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Rabbi Di Segni criticizes the Pope: "His words are a new episode in the saga 'we are good, you are bad'"

by Rome Editorial Staff, *Corriere della sera*, November 24, 2024

[unofficial translation; boldface in the original]

The chief rabbi of the Jewish Community of Rome, Riccardo Di Segni, during the celebration of the centenary of the "Vittorio Polacco" Elementary Jewish School, responded harshly to Bergoglio's recent statements

"Among the unpleasant things we heard, just last week, **the most authoritative religious voice** said these words: 'There was a time in ancient times when children, not yet men, bothered adults. It also happened **in the time of Christ with the rabbis** who did not tolerate their **disturbing presence** of their ministry.'" A new episode of the series "**you bad, we good**". This is how the **Chief Rabbi** of the Jewish Community of Rome, **Riccardo Di Segni**, commented on the letter sent by [Pope Francis](#) on November 20 to the establishment of the Pontifical Committee for World **Children's Day**.

Against journalists: "Leviticus is not a source of malice"

"How do you respond virtuously to these comparisons? Here they are, in front of you, the children, and here they are, the rabbis. We are here to **continue a millennia-long commitment**. One more classroom, one more desk, one more teacher, one more book," the rabbi said, recalling that "the period we are living in is difficult for Israel and for Jews all over the world." After the recent outcry of the [Italian Rabbinical Assembly against Pope Francis](#) and his statements on the "genocide" in Palestine, from the stage of the historic Roman institute Di Segni also launched criticisms at the world of the press: "There is not only the attack on the **Jews accused of every infamy**, with new words that I am not here to repeat, which re-propose ancestral accusations in a new form, there is also the attack on Jewish culture and tradition. The **demonization of the Torah**. And a virtuous response must be given to this. Continue to study and teach. I would like **to give bad news to our accusers**. In our schools Torah is studied. By Torah we also mean the **Sefer waiqrà, Leviticus**, the one that prescribes **to love your neighbor as yourself** and that journalists who have never read it cite as the source of Jewish wickedness."