



## The Holy See

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***LETTER OF HIS HOLINESS POPE FRANCIS  
TO THE CHIEF RABBI OF THE JEWISH COMMUNITY OF ROME  
FOR THE DEATH OF PROFESSOR ELIO TOAFF, CHIEF RABBI EMERITUS OF ROME***

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**[Multimedia]**

I desire to express my heartfelt participation in the mourning of the relatives and the Capital's entire Jewish community on the passing of Rabbi Elio Toaff, distinguished spiritual leader of the Jews in Rome.

As a protagonist in Jewish history and Italian society in recent decades, he was able to gain mutual respect and appreciation for his moral authority, in addition to his profound humanity.

I recall with gratitude his generous commitment and sincere willingness to promote dialogue and fraternal relations between Jews and Catholics, who witnessed a significant moment during his memorable meeting with St John Paul II at the Synagogue of Rome.

I raise prayers to the Most High, rich in love and faithfulness, that He may welcome him into His Kingdom of peace.

*From the Vatican, 20 April 2015*

**Franciscus**