



DEFENDER OF THE FAITH

by Christoph Röhl



SYNOPSIS

DEFENDER OF THE FAITH tells the story of a man who has dedicated his life to preserving the Church but instead led it into its greatest crisis: Joseph Ratzinger, the German Pope Benedict XVI. During his 30 years working within the Vatican he was the key figure in restoring fundamental Catholic doctrine after a brief period of modernization in the 1960s. The interview partners, who have all worked within the clerical system, describe how Ratzinger's policies contributed to the dramatic loss of moral authority that the Church suffers from today. The film deals with Ratzinger's past to understand his mind-set. We treat his key advisors – many of who were involved in the cover-up of the global child sex abuse crisis and were implicated in corruption scandals. This is an epic story, with a tragic hero in the central role. Ratzinger, who believed that truth could exclusively be found in the teachings of Catholic Church and that contemporary society was lost if it did not rediscover its...

FESTIVALS

2019

DOK.fest Munich - DOK.panorama

IFF Cologne

CAST AND CREW

DIRECTOR Christoph Röhl · PRODUCER Martin Heisler · SCORE

Ali N. Askin · SOUND Sebastian Kleinloh, Fabio Fortunati ·

EDITOR Martin Reimers · DOP Julian Sarmiento G., Julia Weingarten

Germany 2019

89 min

ORIGINAL TITLE

VERTEIDIGER DES GLAUBENS

FORMAL CATEGORIES

Biographie/Portrait, Current Affairs, Religion

ORIGINAL LANGUAGES

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