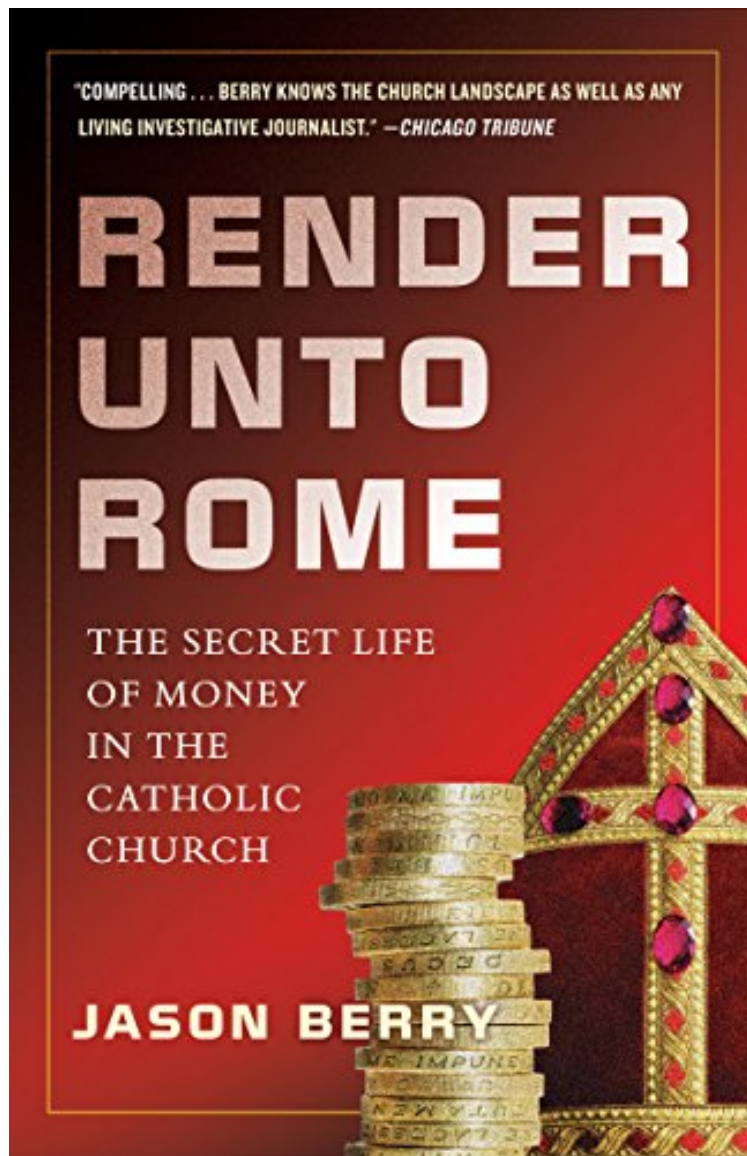


[Download free ebook] Render Unto Rome: The Secret Life of Money in the Catholic Church

Render Unto Rome: The Secret Life of Money in the Catholic Church

Jason Berry

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Jason Berry : Render Unto Rome: The Secret Life of Money in the Catholic Church before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Render Unto Rome: The Secret Life of Money in the Catholic Church:

7 of 7 people found the following review helpful. Not surprising in light of the sex scandals
By Thomas Patrick Doyle
Jason Berry is the journalist who is responsible for breaking through the titanium-strength lid of secrecy on the

Catholic Church's culture of secrecy and cover-up of sexual molestation of minors. This was back in 1985 and he has since become the pre-eminent chronicler of the multi-layered corruption in the institutional Church. He and the late Gerry Renner wrote the book that was responsible more than anything else for exposing the late founder of the Legion of Christ for the psychopathic fraud that he was. Jason has now focused his formidable research ability on the even more secretive layer of corruption in the institutional Church, the "secret life of money" as he aptly calls it. Some have said that the shock value of this book would exceed that of his previous books on clergy sexual abuse not because abuse of money is more despicable, but because it hits home to a far wider range of people. It is impossible to lay out in an organized and succinct fashion the entire history of the Catholic Church's financial dealings, primarily because no one on earth today or in history could ever have been capable of sorting it all out. On the other hand Jason does a remarkable job of summing up what he calls in chapter 2, "The Origins of the Vatican Financial System." That section alone is reason enough to buy the book. The book is very effective in laying out the sordid story of the Church's financial antics because the author has chosen to focus on four specific examples of the bizarre life of money in the Church: the Archdiocese of Boston, seat of the tsunami that jump-started the second and still rumbling volcano of clergy sex abuse and cover-up, the Diocese of Cleveland, the Archdiocese of Los Angeles and the Legion of Christ. Each story is almost too much for the average person to wrap his or her brain around. The naive believers who question nothing will be blown away not because it is all too much to grasp but because the author has researched it all so well to make it all too true. Those with more experience, especially inside experience with the institutional Church will also be shocked because the overall picture, as it is so skillfully assembled by the author, goes to the edge of the envelope of shocking corruption. Jason is not afraid to by-pass the deference, insisted upon by the hierarchy, to name some of the key players in the sordid game of ecclesiastical Monopoly: Stanislaus Dziwisz, long-time secretary and companion to John Paul II and now a cardinal, Anthony Pilla, former bishop of Cleveland, Richard Lennon, architect of disastrous campaign of parish closures in Boston and Pilla's successor, Roger Mahony, former Cardinal archbishop of Los Angeles, the scene of the largest pay-out for sex abuse victims in history, Marcial Maciel-Degollado, multi-faceted cult leader of the Legion of Christ, and the face of Vatican corruption, Cardinal Angelo Sodano. This book weaves together in a readable and understandable way the clergy sex abuse phenomenon and the ebb and flow of money and its influence on how Church management makes decisions that should be based on what is right rather than what is financially expedient. It is an invaluable classic because the author has assembled in one volume the key aspects of the remarkable and scandalous story of money in the Church, a story that must be told for contemporary history and for the good of the honest believers.

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. The True Faiths Hidden True Colors By Brad Author Jason Berry's illuminating new book about the Roman Catholic Church, "Render Unto Rome" is the third book in a trilogy of expose's about the Sexually and Financially Troubled "True Church of Jesus of Nazareth." This novel honestly reveals the behind the scenes structure, motivations and mindset of the ruling Modern Day Apostles of Christ. Jason Berry describes a reality and truth you will not be told in Diocesan Newspapers, vocation films or the Catholic Church Television Network broadcasts airing on some TV stations around the country. Molestation Survivors may find this book triggering and infuriating, while others, validating. While reading this compelling expose of this Church Institution I was baptized in, I am reminded of the first time I came face to face with "The Supreme Rock" of the Roman Catholic Universal Church. It was with my parents and grandparents one fall day, on the steps of the Elks Club on Queens Boulevard in Queens County, New York. It was during the 1965 visit of Pope Paul VI to the United Nations. His motorcade drove by us, heading toward the famous Manhattan building, the UN, to address diplomats from around the World. Little did I know as a 7 year old, the cantankerous relationship I would have with the Divine Institution then led by the waiving, smiling older Supreme Pontiff of Christ's Spiritual Shepherds, Pope Paul VI and his successors. Like Virgil in Dante's Inferno, Berry takes the reader by the shoulder and guides them through the numerous constructed layers that is the 20th and 21st Centuries Roman Catholic Church Community. As you read along, you'll see the top to bottom Faith Structures, varying in degrees of hellishness. "Render Unto Rome" is an honest, credible, unvarnished look at the bad fruits of deliberate labors of lovelessness by many of the "Fishers of Men." Berry, describes an Archbishop named Lennon, who is emotionally nothing like his former Beatles namesake John, assigned by Rome to replace Boston's infamous Cardinal Law. He describes a Mexican Religious Order founder who has a proclivity towards his younger seminary students and young women. Berry exposes Vatican Apostolic Successor Cardinal Sodano who cuddles up to Latin dictators and mildly encourages slick young Italian business operatives into financial scamming. Berry's book doesn't miss a beat. As a Roman Catholic Priest Sexually Molested surviving victim (1974), I was glued to every page spotlighting the consequences of selfishness and hedonism which have been a well hidden part of Apostolic Living for far too long. One gets a real upfront view of the consequences of misplaced blind loyalty. Berry investigates another angle of these past few decades of the Roman Catholic sexual abuse crisis. How the Church is going to pay for the victims financial restitution. He picks up after Cardinal Law's departure. Surviving Victims unaware of the added damage done to the faithful by the Hierarchies autocratic decisions to close down and sell off, long attended parishes, will not be surprised by the continued disregard for people's spiritual lives, contributions and feelings. Laity should take note that unwavering blind obedience and participation in secrecy can cost them, when those restitution prices need to be paid by the selling of their parish properties. Berry

describes the cat and mouse relationship between some lay and clerical "rebels" with the "Official Magisterium." A pattern of heavy involvement in Church life, then disillusionment and distance from it. One wonders, with all the Sins forgiven by the participation in numerous Eucharistic Meals, spiritual retreats and confessions given over the years, how the deceit, coldness to the sexually assaulted, cultic patterns of an infamous religious order and Vatican bank financial scams were so deliberately embraced by adult Religious professionals who say they know better. If the Hierarchy in Rome is not picking this book up, analyzing and learning some very important lessons from it, then many lives, sweat and tears will have been wasted in vain. As Rome now changes the language of the Mass, reversing the language changes of Vatican II, to get a closer translation from the Latin, Berry recommends they also start reforming the Roman Church's decision making structures. Having more checks and balances, Berry concludes, better ensures honesty with the faithful. As things now stand, Berry reveals the tradition of Apostolic Succession trumps all and even though they are Evangelizers of the Word, they can become exempt from having to always live by it. Mixed messages, secrecy and forked tongues become the order of the day and have been for far too many decades. It is true Christ forgives sins, but he also demands conversion afterwards and "Render Unto Rome" outlines very clearly, specific areas within the Roman Catholic Church system where those conversion experiences, still very much need to occur. ##### "Brad" Survivor of a 1974 Priest Sexual Assault .0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Inaccurate and misleading By RL This book is not so much about money as it is the travesty of bishops handling the pedophile crisis. In that it has some merit. In the end the author blames the monarchical system of the church and apostolic succession. It is never really about money.

AN INVESTIGATION OF EPIC FINANCIAL INTRIGUE, RENDER UNTO ROME EXPOSES THE SECRECY AND DECEIT THAT RUN COUNTER TO THE VALUES OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH. The Sunday collection in every Catholic church throughout the world is as familiar a part of the Mass as the homily and even Communion. There is no doubt that historically the Catholic Church has been one of the great engines of charity in history. But once a dollar is dropped in that basket, where does it go? How are weekly cash contributions that can amount to tens of thousands of dollars accounted for? Where does the money go when a diocese sells a church property for tens of millions of dollars? And what happens when hundreds of millions of dollars are turned over to officials at the highest ranks, no questions asked, for their discretionary use? The Roman Catholic Church is the largest organization in the world. The Vatican has never revealed its net worth, but the value of its works of art, great churches, property in Rome, and stocks held through its bank easily run into the tens of billions. Yet the Holy See as a sovereign state covers a mere 108 acres and has a small annual budget of about \$280 million. No major book has examined the church's financial underpinnings and practices with such journalistic force. Today the church bears scrutiny by virtue of the vast amounts of money (nearly \$2 billion in the United States alone) paid out to victims of clergy abuse. Amid mounting diocesan bankruptcies, bishops have been selling off whole pieces of the infrastructure; churches, schools, commercial properties; while the nephew of one of the Vatican's most powerful cardinals engaged in a lucrative scheme to profiteer off the enormous downsizing of American church wealth.

"Money dominates the third of Jason Berry's important books about the Catholic Church. Render Unto Rome probes deeply into the culture of the church. To painful questions about money and sex, Berry finds, the response of the church is always the same — secrecy and silence." -- Thomas Powers "The Catholic Church wants us to believe that it can reform itself from within. This book shows that it simply can't. If you are an entrenched member of the hierarchy, you are not going to like this book. If you are a Catholic who believes that truth will lead to change — and that the Vatican needs to change, and change fast — Render unto Rome is your catechism." -- James Carville "A captivating read, Render to Rome is an astounding revelation of the church's financial system, and required reading for those who donate to the church or are interested in the ongoing effort to restore the credibility of the church and its hierarchy." -- Sister Joan Chittister, OSB "Once again Jason Berry is ahead of the curve when it comes to writing about the Catholic Church. Nothing about this book is superficial. This is a prodigiously researched work that looks at the church with both breadth and depth, and it is fascinating." -- John M. Barry, author of *Rising Tide* and *The Great Influenza* From the Hardcover edition. About the Author "Jason Berry is the rare investigative reporter whose scholarship, compassion, and ability to write with the poetic power of Robert Penn Warren are in perfect balance" — Phyllis Theroux, USA TODAY Jason Berry achieved prominence for his reporting on the Catholic Church crisis in *Lead Us Not Into Temptation* (1992), a book used in many newsrooms. He has been widely interviewed in the national media, with many appearances on *Nightline*, *Oprah*, *ABC* and *CNN*. USA Today called Berry "the rare investigative reporter whose scholarship, compassion and ability to write with the poetic power of Robert Penn Warren are in perfect balance." — Vows of Silence: The Abuse of Power in the Papacy of John Paul II, written with Gerald Renner (2004) has Spanish, Australian and Italian editions. The film he produced based on the book won Best TV Documentary Award at 2008 Docs D.F. -- Mexico City International Festival of Documentary Film. Jason Berry produces documentaries and writes on culture and politics for many publications. *Up From the Cradle of Jazz. a history of New Orleans music, reissued in fall 2009 has new sections on the cultural impact of*

Hurricane Katrina. His other books include *Amazing Grace: With Charles Evers in Mississippi*, *The Spirit of Black Hawk* and *Louisiana Faces: Images from A Renaissance* with photographs of Philip Gould. He received a 2001 Guggenheim Fellowship for research on jazz funerals and a 1992 Alicia Patterson Journalism Fellowship for reporting on Louisiana demagogues. His play, *Earl Long in Purgatory*, won a 2002 Big Easy award for Best Original Work in Theatre. He is also the author of *Last of the Red Hot Poppas*, a comic novel about Louisiana politics. Jason Berry lives in New Orleans. www.jasonberryauthor.com From the Hardcover edition.