

Pope Francis' note and Rabbi DiSegni's reply

March 14, 2013

Translated from the Italian original by Father Murray Watson

To the Most Esteemed Dr. Riccardo di Segni
Chief Rabbi of Rome

On this day of my election as Bishop of Rome, and Universal Pastor of the Catholic Church, I am sending my warm greetings to you, announcing to you that the solemn inauguration of my pontificate will take place on Tuesday, March 19th.

Placing my trust in the protection of the Most High, I eagerly hope to be able to contribute to the progress that relations between Jews and Catholics have experienced since the Second Vatican Council, in a spirit of renewed collaboration, and in service of a world that might be more and more in harmony with the Creator's will.

From the Vatican, March 13, 2013.

FRANCISCUS P.P.

[Reply:]

I (wish to) express best wishes to Jorge Mario Bergoglio, elected (as) Pope Francis I. May he be able to lead the Catholic Church with strength and wisdom in the years ahead. The Church's relations with Rome's Jewish community, and the dialogue with Judaism, have taken important steps. (My/our) hope is that it will be possible to continue this path (in a way) marked by continuity and good relations.

Riccardo Di Segni