



Sotto il Monte Giovanni XXIII, 10 May 2014

The Speaker of the Knesset
The Honorable Yuli Edelstein
Jerusalem Israel

LORIS FRANCESCO CAPOVILLA

CARDINALE DI SANTA ROMANA CHIESA
DEL TITOLO DI SANTA MARIA IN TRASTEVERE

To the Honorable Yuli Edelstein, Speaker of the Knesset, and to friends of the Raoul Wallenberg Foundation.

It was with joy that I learned the Knesset has decided to devote a special session to Angelo Giuseppe Roncalli, the man of encounter and dialogue, citizen of the world.

This session leads us to look again, as a starting point, the incomparable scene of March 17, 1962, when John XXIII stopped in front of the Synagogue of Rome, opened his arms with reverence and love, greeting the Jewish community headed by Elio Toaff.

This embrace remains in history as a sign of progress in fraternity and solidarity.

I admire the Raoul Wallenberg Foundation with which the Knesset collaborates. Their happy testimony, so laudably conceived and developed benefits the universal good, not only of Jews and Christians but all peoples.

With you I admire the two gestures suggested by the Foundation: the street named for Angelo Giuseppe Roncalli in the city of Ashdod, and the proposal to the Mayor of Nazareth to erect a bust in his honor, in this city that promotes respect and friendship among all the believers in God.

I feel deeply the responsibility of being an honorary member of the Foundation and collaborate with them in prayer.

I am moved. I kiss the Holy Land and shake the hands of those who seek the unity of the human family under the merciful gaze of the Almighty, in the the certainty that those men and women who merit the title of Righteous -- among them revered Angelo Giuseppe Roncalli, friend of the Jewish people, not only during the tragic period of the Shoah, but since his adolescence – shall ever increase.

Again, my thanks and congratulations. Shalom!

Loris Francesco Capovilla
cardinal of the Roman Church