***The premiere analyst of Vatican diplomacy and insider to Pope Francis’ world****…*

“Illuminating, entertaining, and inspiring, *God’s Diplomats* is a major contribution to contemporary literature on Catholicism, international relations, and the Francis pontificate.”

Austen Ivereigh, papal biographer

 author of *The Great Reformer: Francis and the Making of a Radical Pope*

*About the Book*

Few know the Vatican’s uber discreet diplomacy because those who do it, won’t discuss it. In *God’s Diplomats*, Victor Gaetan, the premiere analyst of Vatican diplomacy and renowned journalist, explains what Pope Francis’ “culture of encounter” has achieved and contrasts this classic approach with US militarism, a brute and lazy style of problem solving. Vatican tactics and rules of thumb are universally useful.

No book has examined the priority Pope Francis puts on international engagement or what characterizes his diplomatic practice, until now. The pope shows the Church to be a flexible instrument of reconciliation, even in countries where it was considered the enemy not long ago. In other places, the Vatican plays the role of mediator. As one of the world’s first transnational institutions, diplomatic engagement is nothing new for Catholicism- but we know little from “the room where it happened.”

What Pope Francis is presenting is also an alternate approach to international relations in direct contrast to the American model. The Vatican sees recent American foreign policy, implemented by Republicans and Democrats, as a threat to civilization. *God’s Diplomats* presents Pope Francis’ alternative, highlighting why dialogue works. It offers readers a startling contrast with the dangerous inadequacies of U.S. decisions, for example, in the Middle East and Russia-Ukraine conflict.

A close-up on Pope Francis’ diplomatic initiatives in **seven case studies** serves as an excellent foil for what is missing from American diplomacy today.

*About the Author*

Victor Gaetan, PhD, has served as international correspondent for Catholic News Service and the *National Catholic Register.* He contributes to *Foreign Affairs* and *America* magazine. He has written from Asia, Europe, Latin America, and the Middle East—experiences that provided a wealth of contacts with the notoriously tight-lipped papal diplomatic corps. He gathered rare insight in the Vatican Secret Archives, not open to the public.

For over 20 years, he has filed stories from countries in turmoil: Bosnia-Herzegovina, Cuba, Lebanon, Kosovo, Peru, Turkey, and Ukraine as well as from Hong Kong, Korea, and Taiwan. He has received numerous awards from the Catholic Press Association of North America and has written for secular publications ranging from *Art & Auction* to *Le Figaro*.

Gaetan received a Ph.D. in Ideology in Literature from Tufts University; a masters degree from the Fletcher School of International Law and Diplomacy (MALD), and a license in Byzantine and Ottoman Studies from Sorbonne University in Paris.

*Timely Tie Ins*

* 2021: anticipated visit to North Korea [widely rumored](https://www.ucanews.com/news/will-pope-francis-become-the-first-pope-to-visit-north-korea/93179) by Korean elite and Vatican sources
* Sept. 12: Pope Francis will visit Budapest, Hungary for the closing Mass of the International Eucharistic Congress [NOTE: Francis has already made 33 foreign trips and visited 52 countries since his election as pope on March 13, 2013. He is the second-most-traveled pope in history after St. John Paul II.]
* Sept. 13-15: Pope Francis in Slovakia
* Sept. 14: Opening of United Nations General Assembly; Vatican is permanent observer
* October 4: Feast of St. Francis of Assisi, the saint Pope Francis models himself after (a saint devoted to peace, with a fascinating story of reconciliation with the Sultan with authority over the Holy Lands)
* November 1: All Saints Day
* November: Pope is rumored to be traveling to Greece and Cyprus
* November: Pope Francis may also travel to Glasgow, Scotland, if invited, for the COP26 climate change conference hosted by the United Kingdom and Italy
* December 10: Human Rights Day (Most human rights are embodied in Natural Law, the basis of Catholic Social Doctrine, elaborated by St. Augustine then St Thomas Aquinas)

*Praise*

I expect *God’s Diplomats* will become a standard reference for scholars of the role of religion in international affairs, and benefit anyone who wishes to understand the impact of Vatican diplomacy, and its surprising ability to alter the views of world leaders as diverse as Vladimir Putin, George W. Bush, and Bashar al-Assad.

Nicolai N. Petro, Professor of Political Science, University of Rhode Island

...A page-turner that will shed much light and offer fresh perspective on parts of Pope Francis' ministry that have received too little attention…If you read one book on Pope Francis and the Vatican this year, read this one!

Robert C. Mickens, Rome-based editor in chief, *La Croix International*

In *God's Diplomats*, the chapters on the history of Vatican diplomacy in individual countries are a must-read for anyone trying to understand why the Vatican works the way it does.

Barb Fraze, International Editor, Catholic News Service

Gaetan's book fills a space never covered... Gaetan explains how and why the Vatican diplomatic corps works well and should be a model to US diplomacy.

Ambassador James F. Creagan, Professor of International Diplomacy, St. Mary’s University

This book is a must read for anyone wanting to understand the influence the papacy wields on global politics in the 21st century.

Christopher Lamb, Rome correspondent, UK’s *The Tablet*

*Product details*

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