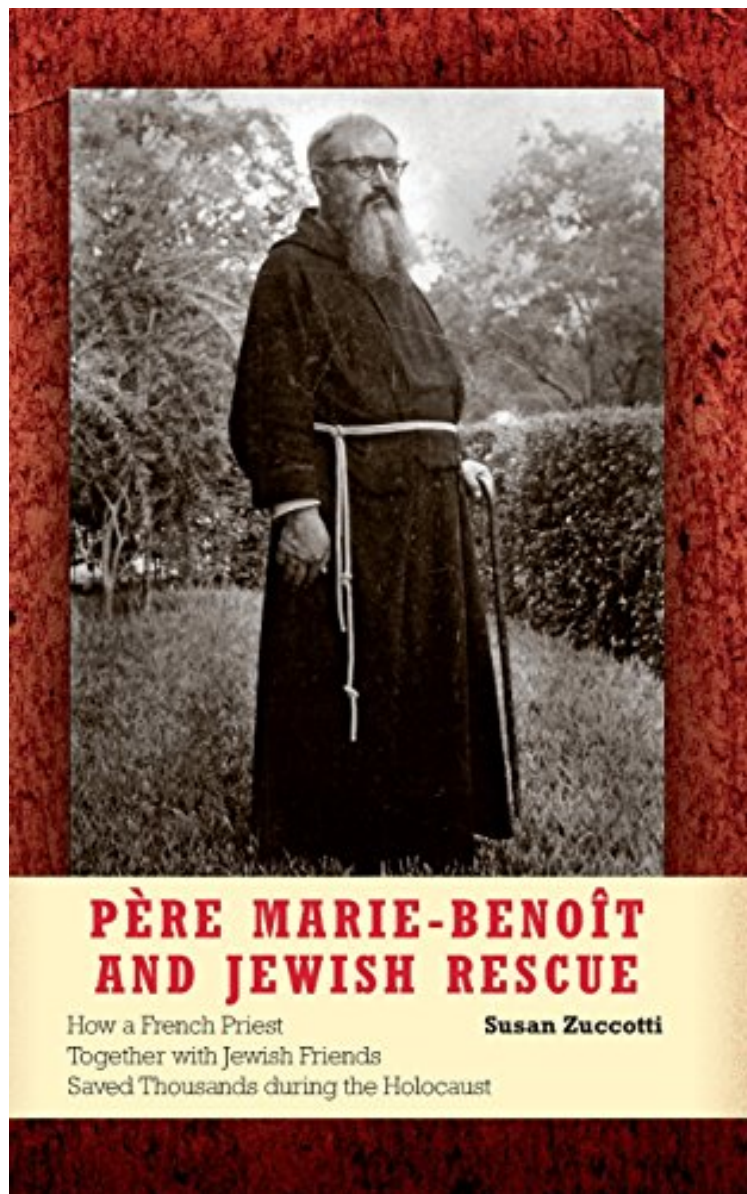


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## Pre Marie-Benot and Jewish Rescue: How a French Priest Together with Jewish Friends Saved Thousands during the Holocaust

*Susan Zuccotti*

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#1515621 in Books Indiana University Press 2013-06-04 2013-06-04 Original language: English PDF # 1 9.00 x 1.30 x 6.00l, 1.27 #File Name: 0253008530296 pages biography of Pere Marie-Benoit and his "Jewish rescueduring WWII | File size: 62.Mb

**Susan Zuccotti : Pre Marie-Benot and Jewish Rescue: How a French Priest Together with Jewish Friends Saved Thousands during the Holocaust** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my

time, and all praised Pre Marie-Benot and Jewish Rescue: How a French Priest Together with Jewish Friends Saved Thousands during the Holocaust:

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Important History and Good Authorship  
By Joan D Hostetter  
The story of Roman Catholic Priests who saved Jews from the Holocaust needs this kind of readable yet scholarly presentation. It is good to remember the loving, brave heroes among the priests who saved Jews from the Nazis. Praises to Susan Zuccotti for this fine work. I half-expected a ponderous or overly excitable presentation, but Ms. Zuccotti has struck just the right balance here.  
2 of 5 people found the following review helpful. Thin when history counts.  
By Karl Berger  
Full disclosure: I bought this book because I am writing a novel about the French Resistance in WW II. I have read only the part that applies to that specific time, very few pages beyond. I hoped for more telling episodes and details about techniques of forgery and individual fates. The time I am most interested in and so I think most readers will be is not represented fully enough. Maybe I am doing this book injustice; there might just not be more material.  
21 of 34 people found the following review helpful. Highly inaccurate and misleading regarding Pius XII  
By Marilyn  
I have read with interest what Susan Zuccotti says about Fr. Marie-Benoit. However, I find a great many inaccurate things in what she says about Pius XII. To name just four out of dozens:  
1. Page 48: Re: Pius XII not mentioning the Jews specifically in his first encyclical - Nevertheless Pius XII did specifically mention the Jews in his Christmas Eve sermon in the Consistory Hall to the Cardinals and high-ranking prelates on Dec. 24, 1940: "It is not a little comforting to Us to be in a position to console with the moral and spiritual assistance of Our representatives and with Our Peter's Pence subsidies, a huge number of refugees, of ex-patriates, of emigrants, among whom are also those of the Semitic race. We were able to give particularly large aid to the Poles..." See his speeches from 1940 on the Vatican website. See paragraph 18: "...anche fra quelli di stirpe semitica..."  
2. Page 223: She says that Fr. Benoit said that the Vatican was not involved in helping DELASEM secure loans in lire against deposits of the Joint [American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee] in London at the end of 1943 and into 1944. On the contrary, in March 1944 Count Carletti, a go-between, asked the Vatican bank to accept \$16,000 from Jews in America and convert them into lire, to be used by DELASEM. Secretary of State, Cardinal Maglione responded, "That would be an operation on behalf of a person residing in an enemy country. The Apostolic Delegate in Washington has warned us repeatedly that such operations are severely prohibited, even for small sums... If you really want to help Count Carletti and the Jews, you could suggest to the Count to seek a trusted person with an open account in dollars in the Opere di Religione [the Vatican Bank] who would lend himself to host the \$16,000. Professor Rothschild has proposed a similar operation. He mentioned to me, if I have understood it correctly, the British minister [Osborne] in exile at the Vatican... Couldn't these Jews take the matter up with the British Minister?" As if worried that even this might compromise the Vatican's neutrality, Maglione's note to himself adds, "I don't intend to give orders or assume responsibility. I don't even want to make suggestions." But in fact he had pointed out the most clever, legal way for DELASEM to use the Vatican bank to obtain currency conversions. ADSS, Volume 10, #103, March 16, 1944, pages 178-179.  
3. Page 197: Zuccotti says "...those imprecise references did not imply the pope himself was directly involved in rescue. Rather, the pope was a symbol of an institution that had been helpful in Rome." But the pope himself was directly involved in rescue, as his longtime housekeeper, Sister Pascalina testified in her biography: "The fear of being arrested and sent off to some concentration camp was so great that today one can hardly grasp it. People tried to hide in every imaginable way, and once again it was the Holy Father who kept the door and the gate open. The Vatican, the many cloisters, the colleges, all became cities of refuge for hunted, persecuted people. He himself helped to care for those in hiding and to make their accommodations endurable. And everything had to happen in great secrecy; there were always new refugees, and those who were already in safety couldn't be put into danger." "Pius XII wanted to help, to help everyone who was in need. It made no difference; they even took in people who would repay him with ingratitude or with slander. Woe if he were to find out that someone had been hesitant to take in someone who had a bad reputation. He always wanted to know everything and be informed exactly about all that had been done and what had yet to be done, and he never grew tired of giving." (Ich Durfte Ihm Dienen. Erinnerungen an Papst Pius XII, page 120).  
4. Zuccotti says on Page 197: "He added that after the liberation of Rome, Pius XII had met with two leaders of the Roman Jewish Community, Chief Rabbi Israel Zolli and the lawyer Carlo Alberto Ottolenghi, and had agreed to grant a public audience to all the Jews of Rome later, when circumstances permitted. That public audience did not occur..." On the contrary, it did occur as J. Bogle relates in "The Real Story of Pius XII and the Jews," The Salisbury Review, Spring 1996: "Later, after the war was over, Pius XII received a large delegation of Roman Jews in the Vatican and ordered that the Imperial steps be opened for them to enter by. These steps were usually reserved for crowned Heads of State... The Pope received them in the Sistine chapel and, seeing that his Jewish visitors felt uncomfortable in that place, he came down from his throne and warmly welcomed them, telling them to feel completely at home, saying 'I am only the Vicar of Christ but you are his very kith and kin.' Such was his great love for the Jewish people, augmented by his knowledge of their terrible sufferings." I could go on and on, showing very precisely where Zuccotti has given inaccurate and misleading information about Pope Pius XII, but it would become a book. Dr. Marilyn Mallory, S.T.D.

Susan Zuccotti narrates the life and work of Pre Marie-Benot, a courageous French Capuchin priest who risked everything to hide Jews in France and Italy during the Holocaust. Who was this extraordinary priest and how did he become adept at hiding Jews, providing them with false papers, and helping them to elude their persecutors? From monasteries first in Marseille and later in Rome, Pre Marie-Benot worked with Jewish co-conspirators to build remarkably effective Jewish-Christian rescue networks. Acting independently without Vatican support but with help from some priests, nuns, and local citizens, he and his friends persisted in their clandestine work until the Allies liberated Rome. After the conflict, Pre Marie-Benot maintained his wartime Jewish friendships and devoted the rest of his life to Jewish-Christian reconciliation. Papal officials viewed both activities unfavorably until after the Second Vatican Council (Vatican II), 1962-1965. To tell this remarkable tale, in addition to her research in French and Italian archives, Zuccotti personally interviewed Pre Marie-Benot, his family, Jewish rescuers with whom he worked, and survivors who owed their lives to his network.

This book, thoroughly researched and highly readable, stands as a fitting monument to a man whose selfless acts in two countries had lifesaving consequences. (H-Judaic) A bright light within a dark, deeply distressing time in history. (Kirkus s) [Zuccotti's] scholarship provides depth and context to the story of Pre Marie-Benot and the perilous landscape in which he operated. Most of all, her biography helps to keep alive the memory of one of the brave men and women whose actions showed that goodness and charity will survive even in the midst of a great evil. (Wall Street Journal) This biography is a welcome addition to our understanding of the rescue efforts in behalf of Jews by righteous Christians like Marie-Benot and the Jewish rescue networks with which he worked. (Jewish Book World) This brave man had shown to the world how a single individual can make all the difference. Zuccotti's well-told story - with extensive notes on every chapter - is a tribute to tolerance and better understanding between all national, religious and racial groups, a challenge to this and future generations. One can only suggest that a large portrait of Pre Marie-Benot should hang in the planned Jerusalem Museum of Tolerance. (Jerusalem Post) Pre Marie-Benot found a devoted and conscientious biographer in Susan Zuccotti. (Jewish History) (Starred ) Who better to rescue from obscurity an Oskar Schindler-like hero than historian Zuccotti? She has written extensively on the experience of French and Italian Jews in the Holocaust, but it's more than her impressive credentials and knowledge base that makes this biography an intellectual page-turner accessible to a general audience. This account of the life of Capuchin priest Pre Marie-Benot and his successful efforts to save thousands of Jews offers the perfect amount of detail and context. Relying on archival sources and her own interviews with Marie-Benot and those he helped to save, Zuccotti's portrait of the 'Father of the Jews' is as historically important as it is entertaining. (Publishers Weekly) Susan Zuccotti, in her insightful and thoroughly researched Pre Marie-Benot and Jewish Rescue . . . makes the case for the crucial role played by extraordinary individuals during specific historical events. (Primo Levi Center) Zuccotti has produced a fascinating and compelling history, all the more readable both for the careful style in which it is presented (giving it an appeal beyond the academic constituency) and for its human relevance in a world confronting further refugee crises. (French History) This book is highly recommended for all academic libraries. (AJL s) Provides a close-up look at how rescue during the Holocaust worked. . . . To reveal in detail what happened over half a century ago constitutes an astonishing piece of sleuthing. (Michael Phayer author of The Catholic Church and the Holocaust, 1930-1965 (IUP, 2001)) Uncovers the story of one remarkable religious and priest during humanity's darkest time. . . . The work is extremely compelling, engaging the reader's full attention, and challenging to put down. (Kevin P. Spicer author of Antisemitism, Christian Ambivalence, and the Holocaust (IUP, 2007)) Gold Medal, World History category, 2014 Independent Publisher Book Awards 2014 ForeWord Magazine Book of the Year Award, Gold Winner, History About the Author Susan Zuccotti is author of The Italians and the Holocaust: Persecution, Rescue, and Survival; The Holocaust, the French, and the Jews; Under His Very Windows: The Vatican and the Holocaust in Italy; and Holocaust Odysseys: The Jews of Saint-Martin-Vsubie and Their Flight through France and Italy. She has taught Holocaust history at Barnard College in New York and Trinity College in Hartford.