

FOC  
PRINTS FULL COLOR

## Editorial

# ANOTHER BRIDGE TO CROSS

We have never shunned controversial topics. The main subject of this issue is to examine the role of the late Pope Pius XII and the Jews during the Holocaust Era. Did he do enough? Why was he silent at times? Why wasn't he more forceful? Why didn't he take the higher moral road? People are divided in their opinions. Some call him a hero, others call him a tyrant. Others are not sure.

Read the material with an open mind. Ask yourself questions like

1. Why have Jewish historians such as Pinchas Lapide, Martin Gilbert, and reputable non-Jewish scholars such as Owen Chadwick and Anthony Rhodes supported Pope Pius XII?
2. Can we take seriously the anti-Pope writings of Daniel Goldhagen, James Carroll, and John Cornwell who are known to be anti-Catholics?
3. Why didn't the American Jewish Congress and B'nai B'rith make a public issue of the Roosevelt's administration's refusal to allow more than a handful of Jewish refugees into the United States?
4. Just recently two diplomatic documents in an archive at Harvard University have been discovered which support the Pope's role. Why were these two documents not revealed sooner?

We believe we have presented a fair and balanced picture of this case.

Because of space we printed a limited amount of material on the late Pope Pius XII controversy.

What do you think? Let us know ([www.dialoguetoday.org](http://www.dialoguetoday.org)).

## OUR ANNUAL APPEAL

We really need your financial assistance. Money is tight, but if you can help us we deeply appreciate it (envelope enclosed).

1. Renew your subscription (\$12).
2. Give a subscription gift. (\$12).
3. Become a Benefactor (\$200; \$500; \$1000).
4. Become a Patron (\$100).
5. Become a Sponsor (\$50).
6. Give a Memorial (\$100).

ALL Benefactors, Patrons, Sponsors and Memorials remain on our list for one year.

Msgr. Leonard F. Badia, Ph.D., K.C.H.S.  
Publisher and Editor

# Dialogue Today

2010

## CATHOLIC-JEWISH ARTICLES

### 1. PAPAL SURPRISE

Pope Benedict XVI stunned many observers just before Christmas by advancing the sainthood cause of his predecessor, the wartime pontiff Pius XII.

For decades, Pope Pius has come under fire by critics — including many Jewish groups and later, some Catholics — who say he failed to speak out loudly enough against Adolf Hitler or do enough to save Europe’s Jews from Nazi concentration camps.

The case of Pope Pius XII has become in many ways a persistent symbol of all the Catholic Church has done wrong to the Jews in the past. Critiques of his wartime record at best imply that he was a weak man; a few have even suggested that he was anti-Semitic.

With his latest decision, Pope Benedict seems determined to turn a page on this debate. There is no longer any mistaking the Church’s definitive defense of Pope Pius as a Christian doing his best and, in fact, largely succeeding at it.

By declaring Pius a man worthy of consideration for possible canonization, Pope Benedict advances the debate beyond the scrum of name-calling and insinuations, and leaves to (more or less) dispassionate historians to weigh whether the pontiff made errors of judgment in Nazi-occupied Rome.

Once the full record is detailed, it may very well turn out that Pope Pius should or could have done things differently. After all, saints can fail as spectacularly as anybody else.

But Pope Benedict’s decision may also have the welcome effect of restoring some balance and fairness to the assessment of Pius. After all, Pius was widely praised by his Jewish contemporaries; the chief rabbi of Rome even converted after the war largely because of the pontiff’s example. And The New York Times editorialized in 1941 that Pope Pius “is a lonely voice in the silence and darkness enveloping Europe.”

The debate about the role of Catholics and Catholic leaders in resisting the Nazi nightmare will continue, but Pope Benedict is clearly of the belief that the debate about the role of Pius XII should be drawing to a close.

## PAPAL STATEMENT (12/29/2009)

A sainthood evaluation “essentially concerns 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.

“At the beatification of Pope John XXIII and of Pope Pius IX, John Paul II said: ‘Holiness lives in history and no saint has escaped the limits and conditioning which are part of our human nature. In beatifying one of her sons, the Church does not celebrate the specific historical decisions he may have made, but rather points to him as someone to be imitated and venerated because of his virtues, in praise of the divine grace which shines resplendently in them.’

“There is, then, no intention in any way to limit discussion concerning the concrete choices made by Pius XII in the situation in which he lived. For her part, the Church affirms that these choices were made with the pure intention of carrying out the pontiff’s service of exalted and dramatic responsibility to the best of his abilities. In any case, Pius XII’s attention to and concern for the fate of the Jews — something which is certainly relevant in the evaluation of his virtues — are widely testified and recognized, also by many Jews.”

“The field for research and evaluation by historians working in their specific area, this remains open, also for the future.”

## POPE PIUS XII

### THE CASE

Defenders Vs Accusers

*Hitler’s Pope*

*The Anti-Semitic Pope*

*Hitler, the War and the Pope*

*Should the Pope be made a saint?*

*The Big Lie*

*The Attack on Pius XII*

*The Pius Debate*

These headlines and others appear in books and articles about the late Catholic Pope Pius XII. Questions arise. Did he do enough for the Jews during the Nazi Era? Should he be canonized in the Catholic Church? Why was he silent many times during the Nazi atrocities against the Jews? Was he a Nazi sympathizer? Should he not be given the Righteous Gentile title by the Jews?

Truly we have an important issue which affects Jews and Catholics today. The rhetoric is becoming harsher and uglier. Will it harm progress being made in Catholic-Jewish relations?

The Pros ad Cons presented are only a part of the picture. However, it will give us an insight into this sensitive issue.

## HIS DEFENDERS

1. NEW YORK TIMES (10/11/45) ran many stories detailing the praise that Jewish leaders bestowed on Pius. Included was the one that recorded a gift of \$20,000 to the Vatican by the World Jewish Congress “in recognition of the work of the Holy See in rescuing Jews from Fascist and Nazi persecution.”

2. SR. MARGHERITA MARCHIONE, Ph.D., Professor at Farleigh Dickinson University said, “There is documentary proof that the International Red Cross, the World Council of Churches, and the Vatican had agreed not to compromise their neutrality and to refrain from provocative statements in order to assist effectively the Jews and other prisoners.

“Even if the Pope had been indifferent to the fate of the Jews, he knew the Nazis were also persecuting large numbers of Catholics. He did not publicly denounce the Nazis for the inhuman treatment of more than 3,000 Catholic priests at Dachau. Why? Because, as he mentioned privately on several occasions, he was convinced that ‘speaking out’ would be ineffectual and self-defeating, to the detriment of all who were suffering at the hands of such a psychopathic-led enemy, “for fear of provoking worse disasters.”

3. PINCHAS F. LAPIDE, former Israeli Consul General in Italy said, “When an armed force ruled well nigh omnipotent and morality was at its lowest ebb, Pius XII commanded none of the former and could only appeal to the latter in confronting with bare hands the full might of evil. A loud protest, which might turn out to be self-thwarting? Or quiet piecemeal rescue? Loud words or prudent deeds? The dilemma must have been sheer agony, for whatever course he chose, horrible

consequences were inevitable. Unable to cure the sickness of an entire civilization, and unwilling to bear the brunt of Hitler's fury, the Pope, unlike many far mightier than he, alleviated, relieved, retrieved, appealed, petitioned, and saved as best he could by his own lights. who, but a prophet or a martyr, could have done much more?"

4. NEW YORK RABBI, DAVID DALIN, John Carroll University, said, "It needs to be remembered, as noted earlier, that no other Pope in history has been so universally praised by Jews. So, too, the compelling reason for this unprecedented Jewish praise for and gratitude to a Pope needs to be better remembered than it has been in recent years. Today, more than fifty years after the Holocaust, it needs to be more widely recognized and appreciated that Pius XII was indeed a very 'righteous gentile', a true friend of the Jewish lives than any other person, including Raul Wallenberg and Oskar Schindler.

"A new authentically Jewish history of Pope Pius XII and the Holocaust, emphasizing his historic role and accomplishments as a "righteous gentile", may help to bring some long overdue recognition to his too little known and appreciated legacy as one of the century's great friends of the Jewish people."

5. GOLDA MEIR, Israeli delegate to U.N. in October 9, 1958 said, "When fearful martyrdom came to our people in the decade of Nazi terror, the voice of the Pope (Pius XII), was raised for the victims. The life of our times was enriched by a voice speaking out on the great moral truths above the tumult of daily conflict. We mourn a great servant of peace."

DR. RAPHAEL CANTONI, a leader in Italy's Jewish Assistance Committee said, "The Church and the papacy have saved Jews as much and insofar as they could Christians. Six million of my co-religionists have been murdered by the Nazis ... but there would have been many more victims had it not been for the efficacious intervention of Pius XII."

6. GARY KRUPP, a Jewish businessman, New York Post Writer (12/08/09) said, "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 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.

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."

7. MAURICE EDELMAN, a labor member of the British Parliament said Pope Pius XII told him in 1945 that he had secretly requested the Roman Catholic clergy to give shelter and sanctuary to Jews. "Through this intervention," Mr. Edelman said, "tens of thousands of Jews had in fact been saved." Mr. Edelman, who is a novelist and president of the Anglo-Jewish Association, was referring to attacks on the late Pope in the play, *The Deputy*, by Rolf Hochhuth.

8. DR. PETER GUMPEL, S.J. Church Historian, said, "There are many more things that could be said. For example that Cornwell (author - *Hitler's Pope*) is totally unaware of the psychological warfare made

especially by the English by divulging false reports about transmissions by Vatican Radio and others, or that he obviously has never heard about the Scattolini forgeries which were widely believed. After the war, Scattolini was arrested by the Italian police and admitted that these reports (about 1,000) were purely and simply invented by him to order to make money. Cornwell has never checked whether and to what extent he has fallen a victim of this man who was condemned by the Italian Tribunal and sent to prison. Much more could be said, but the few above remarks give you an idea of what to think about the book of Cornwell who, naturally, also attacks John Paul II. Everything considered, my judgement is the following: Cornwell who is a rank amateur in the field of history, canon law, etc., has produced a shoddy, superficial and totally untrustworthy book which, to say the very least, is objectively biased, tendentious and so unilateral and one-sided that one wonders what really prompted this man to write this book.

9. WILLIAM A. DONOHUE, Catholic League President, wrote “Before any more fingers are pointed at Pius XII — who did more to save the Jews than anyone else — let him first take a hard historical look at what his ideological kinfolk did at the time of the Holocaust. The New Republic, like The New York Times and The Washington Post, are the ones who need to apologize for their shameful silence in the face of genocide and stop with the scapegoating of Pius XII.”

## HIS ACCUSERS

1. THE INTERNATIONAL LONDON TABLET (4/1/2000) said, “And it is plain beyond doubt that he never regarded the Jews as a cause for which he might have to hazard for his own Church. Plain beyond doubt, also, was that he always saw the Communists rather than the Fascists as the great enemy.

In Israel, John Paul’s II’s millennium mission reached its fitting climax. He was leading his Church in reparation for the wrongs it has committed towards the Jewish people over two millennia. Yet, all that he has achieved could be put at risk if the beatification of Pius XII goes ahead. It should be quietly but firmly shelved.”

2. JOHN CORNWELL’S BOOK, *Hitlers’s Pope*, said, “Pacelli, despite the immense centralized power he now wielded through the Code of Canon Law, said and did nothing. The attestation machinery would lead inexorably to the selection of millions destined for the death camps.

As Nazi anti-Semitism mounted in Germany during the 1930's, Pacelli failed to complain, even on behalf of the Jews who had become Catholics, acknowledging that the issue was a matter of German internal policy."

3. THE LATE RABBI KLENICKI said, "I do think Pius XII was concerned about Stalism and the influence of communism in Europe at that time. And he (the Pope) chose the lesser of two evils which was Nazism. He (the Pope) was not a Nazi but he should have been more against Nazism than he was during his pontificate."

4. ROLF HOCHHUTH, the Playwright said, "It started in 1963 with a play by the young German named, Rolf Hochhuth. Der Stellvertreter (The Deputy) which was staged on Broadway in 1964 depicted Pope Pius XII as a ruthless cynic, interested more in the Vatican's stock holdings than the fate of the Jews. Most Catholics dismissed Hochhuth's thesis as implausible, but the play sparked a controversy which was raged to this day."

5. HOLOCAUST SURVIVORS are seeking Rome's Rabbi to tell Pope Benedict of their pain at his advancement of the case for declaring Pope Pius XII a saint when the pope visits Rome's synagogue this weekend.

6. RABBI SHEAR-YASHU COHEN, Chief Rabbi of Haifa, Israel, said, "Pius should not be seen as a model."

7. ISAAC HERZOG, Israeli Cabinet minister, said, "Throughout the period of the Holocaust, the Vatican knew very well what was happening in Europe and instead of acting to the biblical verse 'Thou shalt not stand against the blood of thy neighbor.' The Pope kept silent and perhaps even worse."

8. RABBI MARVIN HIER, founder and dean of the Simon Wiesenthan Center in Los Angeles said, "But this was a seminal moment in world history. The genocide of all genocides occurred on Pius' watch, and the pope did not respond adequately. All he had to do was say, "I am informed there are mass murders being committed against Jews, and I condemn it." He never said it. The Vatican doesn't have to listen to us, but a saint would never have done that."

9. DAVID ROSEN, Inter-Religious Affairs Director at the American Jewish Committee said, "He (Pius) might have done it out of positive motives or might not have. The bottom line is, he didn't confront it."



# EDITOR'S OPINION

Briefly, I have presented some pros and cons on the Pope Pius XII case which has cut deeply into harming our Catholic-Jewish Relations. I'm greatly saddened because we are being blinded by angry words, hurt feelings, and rash decisions. We have lost an open mind. We are allowing evil forces to separate us. If rational reasoning fails, we are doomed. Evil will triumph. We will have learned nothing from past history.

Pope Pius XII was no saint, nor was he a tyrant. No one is a saint in this world. We are frail human beings trying to do the best we can at that moment. God is perfect; human beings are not.

I share the belief that Pope Pius XII did what he could to save many Jews during the Nazi Era. Could he have done more? Perhaps. And maybe not. If he had spoken out more forcefully, more Jews would have lost their lives. The Nazis would have entered the Catholic monasteries, convents, and rectories and taken the thousands of Jews hidden there. If that had happened, I wonder what the headlines would read today.

Pope Pius XII was a true friend of the Jews. Let us appreciate what he did. Let's continue to build our bridges. Let us move on.

## INTERESTING EDITORIAL COMMENTS

1. Rev. John Pawlikowski, director of the Catholic-Jewish studies program at Chicago's Catholic Theological Union said, "There's more than ample evidence he did something. That's not the issue. The integrity of the Catholic Church as a moral voice would have been far better protected by speaking out."

2. Prof. Robert S. Wistrich, Neuberger Professor of Modern European and Jewish history at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem said, "I neither believe that Pius XII was 'Hitler's Pope' nor a 'righteous Gentile.' I see him as a gifted diplomat, a kind, sensitive, but rather tragic personality caught up in a maelstrom that he was temperamentally ill-suited to navigate. He had to make cruel choices that no one would envy, between his duty to safeguard the interests of the Church and to keep Catholics in the fold and his moral responsibilities as the 'Vicar of Christ.'"

"I feel that the polished diplomat ultimately won out over the voice of conscience in facing the formidable trial of the Holocaust. The result has been to leave a dark cloud over Christian attitudes toward the Jews, Judaism, and Israel that it has taken decades of patient work to overcome. Nevertheless, I am optimistic that we are gradually succeeding in

establishing a new and more fruitful basis of genuine dialogue.”

3. Cardinal Walter Kasper, president of the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity, which oversees the Commission for Religious Relations With the Jews, and Rabbi David Rosen, the co-chairs of the committee, declared: “We reiterate our commitment to a relationship based on mutual respect and sensitivity. Disagreements between us which inevitably occur from time to time must always be expressed in a manner that reflects his spirit and not in language that only exacerbates tension.”

4. Rabbi Brad Hirschfield, author, radio, t.v. show, and president of The National Jewish Center for Learning and Understanding said, “We need to exercise great caution about allowing past hurts to undermine current relationships, in any setting, but none more so than in the area of faith. Sadly though, that is precisely what we do in the world of Catholic-Jewish relations. We send watchdogs with long memories about the past to do the work of builders empowered by a vision of the future. Given that, how can we be surprised that things are not further along between our two communities? We can’t.

All of which leaves me wondering, how much we really want things to be different. Are we ready for the next stage of Catholic-Jewish relations, one based more on the mutual dignity of each than on the need to heal past hurts done by one? I hope so, and I hope that more Jews will step up to that vision in the days and weeks ahead.”

5. Further extensive information can be found on the internet. Type - Pope Pius XII and the Jews.

## 2. THE VATICAN

For Catholics and Jews, the Vatican is a place of mystery and speculation. Certainly, it is a place of great spiritual and political power. Today, presidents, prime ministers, diplomats, religious leaders and others visit the Pope, the supreme leader of the Vatican and spiritual leader of Catholicism. He is a powerful voice in world events. Briefly, we will examine the Vatican and some of its operations.

### VATICAN CITY

Vatican City (State) is the smallest country in the world. Created in 1929 by the Lateran Treaty, it covers 109 acres within the city of Rome. Completely independent of Italy, it is the center for Spirituality of the Catholic Church and the government of the Roman Catholic

Church. The Pope is the absolute ruler. The Vatican has its own flag, monetary and postal system. There is a police force and a railway to service the 1000 lay people who work there. In 1870, the Italian forces conquered the Papal States territories. Pope Pius IX surrendered his power over the Papal States. This became the Papal State question. The Italian government believe it has their right to take the Papal States in order to unify Italy. The Church felt that the Papal States were unjustly confiscated. From 750 to 1870 the Papal States (territories in central Italy) were owned and controlled by the Church. Various Emperors ceded territories to the Popes. The Popes became the temporal and spiritual leaders of these areas. At times, they had to lead their armies to defend these territories. Naturally, the Church was bitter over the Italian government's confiscation. From 1870 to 1929, the Popes declared themselves "prisoners of the Vatican," which meant that they would not leave the area and would have nothing to do with the Italian government. Finally, in 1929, the Papal States question was resolved. The Lateran Treaty was signed by the Church and the Italian government.

The treaty stated:

1. 109 acres within the city of Rome are given to the Church as an independent state.
2. The Pope is the absolute ruler of this new state, to be called Vatican City (State).
3. Roman Catholicism is the official religion of Italy.
4. Catholic teachings will be taught in public schools.
5. The government will pay a salary to priests who teach religion in public schools.
6. The Italian government will pay a financial sum as partial recompense.

#### VATICAN CITY ADMINISTRATION

The Pope is the head of all government branches. He devotes his time primarily to spiritual and church matters. He delegates most of his temporal authority to other officials. A cardinal heads the major departments, which carry out the Vatican's business.

The Roman Curia assists the Pope in governing the universal Catholic Church. It's divided into various offices. Chief among them is the Secretariat of State, who deals with diplomatic relations and supervises other departments of the Curia.

The other offices of the Curia are:

1. Sacred Congregations Office has responsibilities: Doctrine of the Faith, Cases of Sainthood, Evangelization, worship and the sacraments,

election of Bishops, and Catholic education.

2. Tribunal Offices deal with confessional material, indulgences, nullification of marriage and Canon Law.

3. Pontifical Councils address laity problems,

4. General Offices care for pontifical household areas, statistics for the mission of the Church, pontifical ceremonies, and the archives of the Second Vatican Council.

5. Commissions and Committees are responsible for the care of Vatican City, sacred archeology, financial problems, international Eucharistic congresses and biblical studies.

6. Institution Agencies deal with Vatican secret archives, Vatican library, Vatican Radio and Television, Vatican press and post office, papal charities and the academy of sciences.

We have mentioned the most important areas of the Roman Curia. A person, Catholic or non-Catholic, must be impressed with the wide scope of the administration of the Roman Catholic Church.

7. In addition to the 109 acres ceded to the Church, other buildings outside the Vatican belong to the Vatican. These buildings are the basilicas of St. John Lateran, St. Mary Major, and St. Paul, the Vatican Observatory, and the Pope's summer residence at Castle Gandolfo, (of course, St. Peter's Basilica is in the center of the 109 acres and belongs to the church).

9. The Church will renounce all claims to the Papal States. Therefore, the Church and the Italian government brought peace to one another.

## CATHOLIC NEWS

### POPE BENEDICT XVI - VIETNAM

High hopes have arisen that the Pope will visit Vietnam next year. Cardinal Man stated that permitting the Pope is in good health and his doctors do not advise against a long trip, he will come to Vietnam to close the Jubilee celebrations by celebrating Mass at the famous Marian Shrine of LaVang on January 6, 2011.

There are 85 million people, of whom more than 6 million are Catholic. Diplomatic sources the Vietnam president and Prime Minister appear to be open to taking Diplomatic recognition of the Vatican. It remains to be seen whether the central committee of the ruling Communist Party is ready to give the green light.

## ST. PAUL'S PORTRAIT

While excavating in the Catacomb of St. Thecla near the Basilica of St. Paul's Outside the Walls, Vatican archaeologists recently discovered some wall frescoes that included an icon of St. Paul. They date the portrait to the early fourth century and say it is the oldest known image of the apostle.

Catacombs, underground passageways easily dug into Rome's soft tufa bedrock, were used by early Christians as secret gatherings places and burial chambers. More than 40 catacombs have been discovered in Rome.

## IRAQI CHRISTIANS PERSECUTED

Since the U.S. led invasion in 2003, Iraq's Christian minority has faced constant persecution, including dozens of church bombings, executions, kidnappings and forced expulsions, devastating some communities and reducing the overall Christian population by at least 25 percent.

In the city of Kirkuk, 10,000 Catholics, Orthodox and Protestant Christians have fled. In Basra, 2000 Christians left because of militia Muslim attacks. Likewise Baghdad has seen thousands of Christians fleeing the country.

The Iraqi security officials said they are taking measures to protect Christians.

## SWISS CATHOLIC BISHOPS

The bishops of Switzerland said the country's ban on minarets, the Muslim prayer towers, represents an obstacle to interreligious harmony. The ban aggravates interfaith tensions and could have negative repercussions on Christian minorities in Muslim countries. The prohibition was adopted by Swiss voters in a referendum that passed with a 58 percent majority.

## CAMILLO CIBIN

For almost 60 years, he was security chief and personal bodyguard to six popes. He died at the age of 83. He was called "Guardian Angel" to the Pope. In his latter years he strode beside Pope John Paul II's alpine trips. He accompanied the Pope from the hospital in Rome back to the Vatican. He then presided over the security arrangements for the conclave that elected Benedict XVI.

## POPE BENEDICT XVI

In a surprising move the pope declared the late Popes Pius XII and John Paul II as “venerable.” Next step is “beatification” and then “canonization.”

Canonization is a process in which a person is declared a Saint. A Saint is one who is in heaven with God and can be prayed to for various reasons.

Before the Canonization process, there are two prior processes named Venerable and Beatification. Venerable process means a person has led a heroic life. Beatification process means a miracle has been attributed to the person. Canonization process requires proof of at least one additional miracle.

# JEWISH NEWS

## NAZI WAR CRIMINALS

The United States leads the world in convicting Nazi war criminals during the past eight years. The Department of Justice reported that it has deported 61 persons. It also has prevented 180 individuals implicated in World War II crimes from entering the United States.

Countries like Norway, Sweden, Australia, Austria, Estonia, Hungary, Lithuania and Ukraine have failed to investigate because they lacked political will or expertise.

## POPE BENEDICT XVI VISIT

The Pope will visit the Roman synagogue on January 17. Pope Benedict will be the second Pope to visit the Roman synagogue. The January date will be his third visit to a synagogue. He met with Jewish community leaders during his trips to Cologne in 2005 and New York in 2008.

## REZSO KASZTNER'S FILM

The film, Killing Kasztner: The Jew Who Dealt With Nazis, is a two hour film which ventures not only into the dark chambers of the SS, but also of wartime Zionist efforts and the politics of 1950s Israel.

Kasztner was a member of a rescue committee trying to evacuate Jews in Budapest, Hungary. He negotiated in 1944 with Eichmann to rescue more than 1,600 Jews at \$1,000 per person. Kasztner is also

credited with helping to re-route 18,000 other Jews to a labor camp in Austria instead of Auschwitz.

After emigrating to Israel in 1947, Kasztner found himself accused of being a collaborator because of his negotiations with Eichmann. He was shot to death by a young extremist in Tel Aviv in 1957.

After his death he was exonerated by the Israeli court. Finally his story has been told and appreciated by most people.

### RABBIS HAIL NEW ARCHBISHOP

Archbishop Timothy Dolan was welcomed by the New York Board of Rabbis Park Avenue Synagogue.

Rabbi Joseph Potasnick, NYBR executive vice president and Rabbis Cosgrove and Kermaier of Park Avenue Emanu-El Synagogue warmly welcomed the Archbishop and wished him well in his new assignment. The Archbishop laughed and smiled many times during the ceremony. He was a great success with the Jewish community.

### GERMANY - AUSCHWITZ

Germany is donating \$87 million to a new endowment for Auschwitz-Birkenau to preserve barracks, gas chambers and other evidence of Nazi crimes at the former death camp. "This is an expression of our historical responsibility," said German Foreign Minister Guido Westerwelle. The camp draws about one million visitors a year.

### ARCHBISHOP DOLAN - RABBI POSNER

In the spirit of Inter-Faith friendship and good will, Archbishop Dolan at the Fourth Sunday of Advent (December 20) joined Rabbi Posner the Senior Rabbi of Temple Emanuel in Manhattan who lit the fourth candle on the Advent Wreath in St. Patrick's Cathedral.

Likewise the Archbishop lit the Menorah for the first night of Hanukah on December 11 at Temple Emanu-El.

Interestingly there are 2.5 million Catholics in the New York Catholic Diocese. New York's Jewish community is the world's largest outside Israel.

# CATHOLIC - JEWISH QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

1. Q: What is the Star of David? (Hebrew: Magen David)

A: The six pointed Star of David made up of two superimposed triangles pointing in the opposite direction, is the main symbol of Judaism today. Interestingly, it did not arise in Judaism until recent times. It was once used by Moslems and Christians. Jewish mystics of the 16th century made it the symbolic importance for Jews. About 300 years ago, in central Europe, it became a favorite architectural design on synagogues. While its origin is not known, the star now is the main symbol of Judaism.

2. Q: What is a Mezuzah?

A: It is a small rectangular box like container which holds a piece of parchment. Biblical verses from Deuteronomy (6: 4-9 and 11: 13-21) are written on the parchment. The mezuzah is placed on the main door posts of Jewish homes and on the door posts of other important rooms. As one enters the house, apartment or room, one kisses it as a reminder of the importance of dedicating all activities to God.

3. Q: What is a Synagogue?

A: It is a house of God. It is the place where Jews gather to do the most important religious functions, such as the daily and sabbath services, the holiday services and sometimes wedding ceremonies.

4. Q: What is a Rabbi?

A: Rabbi literally means “teacher”. Today, Rabbis perform pastoral, social and educational duties. A Rabbi is appointed by his congregation to act as its spiritual leader, organize services, supervise the religious education of the young, visit the sick and bereaved, and preside over life-cycle events (weddings, etc.).

5. Q: Do Jews believe in sin?

A: Judaism believes that particular actions are sins. People are born with a good inclination and an evil inclination. It is in our power to choose life, to choose goodness or to choose death and sin. God gives the person the option to choose and to repent for sin. However, Judaism does not believe in Original Sin as Christians do?

6. Q: Why are some clergymen called Priests?

A: Clergymen of the Roman Catholic, Eastern, Orthodox and Episcopal Churches are called priests in the tradition of the Old Testament or Hebrew Bible. The role of the priest today is like that of the

biblical days, to offer sacrifice to God.

7. Q: What are the titles of the Pope?

A: 1) “Pope” (Italian: papa, Father). First used by Pope Leo the Great (5th Century). Pope Gregory VII (11th Century) was the first to reserve it for the Bishop of Rome. 2) “Vicar of Rome”: as representative of Christ, the head of the Church. First used by Pope Innocent III (12th Century). 3) “Supreme Pontiff”: meaning, in Latin, Bridge Builder. 4) “Bishop of Rome”: primarily, the Bishop of Rome, his jurisdiction. 5) “Patriarch of the Western Church”. 6) “Primate of Italy”. 7) “Successor of St. Peter”. 8) “Servant of the Servants of God”. First used by Pope Gregory the Great. 9) “Sovereign of Vatican City”.

8. Q: Who was the first Pope to resign?

A: In 1294, Pope Celestine voluntarily resigned after five months in office. He was 84 years old. Because of poor health and age, he resigned.

9. Q: What must Catholics believe?

A: Basically, all Catholics must accept the dogmas such as the one God, Jesus as the Son of God, original sin, the resurrection of Christ and eventually all people, the forgiveness of sin, the communion of saints, heaven and hell, and the Holy Spirit. These dogmas are Infallible Teachings which came directly from Christ. A Catholic who consciously and deliberately denies any of these Infallible Teachings is considered outside the Catholic Church.

10. Q: Do Catholics believe in the Afterlife?

A: yes, they do. It is rooted firmly in Jesus’ teachings preserved in the gospels. Heaven is the reward for following Christ’s teachings faithfully. Hell is the place of eternal damnation for people who freely choose evil and freely and deliberately reject Christ’s teachings. Hell exists. Who is there has never been officially declared. Catholics are urged to remember the loving and merciful God, not a cruel tyrant.

## INSIGHTS INTO ISLAM

### **Islamic Teachings On Abortion**

Islamic teachings on abortion

Muslims regard abortion as wrong and haram (forbidden), but may accept that it may be permitted in certain cases.

All schools of Muslim law accept that abortion is permitted if continuing the pregnancy would put the mother’s life in real danger. This

is the only reason accepted for abortion after 120 days of the pregnancy.

Different schools of Muslim law hold different views on whether any other reasons for abortion are permitted, and at what stage of pregnancy if so.

Some schools of Muslim law permit abortion in the first 16 weeks of pregnancy, while others only permit it in the first 7 weeks.

However, even those scholars who would permit early abortion in certain cases still regard abortion as wrong, but do not regard it as punishable wrong. The more advanced the pregnancy, the greater the wrong.

The Qur'an does not explicitly refer to abortion but offers guidance on related matters. Scholars accept that this guidance can properly be applied to abortion.

#### Sanctity of Life

The Islamic view is based on the very high priority the faith gives to the sanctity of life. The Qur'an states:

Whosoever has spared the life of a soul, it is as though he has spared the life of all people. Whosoever has killed a soul, it is as though he has murdered all of mankind. Qur'an 5:32.

Most Muslim scholars would say that a fetus in the womb is recognized and protected by Islam as a human life.

#### Protection of the mother's life.

Islam allows abortion to save the life of the mother because it sees this as the 'lesser of two evils' and there is a general principle in Sharia (Muslim law) of choosing the lesser of two evils.

*Credit: www.islamic-teachings-abortion*

## SPIRITUAL INSIGHTS

### ANGELS

#### 1. Judaism Theology

Angels are messengers of God who help carry out God's work and plans. They are purely spiritual beings who do not have a physical form. Biblical Angels who appear to people only look human. With exceptions (Abraham and Jacob), angels initiate the communication from God. There is no angel worship in Judaism, and Jews believe it is only God who determines what happens on earth. Angels merely carry out God's will. Traditionally, Michael is a guardian of the Jewish people. Gabriel is the angel of judgment and strength. Uriel is the angel who illuminates the

right path. Raphael is a healer.

## 2. Protestant Theology

Angels are messengers and carry out God's will. Some angels are guardian angels. Angels are created as spirited beings not as humans. They can take on a human form. They are genderless and invisible. They provide guidance and assurance to believers. Guardian angels help protect people from harm.

## 3. Catholic Theology

Angels are intermediaries between God and humans. In addition to their role as servants and messengers, angels are also attendants to God's throne. Catholic theology outlines a hierarchy of nine choirs of angels divided into three groups: Seraphim, Cherubim and Thrones: Dominations, Virtues and Powers; Principalities, Archangels and Angels. Finally Angels are pure spirits and don't have human form.

*Credit - Beliefnet (1/18/09)*

# SPIRITUAL THOUGHTS

1. Don't let your worries get the best of you; remember, Moses started out as a basket case.

2. Some people are kind, polite, and sweet until you try to sit in their pews.

3. Many people want to serve God, but only as advisors.

4. When you get to your wit's end, you'll find God lives there.

5. Quit griping about your synagogue or church: if it was perfect, you couldn't belong.

6. People are funny; they want the front of the bus, the middle of the road, and the back of the synagogue or church.

7. God promises a safe landing, not a calm passage.

8. Don't give God instructions, just report for duty.

9. We don't change the message, the message changes us.

10. Peace starts with a smile.

11. Some minds are like concrete thoroughly mixed up and permanently set.

12. God Himself does not judge a person until he/she is dead. So why should you?

*Credit: Mrs. Dorothy Scorsone (Delray Beach, FL)*

# GENERAL INFORMATION

**EDITOR:** Rev. Msgr. Leonard. F. Badia, Ph.D., K.C.H.S.

**COPY EDITOR:** Ms. Wendy Moretti

## ADVISORY BOARD

- Rev. Lawrence Boadt, CSP, SSD, President, Paulist Press, and Old Testament Biblical Scholar
- Dr. Philip A. Cunningham, Executive Director, Center for Christian-Jewish Learning, Boston College

## CONTACT PERSON

Rev. Msgr. L. F. Badia, Ph.D., K.C.H.S.

Email: [Frbad@aol.com](mailto:Frbad@aol.com) • Tel./Fax: 561-637-8459 • [www.dialoguetoday.org](http://www.dialoguetoday.org)

## SUBSCRIPTION

- Annual subscription (4 issues - quarterly) - \$12.00
- Be a Sponsor • \$50
- Be a Patron • \$100
- Be a Benefactor • \$200 • \$500 • \$1000

ALL SPONSOR, PATRON AND BENEFACTOR  
DONATIONS RECEIVE A YEAR SUBSCRIPTION.

- Give a MEMORIAL • \$100

A MEMORIAL: Name & req. by \_\_\_\_\_

Make checks payable to:

Catholic-Jewish Relations Council - Dialogue Today

Mail to:

**Rev. Msgr. L. F. Badia, Ph.D.**  
**4810 N.W. 4th Street, Apt. C**  
**Delray Beach, FL 33445-2708**

**ALL DONATIONS ARE TAX EXEMPT**

VOLUME 13 / NO. 1

# HISTORY

**DIALOGUE TODAY 2010** is published by the Catholic-Jewish Relations Council of Northeastern Queens of the Brooklyn Diocese. The Council was established in the late 1960's by Bishop Francis Mugavero and Jewish friends.

The Catholic-Jewish Relations Council is an organization of laity and clergy to promote goodwill, understanding, and respect between Catholics and Jews. It is a non-profit organization. COPYRIGHT © Dialogue Today. 2010.

## IN MEMORY\*

- LAURA MARIE BADIA req. by Shirley Badia (Mom & Dad)
- VITO BADIA req. by Shirley Badia (Sister-in-law)
- DAN J. BADIA req. by Shirley Badia (Wife)
- MAXINE HUNTER req. by Bob Horn & Pat Curran
- NANCY PERRI & HENRY C. QUARITIUS req. by Janice & Ralph Perri
- FIRE LT. KEVIN J. PFEIFER req. by Mom & Dad
- FIRE LT. KEVIN J. PFEIFER req. by Marie LaRoca
- RALPH X. STONE req. by Mr. & Mrs. James Perri
- MSGR. WILLIAM A. VARVARO req. by Jennie Varvaro (Mother)
- ANTHONY ZOTOLLO req. by Marion Zotollo (Wife)
- GRACE WALSH req. by Melissa & Thomas Walsh
- GRACE WALSH req. by Ary & Jennifer Simpadian
- JOHN C. WALGENWITT req. by Lorraine Walgenwitt

\*A loved one may be enrolled for one year - \$100 donation

\*Memorials



## MOST GENEROUS BENEFACTORS - (\$5000)

The Turan Families Foundation

## VERY GENEROUS BENEFACTORS - (\$1000 plus)

## SPECIAL GENEROUS BENEFACTORS - (\$500 plus)

Mrs. Shirley Badia

Dr. & Mrs. J. Finley, Jr.

## GENEROUS BENEFACTORS - (\$200 plus)

Mr. Gene Hoffman

Mr. John O'Conner

Mr. Jerry Jacobs

Mr. & Mrs. Ralph Perri

Antonina Maranzano

Mrs. Patricia McKay

## PATRONS - (\$100 plus)

Mrs. Lorraine Walgenwitt

Mr. David Check

Rev. John Cockayne Jr.

Mr. & Mrs. Wm. Lorne

Ms. Santina Novello

## SPONSORS - (\$50 plus)

Mrs. Lucille Young

Mr. John Kiernan

Mr. George Fufidio

Mr. & Mrs. J. Sperling

Mr. Steve Sokolich

Mrs. C. Ardizzone

Mrs. Barbara Lynch

Mr. & Mrs. Wm. Mitchner

Ms. Gertrude Beck

Mr. & Mrs. E. Ferzola

Mr. Erwin Jauman

Mrs. Frances Richter

Mr. & Mrs. A. D'Ambrosio

Mr. & Mrs. F.J. Anzalone

Norma Perry Pyn

Very Rev. James Bucaria

Lucille Young



## MSGR. LEONARD F. BADIA, PH.D. • Latest Books

1. INSIGHTS: THE CATHOLIC-JEWISH FAITHS

AVAILABLE

AMAZON.COM (type Leonard F. Badia)

or

AUTHORHOUSE PUBLISHER (Tel. 1-888-280-7715)

BK # 61210

2. JESUS: INTRODUCING HIS LIFE AND TEACHINGS

AVAILABLE

AMAZON.COM (type Leonard F. Badia)

look for the green picture

AUTHORHOUSE PUBLISHER (Tel. 1-888-280-7715)

BK # 54660

N.B. Practical Information

BOC  
PRINTS FULL COLOR