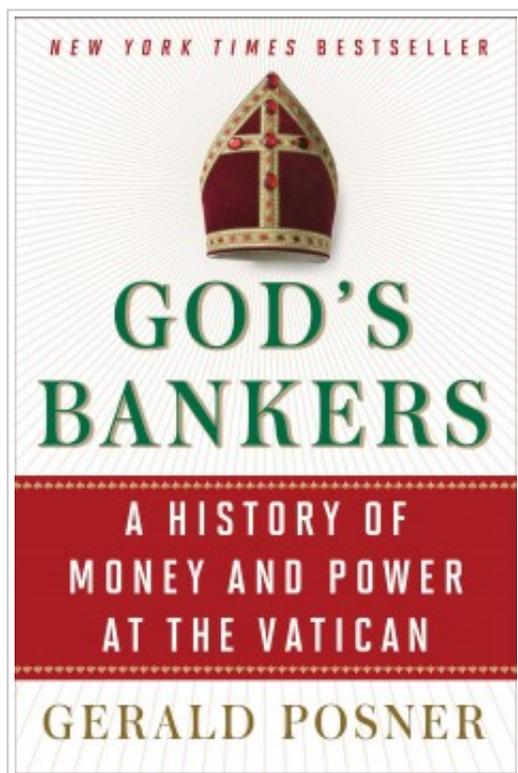


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God's Bankers

A History of Money and Power at the Vatican

by Gerald Posner

Price: \$30.00(Hardcover)

Published: February 03, 2015

Rating: 0.0/5 (0 votes cast)

From the Publisher: A deeply reported, fast-paced exposé of the money and the cardinals-turned-financiers at the heart of the Vatican—the world's biggest, most powerful religious institution—from an acclaimed journalist with “exhaustive research techniques” (The New York Times). From a master chronicler of legal and financial misconduct, a magnificent investigation nine years in the making, this book traces the political intrigue and inner workings of the Catholic Church. Decidedly not about faith, belief in God, or religious doctrine, this book is about the church's accumulation of wealth and its byzantine entanglements with financial markets across the world. Told through 200 years of prelates, bishops, cardinals, and the Popes who oversee it all, Gerald Posner uncovers an eyebrow-raising account of money and power in perhaps the most influential organization in the history...

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What We Say

Nine years in the making? Obviously, Gerald Posner works on more than one project at a time since he's published numerous investigative works in that time. But of course when you try to plumb the mysteries of the Vatican, it can take many years to gain trust (and gain more info via Freedom of Information requests and so on). The result is unquestionably a solid history of the Vatican Bank, an institution tagged by numerous international organizations as a haven for shady financial practices, to say the least. But "God's Bankers" is more than that. It uses the prism of money to look at the last one hundred years of the Church and put varied events like the Pope's behavior during World War II or the Church's tone-deaf response to child molestation scandals in a new, telling light. The endless scandals can overwhelm at times, but Posner keeps things moving along. Everything from the politics around the choice of a new pope to why the butler that betrayed Pope Benedict was treated gingerly comes under focus. It's disquieting to learn that the head of the Vatican Bank for many years couldn't even read a balance sheet when he began. That alone tells you a lot about the complicated dealings in this sovereign state. Luckily, you don't need to know how to read a balance sheet either to enjoy this compelling tale. There's even a glimmer of a happy ending with Posner convinced that Pope Francis is taking serious, substantive steps to reform the Vatican Bank once and for all.

-- Michael Giltz

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