## Report: Vatican to post secret WWII documents online

By JTA  
15/02/2010 10:13

Pave the Way offered to digitize some 5,125 descriptions



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ROME - The Vatican plans to post selected documents from its World War II secret archives online, according to a Catholic news agency.

The move came at the initiative of Pave the Way, a US-based foundation that promotes interfaith dialogue and has striven to counter criticism that wartime Pope Pius XII ignored Jewish suffering during the Holocaust, Zenit news agency reported Friday.

Pave the Way offered to digitize some 5,125 descriptions and copies of documents from the closed section of the Vatican archives, from the period of March 1939 to May 1945, Zenit reported. These would then be posted on the Web sites of both the Vatican and Pave the Way.

Pave the Way head Gary Krupp told Zenit that the documents in question had been "previously published and mostly ignored," such as "the 'Actes et Documents du Saint Siège relatifs a la Seconde Guerre Mondiale [Acts and Documents of the Holy See relative to the Second World War]" between 1965 and 1981.

Krupp told Zenit that the publication of these documents was "not meant to be a substitute for the full access" to the Vatican archives, "but will absolutely show the unique efforts of Pope Pius XII and the dangers he was forced to operate under a direct threat from the Nazi regime."

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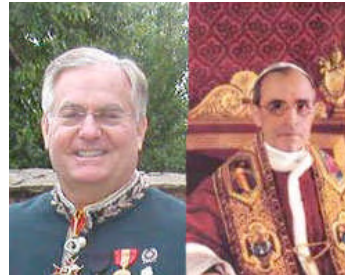
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## Series from Vatican secret archives on Pius XII going digital

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**New York City, N.Y., Feb 17, 2010 / 03:03 am (CNA).** - In cooperation with the Vatican, the Pave the Way Foundation will soon publish online twelve volumes of World War II documents from the Holy See during the time of Pope Pius XII. The documents have been "almost completely ignored" until now, the organization's founder told CNA.



Gary Krupp / Pope Pius XII

The Pave the Way Foundation is a non-profit group founded by Gary Krupp, which seeks to promote inter-religious dialogue and reduce religious conflict. A major focus of the organization is to vindicate Pope Pius XII from false accusations surrounding his papacy. Many have claimed that the late pontiff did nothing to assist European Jews during the Holocaust.

Speaking on the significance of the documents, Krupp, who is Jewish, explained to CNA how the accusations against Pope Pius XII surfaced. In 1963 a play called "The Deputy" by Rolf Hochhuth debuted in Europe which denounced Pope Pius XII and claimed that he failed to take any action in speaking out against the Holocaust.

Although "everybody condemned" the play at the time, including Israeli and Jewish leaders around the world, it nevertheless "caught on and started changing the entire impression of Pope Pius XII," said Krupp.

Krupp continued to say that "in an effort to correct some of this misinformation, Pope Paul VI ordered three Jesuits to study, to go into the papacy of Pius XII, into those archives, and to pull out every significant document they could find." Krupp said that the Jesuits described the documents, copied them and eventually published them in a series of twelve books.

"The twelve books, called the 'Acts of the Holy See during the Second World War' were published in 1981 and have been almost completely ignored internationally," noted Krupp. "In fact, there were only a few hundred that were ever printed."

"By digitizing the entire collection," he explained, "we are enabling it to be spread all over the world so people all over the world can look at it and come to their own conclusions."

A recent article from the Agence France Presse (AFP), claimed that although the volumes contain information relevant to WWII, they are "unrelated" to Pope Pius XII.

When asked about this, Krupp responded, "this type of thinking comes from people who have no idea how the Vatican works. It's as simple as that."

Krupp explained that as an example of this, one could look and see how few documents are actually signed by Pope Benedict XVI but are rather endorsed by various Vatican officials. In other words, he said, just because Pius XII's name may not be signed on a document, does not by any means indicate he had no relation to it.

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28-April-2009 -- Catholic World News Brief

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### Disappointment for Historians: No Early Opening of Pius XII Archives

Apr. 24, 2009 (CWNews.com) - The Vatican has moved quickly to quash expectations that files from the pontificate of Pius XII might be made public.

After Italian media outlets reported that the Society of Jesus had authorized the release of files collected by the late Father Robert Graham, SJ-- a leading expert on the wartime Pope-- the Vatican press office released a denial on April 24. "Such authorization has never been given," the statement stressed. "The documents will be catalogued but not published. A possible future publication can only happen after the Holy See opens its archives regarding the pontificate of Pope Pius XII."

Father Graham had amassed more than 25,000 documents in his years of research into the pontificate of Pius XII before his death in 1997. The prospect of an early release of that material had elated scholars who are hoping for more evidence to rebut the charges that Pope Pius XII was silent in the face of the Holocaust.

One of those delighted by the report that the Graham files would be opened was Gary Krupp, the head of the US-based Pave the Way Foundation. Krupp, who is Jewish, set up the foundation to encourage inter-religious dialogue, and took on the project of correcting misinformation about the historical record involving Pius XII. In a conversation with Catholic News Agency, Krupp said that his own research into available archival material left him with no doubt that Pope Pius XII was a mortal enemy of the Nazi regime. "This man hated Hitler, despised him," he said; "and Hitler felt the same way about him."

Krupp went on to tell Catholic News Agency that he was shocked and angered when he realized how badly the historical record had been skewed, because "I trust historians to report history correctly."

Early reports about the release of the Graham archives had indicated that the Pave the Way Foundation would have had access to the 25,000 newly released documents. The Jesuit order now reports that the documents will be sorted and rendered into digital form, so that they will be easily accessible when the Vatican opens its own archives for the pontificate of Pius XII.

Like most governments, the Vatican keeps official archives secret for at least 50 years, to protect the confidentiality of any living people mentioned in the documents. The Vatican has resisted

public pressure for an early opening of the secret archives involving the reign of Pius XII, who died in 1958. Church spokesmen have indicated that the extraordinary volume of wartime documentation has complicated the task of sorting the material. The best current estimates suggest that the archives for Pius XII could be released in 3-4 years.

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AND THE THIRD ANGEL FOLLOWED THEM, SAYING WITH A LOUD VOICE, IF ANY MAN WORSHIP THE BEAST AND HIS IMAGE, AND RECEIVE HIS MARK IN HIS FOREHEAD, OR IN HIS HAND. \*\*\* REVELATION 14:9

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 2010

## At Pope's Trip to Rome Synagogue, Press Misses the Story

Posted: 01/18/10

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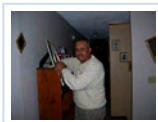


Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another... James 5:16.

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**ARSENIO LEMBERG JR.**

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ROME -- Just as the massive TV trucks parked around Rome's synagogue obscured the sight of one of the city's most beautiful buildings, so too have news reports obscured the real importance of the pope's visit to the Jewish community here.

Late Sunday afternoon, Pope Benedict XVI made the short trip across the Tiber River to the Great Synagogue of Rome, located on the site of the former Jewish ghetto. The weather was chilly, but the greetings just the opposite.

Riccardo Di Segni, chief rabbi of Rome, and Riccardo Pacifici, president of the Jewish Community of Rome, welcomed the pope on the steps of the synagogue amid thunderous cheers of "Viva il Papa!" Benedict was accompanied by Archbishop Fouad Twal, the Latin patriarch of Jerusalem, and Archbishop Antonio Franco, apostolic nuncio in Israel, to underscore his encouragement of inter-religious relations by drawing Rome and Israel closer together.


Despite the trite headlines about the "Pope's Controversial Visit," there


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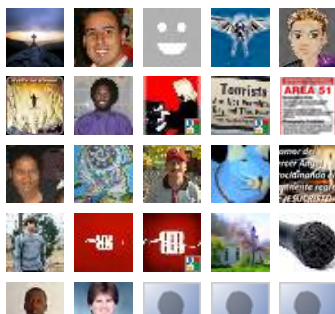
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was no real controversy; the chief rabbi had extended the invitation to Benedict in 2006 and the Roman Jewish community pulled out all the stops for this event. This was Benedict's third visit to a Jewish place of worship (after stops at the synagogues of Cologne in 2005 and New York in 2008). Pope John Paul II became the first pope to visit the Roman synagogue in April 1986, and Benedict, following in his predecessor's footsteps, has now created a double precedent. Future popes will now be expected to visit the synagogue, just as they do the mayor's office, Parliament and the local parishes.

As with the pope's Holy Land trip, this visit began with an acknowledgment of the suffering of the Jewish community through the Holocaust and other violence. Benedict first placed red roses before the memorial tablets that record the roundup and deportation of 1,022 Jews on Oct. 16, 1943; he then laid a wreath beneath the plaque commemorating the Oct. 9, 1982, terrorist attack on the synagogue, which killed a 2-year-old child, Stefano Tache.

More than merely remembering hostilities by outsiders, however, Benedict took the occasion to acknowledge the turbulent history between Christian Rome and its Jewish denizens. He chose a special date for the visit, the feast of Mo'ed di Piombo, which recalls the miraculous event of 1793 when an unexpected rainstorm put out a fire set by the Roman populace in the Jewish ghetto. Jan. 17 is also dedicated to the Study and Development of Dialogue between Catholics and Jews, celebrating its 21st anniversary this year.

The real spirit of the Benedict's visit and his encounter with the chief Rabbi was not one of recrimination but of furthering dialogue, though most major news outlets were too busy waving the red flag of WWII and Pope Pius XII to see that.

So, despite all satellite feeds streaming from the place of worship yesterday, there was no hostility, just singing and praying amid an ecstatic crowd of Muslims, Jews and Christians, all brought together in peace.

Benedict not only visited the sacred space of the synagogue but also the recently restored Jewish Museum, where numerous artifacts testify to the 2,000-year-old history and culture of the Jewish community in Rome.

For their part, officials of the Jewish Museum put together a spectacular exhibition for their visitor. Despite numerous hardships, the Jewish community managed to conserve 14 panels dating from the 18th century, made to celebrate the investiture ceremony of the popes. Curator Daniela di Castro, who accompanied the pope on his tour of

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the unique exhibits, noted that Benedict "is the first pontiff to visit a Jewish museum, just as the Jewish Museum of Rome is the first Jewish museum to be visited by a pope. . . . Hence, it is an immense honor for our museum."

Despite all the makings of an upbeat story amid news of natural and diplomatic disasters, most journalistic accounts focused on tensions caused by Pope Pius XII's so-called "guilty silence" regarding the Holocaust, and Pope Benedict's recent recognition of the heroic virtues of this same pope, who is on his way to sainthood.

Rabbi Yisrael Meir Lau, chief rabbi of Tel Aviv, gave marching orders to the world press when he expressed disapproval of Benedict's support of Pius XII in an interview with Italy's Sky TG24 television last week. While the rabbi's distaste for Pius XII is a matter of public record, his historical memory has been known to be a bit foggy. He has denounced the pontiff for silence over the violence of Kristallnacht, despite the fact that Pius was not yet pope when the event took place in 1938. He also seems to have forgotten that Israeli Prime Minister Golda Meir commented on death of Pius XII in 1958 by writing: "We share in the grief of humanity at the passing away of His Holiness. . . . When fearful martyrdom came to our people in the decade of Nazi terror, the voice of the pope was raised for its victims. . . . We mourn a great servant of peace."

Rabbi Lau's weak mastery of history seems to be shared by Pacifici, the president of the Jewish Community of Rome. Pacifici participated pleasantly enough in Sunday's festivities, but couldn't resist a dig -- undoubtedly prompted by the multitude of TV cameras -- when he referred to the supposed silence of Pope Pius XII as a "missed opportunity."

Pius XII's actions are known to have spoken louder than his words. Gary Krupp, the Jewish founder of the Pave the Way Foundation, has dedicated the last eight years to collecting video testimony and archival evidence that demonstrate the direct action of Pope Pius XII in saving hundreds of thousands of Jewish lives by issuing false baptismal certificates, obtaining visas for refugees and ordering religious houses and parishes to hide Jews. Pacifici is the first to thank the religious sisters of St. Marta in Florence, who saved him during the war, but he doesn't recognize that they, like hundreds of other convents in Italy and Germany, were acting under Pius' direct orders.

Emilio Zolli, the chief rabbi of Rome during the German occupation, however, knew well of Pius' role. After the war, Zolli converted to Catholicism and took Pius' baptismal name, Eugenio. In his biography, "[Before the Dawn](#)," Zolli wrote: "No hero in all of history was more

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Thus saith the LORD concerning the prophets that m...

militant, more fought against, none more heroic, than Pius XII in pursuing the works of true charity."

Simple enough information for any journalist to research, but in this case, the press maintained a guilty silence of its own. The New York Times even forgot its own history. On Dec. 25, 1942, it published an editorial saying, "The voice of Pius XII is a lonely voice in the silence and darkness enveloping Europe. . . . He is about the only ruler left on the Continent of Europe who dares to raise his voice at all."

**Instead of puzzling over whether Pius XII could have done more for the Jews, maybe we should be asking who did more?**

Source:<http://www.politicsdaily.com/2010/01/18/at-popes-trip-to-rome-synagogue-press-misses-the-story/>

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# Reactionary Mary

*Disillusioned former Liberal wishes it was 1776 again.*

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## **Pope Got Raw Deal**

Pope Pius XII has often been vilified as having been complicit with the anti-Semitism of the Nazis under Adolf Hitler. It's a popular belief that the Vatican twiddled its thumbs while Jews were being annihilated.

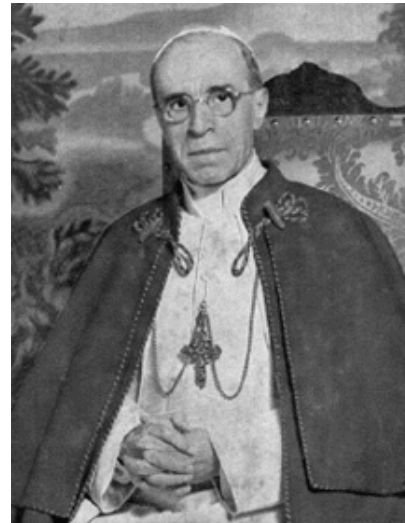
The Pave The Way Foundation has done an extensive investigation into the activities of Pope Pius XII before, and during, World War II. Amazingly, they have found *not one shred of proof* to support the popular perception. In fact, there is extensive evidence to the contrary.

If you go to the [Pave The Way web site](#), you'll find reams of documentary evidence, much of it from primary sources, that shows that Pius XII was a great supporter of, and advocate for, the Jewish people. In fact, he was instrumental in saving many Jewish lives.

This investigation is just one piece of the work the Pave The Way Foundation does. It's mission is to pave the way to peace by removing obstacles between the religions and by initiating gestures of good will.

Posted by R.Mary at 11:00 PM 

Labels: [anti-Semitism](#) , [PaveThe Way Foundation](#) , [Pope Pius XII](#)



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