



YAD VASHEM
The Holocaust Martyrs' and Heroes'
Remembrance Authority



Studium Theologicum Salesianum
Saints Peter and Paul
Jerusalem

Pope Pius XII and the Holocaust

Current State of Research

March 8-9, 2009

Sunday, March 8, 2009

9 :30-10:00 Opening Session

Opening Remarks: Avner Shalev, Chairman of Yad Vashem Directorate

Msgr. Antonio Franco, Apostolic Nuncio

10 :00-11 :15 Session 1 - Eugenio Maria Giuseppe Giovanni Pacelli

Can we find a gap between the private and public Pacelli before and during his Pontificate? To what extent did the Pope's particular personality dictate his feelings toward Jews and his bearing toward them during the war?

10:00-10:20 Andrea Tornielli (Presenter)

10:20-10:40: Michael Phayer (Respondent)

10:40-11:15: Open Discussion

11:15-11:30 Coffee Break

11:30-12:45 Session 2 - Pre-Papacy Period

What can we learn from the period of Pacelli's nunciature in Germany, about his attitude toward Nazi Germany, racial policy and Jews?

What was the role of Cardinal Pacelli as Secretary of State in inspiring the anti-Nazi attitude of Pope Pius XI?

11:30-11:50 Jean Dominique Durand (Presenter)

11:50-12:10 Paul Oshea (Respondent)

12:10-12:45 Open Discussion

12:45-14:00 Lunch Break

14:00-15:15 Session 3 - The German Case

What place did Orsenigo play in Vatican diplomacy? Was he trusted? What were the instructions that Pius XII gave the German Bishops to deal with the Nazi policy and its anti-Semitism?

14:00-14:20 Thomas Brechenmacher (Presenter)

14:20-14:40 Sergio Minerbi (Respondent)

14:40-15:15 Open Discussion

15:15-15:30 Coffee Break

15:30-17:00 Session 4 - Pius XII and the Holocaust

Pope Pius could communicate secretly with European bishops to tell them to confidentially encourage Catholics to protect Jews or to protest publicly against Nazi atrocities. Did he do so? Moreover, do we have any knowledge about papal appeals to local authorities, on behalf of Jews, beside the known

exceptions of Hungary and Slovakia? To what extent did Pius XII influence the policies of Catholic non-occupied countries towards the fate of the Jews?

15:30-15:50 Matteo Napolitano (Presenter)

15:50-16:10 Paul Oshea (Presenter)

16:10-16:30 Michael Phayer (Respondent)

16:30-17:00 Open Discussion

Monday, March 9, 2009

9:30-10:45 Session 5a - The Italian Case

Did the Pope give instructions in Italy to help/hide Jews? What documentation do we have to sustain this?

9:30-9:50 Grazia Loparco (Presenter)

9:50-10:10 Susan Zuccotti (Respondent)

10:10-10:45 Open Discussion

10:45-11:00 Coffee Break

11:00-13:00 Session 5b – The Italian Case

How can we understand the connections between the Vatican and the German diplomats in Rome? An important meeting took place between Pius XII and Von Weizsacker on October 9, 1943. In those days an ongoing negotiation was taking place between the Pope and Von Ribbentrop. What was the outcome? Many American historians agree that the Maglione-Weizsaecker discussion on Oct. 16 did not constitute a papal or Vatican protest regarding the events of that day. Is there agreement or disagreement on this point among European historians?

11:00-11:20 Susan Zuccotti (Presenter)

11:20-11:40 Sergio Minerbi (Presenter)

11:40-12:00 Andrea Tornielli (Respondent)

12:00-12:20 Thomas Brechenmacher (Respondent)

12:20-13:00 Open Discussion

13:00-14:15 Lunch Break

14:15-15:30 Session 6 - The Aftermath

Two disturbing issues deal with the post-war period. What was Pius XII's involvement in the Vatican assistance given to Nazi war criminals after the War? How can we explain it? What was the Vatican policy toward Jewish children who were hidden in religious houses (baptized and un-baptized children)?

14:15-14:35 Michael Phayer (Presenter)

14:35-14:55 Matteo Napolitano (Respondent)

14:55-15:30 Open Discussion

15:30- 16:30 Conclusive Session - Unanswered Questions and Final Remarks