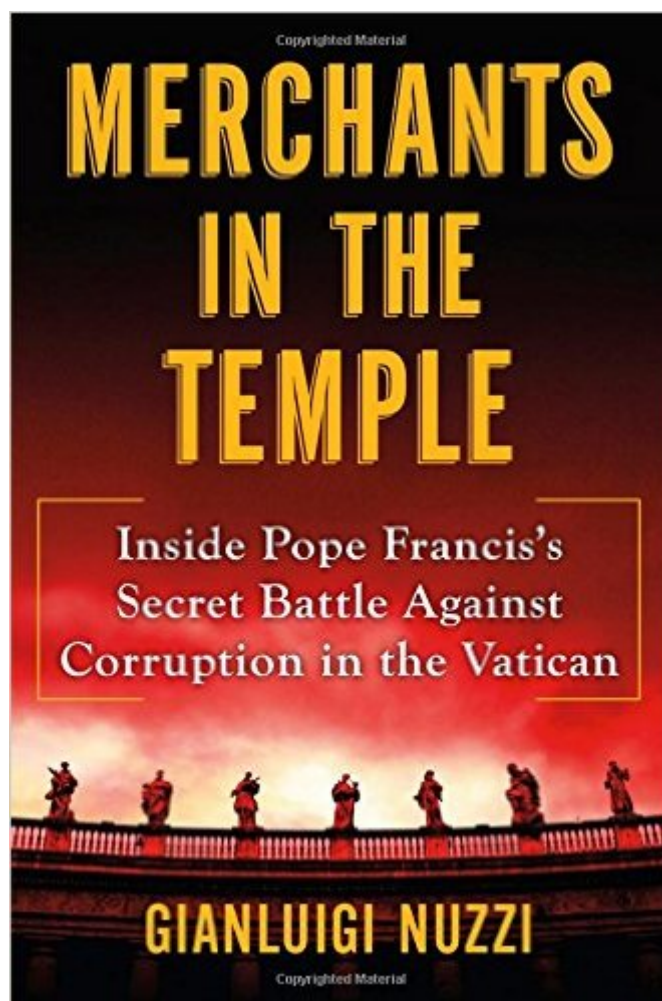


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Merchants In The Temple: Inside Pope Francis's Secret Battle Against Corruption In The Vatican



Synopsis

From a bestselling author with unprecedented access to Pope Francis, an investigative look at the recent financial scandals at the highest levels of the Vatican. A veritable war is waging in the Church: on one side, there is Pope Francis's strong message for one church of the poor and all; on the other, there is the old Curia with its endless enemies, and the old and new lobbies struggling to preserve their not-so-Christian privileges. The old guard do not back down, they are ready to use all means necessary to stay in control and continue the immoral way they conduct their business. They resist reforms sought by Pope Francis and seek to delegitimize their opponents, to isolate those who want to eliminate corruption. It's a war that will determine the future of the church. And if he loses the battle against secular interests and blackmail, Pope Francis could resign, much like his predecessor. Based on confidential information—including top secret documents from inside the Vatican, and actual transcripts of Pope Francis's admonishments to the papal court about the lack of financial oversight and responsibility—*Merchants in the Temple* illustrates all the undercover work conducted by the Pope since his election and shows the reader who his real enemies are. It reveals the instruments Francis is using to reform the Vatican and rid it, once and for all, of the overwhelming corruption traditionally encrusted in the Roman Catholic Church. *Merchants in the Temple* is a startling book that will shock every reader. It's a story worthy of a Dan Brown novel, with its electrifying details of the trickery and scheming against the papacy—except that it is real.

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Customer Reviews

It's well known that the history of the Catholic Church is rife with tales of corruption and murder

and that internal conflicts roil the Church today over pedophile priests, the role of women, divorce, and gay marriage as well as theology. What's less well known are the particulars about long-running battles over money and power inside the Vatican, which reportedly forced the resignation of Pope Benedict VI. Corruption may yet eventually induce Pope Francis to follow him into retirement—a line of speculation offered up by Gianluigi Nuzzi, the Italian investigative journalist who has been the focal point for leaks from the Vatican, in his new book, *Merchants in the Temple*. Reports of old-fashioned corruption involving money and power have been swirling about the Vatican for decades. Nearly forty years ago there were persistent rumors that the last Italian Pope, John Paul I, who reigned for just 33 days, was murdered when he brought forward a radical reform proposal that would have forced out the greatest beneficiaries of the Vatican's extensive financial operations. While those rumors were dismissed by most observers, there is extensive proof that the Vatican's finances were riddled with corrupt influence. In *Merchants in the Temple*, Nuzzi cites lengthy passages from internal Vatican documents and even tape recordings of secret meetings involving Pope Francis to update the tale of ecclesiastical corruption. Francis emerges from the pages of this book as a hero, though a hero with faults of his own. Unlike his predecessors, who initiated reform measures but failed to follow up on them, Pope Francis has been resolute since the moment of his investiture in 2013.

Merchants in the Temple reveals that since Francis's election auditors have repeatedly reported to the Holy Father: "There is a complete absence of transparency in the accounts of both the Holy See and the Governorate—costs are running completely out of control—These pleas have been completely ignored. This exposé cites a half-dozen priorities repeatedly given by auditors for improvement—Also completely ignored. I will give you a bit of one of them. Not necessarily the most disturbing one. The others are in the book." The papacy must take control of the Vatican's real estate holdings particularly as they pertain to clergy retirement packages. In retirement, cardinals enjoy enormous apartments in Rome and in the Vatican regally furnished. Francis has done nothing to mitigate these practices. For example, the month after Francis set the scope of his papacy as "a poor church for the poor," he moved former Vatican Secretary of State Bertone into a 6,500 sq. ft. penthouse and spent upwards of a half-million dollars redecorating it. Too, one is not exactly speaking of "dire poverty" when one speaks of the Santa Marta Palace where the Pope occupies the papal suite. With exquisite mahogany floors and marble baths overlooking the Vatican Gardens it has all the amenities of 5 star hotels. In 1996, John Paul II - fed up with the lack of air conditioning, wiring and plumbing problems and lack of

privacy of the centuries-old papal apartment - engaged Pittsburgh gambling-boss John Connelly to build Sancta Marthae Palace on the guise it was being built for future conclaves. Construction of the hotel hit a snag when Connelly ran into financial problems and came up with only part of his original commitment.

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