



APOSTOLIC NUNCIATURE
IN ISRAEL

Jaffa-Tel Aviv, 15 November 2013

N. 954/30940

Dear Rabbi Shtencel,

I have received your letter of November 14th and I wish to assure you that I have given a serious attention to the issue that you raise with the Holy Father.

Your affirmation that the sacred vessels of the Temple "as known to the entire world and proven strongly by historical and other proof, are located in the archives of the Vatican" cannot be underestimated. This would suggest that, for some unspecified reasons, the Vatican would maintain a negative attitude and hostile feelings towards the Jewish people. I think that you would agree with me that this is against all the evidence of at least the last fifty years of dialogue and friendly relations between the Catholic Church and the Jewish people. If the sacred vessels were kept anywhere in the Vatican, John XXIII, John Paul II, Benedict XVI and Pope Francis would have certainly made sure that they be returned to the legitimate owners.

If you can provide me with any evidence that the sacred vessels are indeed kept in the archives or somewhere else in the Vatican, I will be very pleased to forward your request to the Prefect of the same archives and to Pope Francis himself.

With every good wish, I am

Sincerely yours,

Archbishop Giuseppe Lazzarotto
Apostolic Nuncio

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