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Steering the Church
through years of darkness

VIII PIUS

UNDER THE ROMAN SKY



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Rome, 1943. The city is occupied by the Nazis. The lives of thousands of Jews are in danger. In Vatican City, a neutral state within the borders of Rome, Pope Pius XII is struggling to save the city from hunger and destruction.

Living with her family in the city's Jewish ghetto is the lovely Miriam, who is being courted by two very different young men: the idealistic, well-to-do student Marco, who dreams of glory in combat, and the dashing black-market dealer Davide, who helps his fellow Jews with cunning and trickery.

When the Nazis descend upon the Ghetto and arrest thousands of Jews, Pius XII forges an alliance with General Stahel, a staunch Catholic who often disagrees with the policies of the SS Generals. Stahel orders an end to the raids, but cannot prevent the deportation of over a thousand Jews, including Miriam's father, and is later sent to the Eastern front.

Miriam escapes and is rescued by Marco and Davide in a reckless mission that takes them into the lion's den of the Nazi occupiers. They and thousands of other Jews find refuge in Rome's churches and monasteries, which Pius XII manages to have declared property of the Vatican, and thus extraterritorial. But what are orders and decrees worth in wartime? The Allied troops are advancing, the Germans are desperate to stop them, yet the raids against the Jews are stepped up, leading to tense confrontations and dramatic showdowns. In the Vatican, Pius XII is reproached for not condemning the Nazis strongly enough; but he knows that if he speaks out too forcibly, Hitler will take more innocent lives. Is he to risk even greater reprisals in the Nazi-occupied nations?



SELECTED TERRITORIES AVAILABLE

credits not contractual

Format: Miniseries 2 x 100'

Genre: Drama

Directed by: Christian Duguay

Starring: James Cromwell, Alessandra Mastronardi,
Miquel Herz-Kestranek, Ettore Bassi

Year: 2010

Co-produced by: Lux Vide, Rai Fiction, Rai Trade,

EOS Entertainment and Tellux

Original Language: English

Master: HD

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