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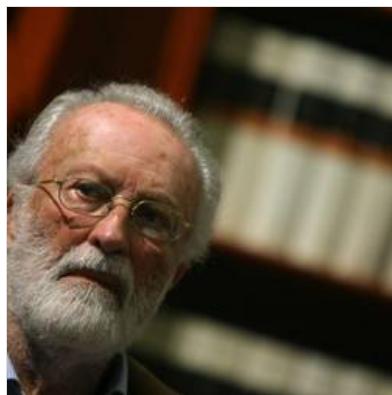
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11/15/2013

Vatican website removes Pope's interview with founder of "La Repubblica" newspaper

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EUGENIO SCALFARI

"The text had not been carefully reviewed," the director of the Holy See Press Office, Fr. Federico Lombardi

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ROME

The Holy See has decided to delete the interview between Pope Francis and Eugenio Scalfari, the founder of Italian newspaper *La Repubblica* from the Vatican's main portal (www.vatican.va). Scalfari had met with Francis to thank him for the open letter received and published by the newspaper.

In response to journalists' questions about the reason for this decision, the Holy See's spokesman, Fr. Federico Lombardi replied: "The information in the interview is reliable on a general level but not on the level of each individual point analysed: this is why it was decided the text should not be available for consultation on the Holy See website. Its removal is a final update on the nature of this text. Some mistakes were made regarding its value, which was questioned. The Secretariat of State took the decision."

Ever since the interview was published, Fr. Lombardi declared that the Pope had not looked over the text personally. Scalfari had sent the text to the Vatican. The article did in fact contain expressions that did not seem like typical expressions Francis would have used. There was also a mistake regarding what had gone on in the Sistine chapel. According to one of the answers, after obtaining the minimum number of votes required to be elected to the pontificate the Pope apparently went away to pray before accepting. This piece of information was false, as confirmed by a number of cardinals, including the Archbishop of New York, Timothy Dolan.

A statement – completely compatible with the Catechism of the Catholic Church - regarding the importance of conscience issue gave rise to many debates and discussions. Lombardi denied that the decision to remove the interview from the Vatican website was taken at the request of the Prefect of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, Gerhard Ludwig Müller.

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Today Mgr. Piero Parolin held his first meeting, starting with Pope Francis'...



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