

***How the Pope Became Infallible: Pius IX and the Politics of Persuasion*
by August Bernhard Hasler**

Garden City, New York: Doubleday & Company Inc., 1981.

Introduction by Hans Küng; translated by Peter Heinegg.

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Biographic information (*dust jacket, rear flap*)

August Bernhard Hasler, before his untimely death in July 1980, served for five years in the Vatican Secretariat for Christian Unity, concentrating on work with Lutheran, Reform, and Old Catholic churches. It was during this time that he was given access to the Vatican Archives and discovered diaries, letters, and official documents relating to the first Vatican Council that had never been studied before.

Excerpt from a review in *Time* magazine, date not provided (*back cover*)

Pursuing the story of what went on behind the closed doors of Vatican I, Hasler mined dusty archives across Europe for nearly eight years Hasler disputes the contention that most Vatican I bishops went to Rome seeking the infallibility decree. Instead, he asserts, Pius and the bishops supporting him outmaneuvered opponents of infallibility — without ever answering their historical arguments against it — so effectively that the council “degenerated into a ritual, mock discussion.” Hasler provides new details on just how the outwardly jovial, accommodating “Pio Nono” plotted to get his infallibility decree.

The triumphant “infallibilists” destroyed much Vatican I documentation long ago, and most of what remains was secret until Pope Paul opened the archives on Pius IX in 1970. Even so, Hasler says he had to become a “detective.” Though his is the first book based on the long-sealed archives, the church denied him access to much Pius material.

— *Time*