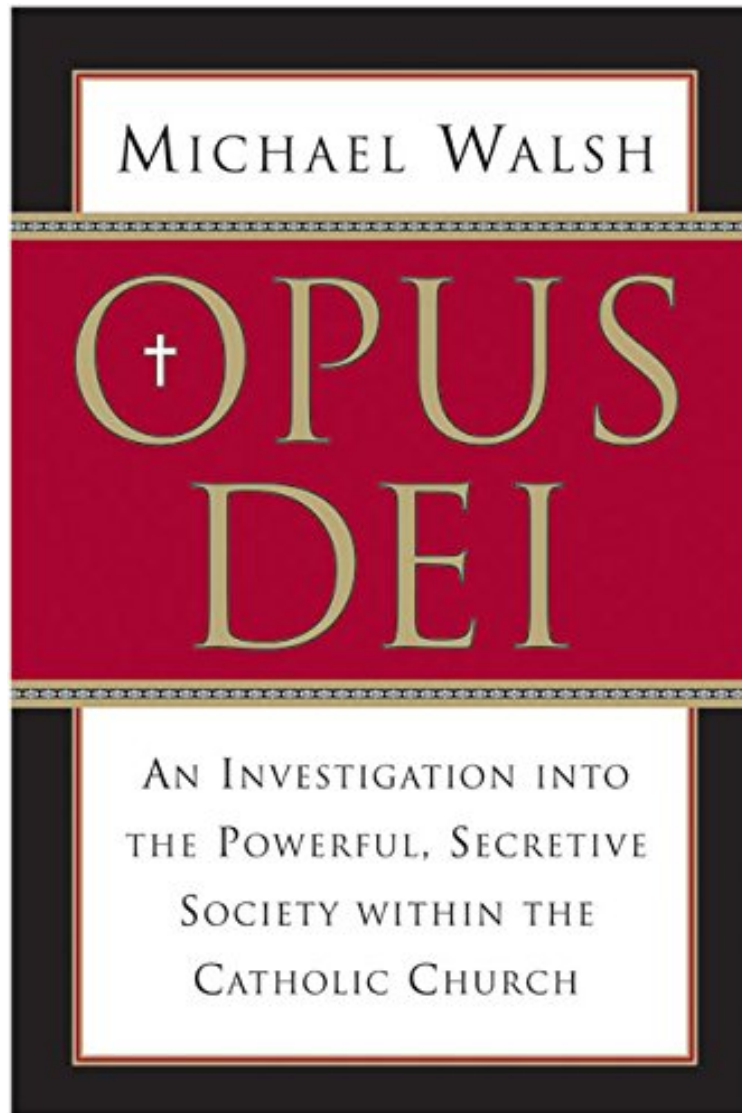


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Opus Dei: An Investigation into the Powerful Secretive Society within the Catholic Church

Michael Walsh

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#1814544 in Books Michael Walsh 2004-05-11 2004-05-11 Original language: English PDF # 1 9.00 x .60 x 6.00l, .56 #File Name: 0060750685240 pages Opus Dei An Investigation Into the Powerful Secret Society within the Catholic Church | File size: 50.Mb

Michael Walsh : Opus Dei: An Investigation into the Powerful Secretive Society within the Catholic Church before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Opus Dei: An Investigation into the Powerful Secretive Society within the Catholic Church:

5 of 6 people found the following review helpful. Makes some important pointsBy RJHHis most telling points for me are that Opus makes what we have called the Evangelical Counsels into requirements for salvation, unlike the Religious Orders in the Catholic Church, which make a clear distinction between the two. For instance, the practice of obedience to a religious superior or director is part of the essence of religious life, but is not presented as a requirement for salvation as it apparently is in Opus. It would be as if the Dominicans were to insist you have to be a member of their Order to go to heaven, and if you leave the Order you are a Judas and damned forever. The second point is the shift that is (sloooooo) taking place in the Catholic Church from identifying with power to a preferential option for the poor. This is not destined to win friends among the ruling class, and it leaves a vacuum that Opus seems well-suited to fill. It seems to be an elitist group (which groups usually identify themselves as the true believers, the saved, the righteous) of professionals more comfortable with power than with the poor. This is a partial reason for the growth of the organization. My difficulty with the book is that it takes so many pages to get to these points. 1 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Interesting analysisBy Angela H. The author is a former Jesuit, so he knows how the Catholic Church is structured, and he knows his Catholic doctrine. This book is a sort of Catholic-legal analysis of the decisions made regarding what it would be and how it would work. I have read *Beyond The Threshold*, by a former Opus Dei numerary, and this is more about ecclesiastical (spelling?) matters than the day to day stuff of the other, but it is still fascinating. 0 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Three StarsBy Customer Interesting read so far.

An Inside Look at the Secretive Catholic Organization Made Famous by *The Da Vinci Code* Is Opus Dei a spiritual institute dedicated to preserving Catholic orthodoxy in the face of modernist assault? Or is it an independent society, a "church within the Church," promoting its own allegiances and preserving an antiquated set of spiritual and penitential practices? This small organization wields enormous power within the Catholic Church. Due to its status as a "personal prelature" of the pope, it operates independently of local Church authority. The influence of Opus Dei has only grown since this book first appeared. Opus Dei's founder, St. Josemaria Escriv, was beatified and canonized over the vehement objections of many in the Catholic Church. Powerful members of the Vatican hierarchy, including the pope's own spokesman, are members. The bestselling novel *The Da Vinci Code* has made millions aware of Opus Dei. This classic investigation is needed now more than ever. It tells the real story of this mysterious organization -- a probing but balanced examination of the organization, its charismatic founder, its practices, and its effect upon the Catholic Church at large.

About the Author Michael Walsh is the author of *The Triumph of the Meek* and editor of *Butler's Lives of the Patron Saints*.