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**From:** Ed [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 21, 2013 9:37 PM  
**To:** Epstein, Jeff  
**Subject:** What's Behind The Pope's Resignation?

RE: What's Behind The Pope's Resignation?

The most important change in the Vatican may not be Pope Benedict XVI's sudden retirement but the change in leadership at "the Institute for Works of Religion," the Vatican's bank. Because of the Vatican's status as a sovereign country, it is exempt from transparency rules of not only Italy—but of the European Union. This status allows its elite clients to evade any scrutiny in their money transfers. Last May, Vatican Bank President Ettore Gotti Tedeschi was fired after Italian authorities opened an investigation into a far-flung bribery scheme in which he was allegedly involved. Then 47 dossiers, including compromising about "internal enemies" files in the Vatican were found in a search of his home. They had instructions how they were used in case something happened to him. Tedeschi's intercepted calls further revealed that his concern was that he would be assassinated because he knew the Vatican's secrets. By late 2012, he was cooperating with the ongoing Italian investigation. It was at this point that the all-powerful College of Cardinals, in one of the last acts in the Benedict papacy, appointed German lawyer Ernst von Freyberg as President of the bank. This came the extraordinary resignation of Pope Benedict.

The problems at the Vatican bank trace back 30 years to the scandal that followed the sensational death of Roberto Calvi, also known as God's Banker, who was hanged under Blackfriars bridge in London. If interested, see my extended investigation into this ongoing scandal – "Who Killed God's Banker." <http://amzn.to/WZCq6c>

Best regards

Edward Jay Epstein

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