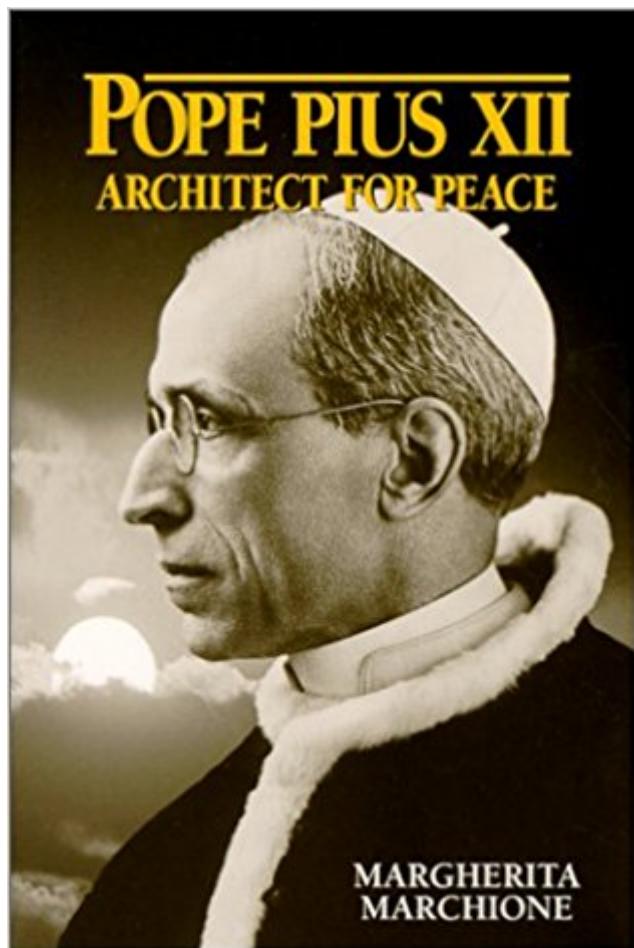


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# Pope Pius XII: Architect For Peace



## **Synopsis**

Highlights Pope Pius XII's efforts to bring about peace and help victims of the Second World War, especial based on scholarship and pertinent original documents relating to these matters.

## **Book Information**

Paperback: 368 pages

Publisher: Paulist Press (August 31, 2000)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 080913912X

ISBN-13: 978-0809139125

Product Dimensions: 6 x 0.9 x 9 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.6 pounds

Average Customer Review: 3.6 out of 5 stars 19 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #851,150 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #504 in Christian Books & Bibles > Biographies > Popes & the Vatican #5497 in Books > History > World > Religious > Christianity #5587 in Books > Christian Books & Bibles > Churches & Church Leadership > Church History

## **Customer Reviews**

A spirited defense. -- Review for ReligiousA treasury of historical material. -- The Irish CatholicHers is an important study of the role of Pius XII, in defense of the Jews before the Third Reich. -- Reverend Monsignor Stephen M. DiGiovanni, Pastor, St. John the Evangelist Roman Catholic Church, Stamford, CT. It is a delight to welcome a full-length study of falsification directed against the great Pope. -- The Catholic Historical ReviewThe most inestimable contribution made is the more than 100 pages of documents from the era under study. -- The Catholic Advocate and The Beacon (Fr. Peter Stravinskas)

Margherita Marchione, Ph.D., is an internationally known author of 35 books and over 90 articles, the recipient of such honors as Columbia University Garibaldi Scholar, Fulbright Scholar, Star of Solidarity of the Republic of Italy, UNICO National Rizzuto and George Washington Medals, and has been inducted in the New Jersey Literary Hall of Fame. Her books include Yours Is a Precious Witness: Memoirs of Jews and Catholics in Wartime Italy, Americans of Italian Heritage, Philip Mazzei: World Citizen, and Twentieth Century Italian Poetry. A member of the Religious Teachers Filippini, she is professor emerita of Italian language and literature at Fairleigh Dickinson University.

Very good. Me being an average reader it's a little difficult but I will finish it. It exposes one of the ugliest lies of all time.

This book provides an excellent resource for anyone interested in a true scholarly study of actual documents and articles from the time of the war. Ms. Marchione also provides a wealth of quotes from prominent Jewish leaders and rabbis in support of the constant efforts of the Pope. It is especially telling when the Rabbi in Rome talks about how he personally, along with many others he was with, was saved from deportation and likely death by the Pope hiding him in the Vatican and Church properties. Most people agree with the saying "Actions speak louder than words". This book provides documentary evidence from first hand sources and articles from the time of the Popes constant efforts to ease the suffering of the Jews and all those persecuted by the Nazis. The later chapters also provide some insight into the pressure the Pope was receiving from POLITICAL leaders to speak out and why he chose his words as carefully as he did- to save more lives. It also documents how other organizations such as the International Red Cross also consciously and explicitly chose not to speak out in direct terms about Jews specifically because they knew this would result in the Nazis cutting off their access to those in concentration camps who they were able to help. The Pope never waivered in defense of the dignity of life and all persons and the Nazis considered him an enemy for his statements. The Allies wanted the Pope as a political tool regardless of how it would increase the suffering of Jews. This part of the book is especially insightful on these key points about the Pope's "silence". One of the strongest merits of this book is that it relies first and foremost on facts, quotes and articles and provides the source so one can check facts. Other books written against this Pope rely heavily on assumptions about why Pius XII did or did not do things. That is a very dangerous approach and has less to do with recording history than with advancing an agenda, essentially editorializing. Anyone interested in the truth as heard from the Jewish people of the time and, traditionally anti-Catholic media such as the NYT and Washington Post, should read this book. Trust the people who lived through this frightening and sad time to portray events accurately rather than contemporary "historians" interested more in sensationalism and false scandals.

If Sister Marchione's book titled YOURS IS A PRECIOUS WITNESS was a thorough yet polite refutation to those who have smeared Pope Pius XII, her book titled POPE PIUS XII:ARCHITECT FOR PEACE is "a roundhouse to the chops." Sister Marchione thoroughly undermines Pope Pius

XII's critics with an array of documents and personal anecdotes that demolishes this Pope's critics. Chapter one gives numerous personal anecdotes of those whom Pope Pius XII helped during World War II. One should note that this chapter cites books and personal remarks of Pope Pius' contemporaries including Jews who gave Pope Pius XII effusive praise during dangerous times. One should note that not only Catholics, including religious and lay men and women, but also Pope Pius XII literally risked their lives to save refugees including Jewish people. Some of the anecdotes that testify to these facts were written by Jewish refugees. Sister Marchione makes effective use of historical documents to prove her case of Pope XII's heroism and greatness. One should note on page 97 that she is clear that Pope Pius XII's critics have no documents to support their claim. This is important to those who study history. History without documents is relegated to lying and propaganda which is exactly what Pope Pius XII's critics have done. There is an interesting reference to Golda Meir on page 101 who lauds considerable praise on Pope Pius XII. Part three of this book gives numerous examples of Pope Pius XII's tireless efforts to help prisoners of war and the persecuted. This heroic man cared for all of those harmed by World War II regardless of their religion. He spent considerable sums of his own wealth to assist those caught by war's tragedies including Jews. Pages 124-126 gives a brief account of Rabbi Israel Zolli's praise of Pope Pius XII. One should note that Rabbi Zolli was Rome's Chief Rabbi during World War II. Sister Marchione gives Pope Pius XII credit for attempting to extend his influence and help throughout Europe including Eastern Europe. For example, she recounts the Pope's efforts both in Western and Eastern Europe even though Pope Pius XII was confined to his domains in Italy. For those who rant about Pope Pius XII's alleged anti-Semitism, they would do well to read the remarks addressed to Sister Marchione on page 136 written by Michael Bobrow encouraging the Canonization of Pope Pius XII. One should note that Mr. Bobrow is Jewish and is knowledgable enough to know of Pope Pius XII's dignity and rare courage. The last part of this book is perhaps the most important. This book contains numerous documents including primary sources that attest to Pope Pius XII's exhausting efforts and heroic stands against those who oppressed innocent victims including Jews during World War II. To those who have smeared Pope Pius XII, these sources are unanswerable. Sister Marchione has not only done a historical service to a great Pope and hero, she has done invaluable work in the service to historical truth. **POPE PIUS XII: ARCHITECT FOR PEACE** is a solid work of history and shows careful historical research. One should note that Pope Pius XII's critics have never challenged those who have written honestly about this great man. After reading this book, the reader would know why this is so. Sister Marchione's book is unanswerable.

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