Decades after the horrors of the Holocaust, a controversial debate continues over the role of the Vatican during that dark period of modern history. At the center of the debate is the pivotal question of what, if anything, the pope might have done to resist the rise of Adolf Hitler and Nazism and intervene in behalf of the Jews of Europe.

**HOLY SILENCE** is a documentary that cuts straight to the heart of that ongoing debate. In doing so, the film also focuses on a fascinating cast of historical figures, each of whom played a crucial role in the effort to shape the Vatican’s response to the Holocaust: a humble Jesuit priest from New England, a leading American industrialist dispatched on a mission by President Franklin Roosevelt, and high-ranking officials within the Vatican determined to carry out their own objectives.

**HOLY SILENCE** features all of them and more, while allowing audiences to decide for themselves whether or not the papacy ultimately might have made more of a difference during this tragic period.

**HOLY SILENCE** is Steven Pressman’s second documentary film. His first film — 50 CHILDREN: The Rescue Mission of Mr. and Mrs. Kraus — told the previously unknown story of an American couple who traveled to Nazi Germany in order to rescue a group of Jewish children and bring them back to safety in the United States. 50 CHILDREN premiered on HBO in 2013 and received an Emmy nomination for outstanding historical programming. It was also screened at the Fred Marcus Memorial Holocaust Lecture in 2015.

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Steven Pressman