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## Pius XII and the Jews<sup>\*</sup>

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ON JUNE 4, 1944, when the Allies entered Rome, the Jewish News Bulletin of the British Eighth Army spoke out:

To the everlasting credit of the people of Rome, and the Roman Catholic Church, the lot of the Jews has been made easier by their truly Christian offers of assistance and shelter. Even now, many still remain in places which opened their doors to hide them from the fate of deportation to certain death . . . The full story of the help given to our people by the Church cannot be told for obvious reasons, until after the war.

Today, 496 million Catholics all over the world, among them almost

35 million Americans, mourn the passing of their spiritual leader, Pope Pius XII. Representatives of other religions extend their profound sympathy to the Catholic world on its great loss. And today, almost fifteen years later, much more can be told about Pope Pius XII and his efforts in behalf of Jews at critical moments in world history.

It is known today that Pius XII was, to a large extent, personally instrumental in organized action to help Jewish victims of nazism and fascism. He made clear his profound concern in many ways. After the liberation of Rome, while there was apprehension over the fate of Jew-

<sup>\*</sup> Reprinted from the *ADL Bulletin*, 515 Madison Ave., N.Y. 22, N.Y., October, 1958.