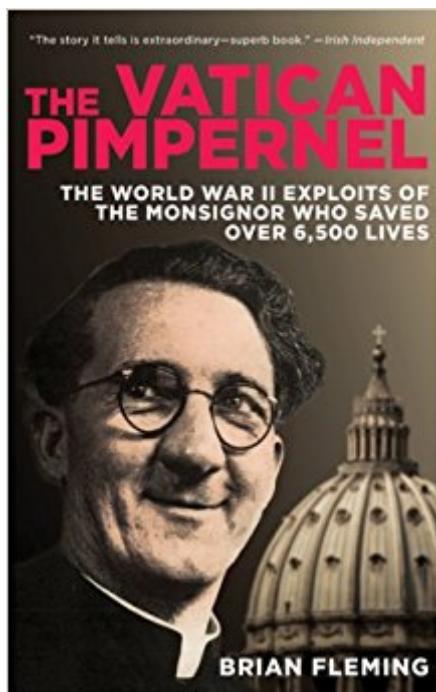


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The Vatican Pimpernel: The World War II Exploits Of The Monsignor Who Saved Over 6,500 Lives



Synopsis

During the German occupation of Rome from 1942–1944, Irishman Monsignor Hugh O'Flaherty ran an escape organization for Allied POWs and civilians, including Jews. Safe within the Vatican state, he regularly ventured out in disguise to continue his mission, which earned him the nickname "the Pimpernel of the Vatican." When the Allies entered Rome, he and his collaborators—priests, nuns, and laypeople of numerous nationalities and religious beliefs—had saved the lives of over 6,500 people. The first new telling of this extraordinary story in decades, this book also addresses the fascinating dichotomy between O'Flaherty and Herbert Kappler, the Gestapo chief in Rome who ordered him killed, and who, after the war, reconciled with the monsignor, and even asked him to perform his baptism. For his heroic efforts, O'Flaherty was awarded the highest honors, including a Congressional Medal, and was the first Irishman named the Notary of the Holy Office. His story was immortalized in the 1983 film *The Scarlet and the Black*, which starred Gregory Peck as O'Flaherty.

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Customer Reviews

I purchased this eBook after it was listed for a very low cost with the intention of getting around to reading it later. Luckily, it did not collect that much cyber dust. Once I started reading, I could not put it down and was finished in less than 24 hours. It is not a quick book, and at some points, I had to go back and re-read some of the paragraphs because I wanted to fully comprehend what was laid out before me. It was the book I had subconsciously searched for in answer to the rumors of what members of the Vatican did to help save lives of those threatened by the reach of the Third Reich. Before the story is told, the author introduces you to the "Cast of Characters", which helps tremendously. Unlike many other non-fiction books, there was not one time that I found this book to be dry or boring. It is almost like reading a gripping news article that continues on for over 225 pages. At the end of each chapter, foot notes and bibliographies are added for further reference. I would highly recommend this book for all ages. If you are old enough to study World War II, you are old enough to read this book. As a Catholic, history buff, and a rather prolific reader, I am grateful to Brian Fleming for bringing this history to life for me. More people should know about the efforts of Monsignor Hugh O'Flaherty.

This is a well written history of a seemingly modest Irish Catholic Priest serving in the Vatican during World War II. The Vatican, of course, sat within an Axis Ally of Germany. After Italy left the war, Germany moved in and occupied Rome. The situation was complicated and extremely dangerous. All of this was explained as best as could be in a history of medium length. The story is constructed around Monsignor Hugh O'Flaherty. The organization he headed was high and complicated. Monsignor O'Flaherty and his associates assisted thousands of escaped POWs of many nations, refugees, and of course, Jews facing persecution. There was great danger and there were casualties. Many other people are named in this story and I learned a lot. I was pleased to discover that Gina Lollbrigida was part of the underground. I have spent a good deal of time studying and reading about World War II. I state that to make the point I still learned quite a bit. The whole situation with Italy joining the Axis and then wishing to exit the Axis and the War, always seemed complicated to me and, among other things, this situation is explained in some detail. I am glad I came upon this film narrative. Thank You...

Very hard to believe especially after all the stories about the Pope helping the really bad Nazis escape to South America. History is very important but how can we be certain that a story written 50 or more years after the event is true? This is a definite five star read and it may help the Catholics

who are now wondering about their priests who are charged with the various crimes against young children. It was wonderful read for me and I'm reading it again. I often times read a very good story a second time.....I think we need better documentation of the bad things that happened over the past 10 years. Why wait until they are history. For example, the murder of the black young man in Ferguson MO. The news papers told one story but in the trial of the police officer there was a different story. .And the raising of the hands turned out to fake news. So who do we believe. ??????

This is a wonderful story. There are several versions of this story, and this one gave some details not mentioned by other writers. As a avid reader of WW II history, it filled in a few blanks in my knowledge base and was interestingly written. If you like this book, I suggest you also read The Scarlet Pimpernel, which is from another point of view, and also a wonderful read. The thing all books agree on is the Monsignor's complete dedication and willingness to place himself in danger repeatedly, sometimes beyond all reason, to save pretty much anyone from the Gestapo. He was a true Christian and an exemplary man. How I wish I could have met him!

What can I say an Iris Priest in the Vatican who is involved with diplomacy, integrity , and avoiding the SS and the Germans in control of Italy during the 2nd world war hiding soldiers, Jews, and other refugees under the nose of the ruling government makes for a great story. He was quite an interesting Priest and a wonderful person and very devious all the time. Taking on dangerous positions and being involved with hiding people all over Rome and the surrounding country side was fascinating.

An excellent read giving details about rendering assistance to Jewish people and POW's from within the Vatican. This priest went above and beyond the call of duty in assisting the escape of many who would have been slaughtered by the Germans and the Fascist regime in Italy. Many in the network were captured and killed because they would not reveal their knowledge of the Vatican Priest who put the lives of others above his own. The book is well written and has many twists and turns.

I am an enthusiastic reader of both World War II fiction and nonfiction. I knew precious little about Italy during the 1930s and 1940s and this book was an eye opener! Monsignor O'Flaherty was an ingenious, courageous and compassionate human being; someone I would have been honored to have known. The book is written with grace and style that nicely interweaves historical background

with the exploits of this remarkable man. O'Flaherty had a quirky and spunky sense of humor and a "can do" attitude that stands out in stark relief to the bitter conditions of wartime Italy. I wish /the publisher would make this book available for lending; I would love to send it to lots of friends .

I recently traveled to Rome so was interested in the history, and what the Papacy did or did not do during WWII. Honestly not terribly well written, BUT still an interesting read about a man who did the right thing at great risk to himself. I am very glad I read it, and if you are interested in the topic would recommend it.

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