

Rabbi Alfonso Pedazur Arbib

Rabbi Alfonso Pedazur Arbib, the Chief Rabbi of Milan, Italy since 2005, is the Av Beit Din and a member of the Council of Italian Rabbis. He is responsible for providing halachic solutions for all Jewish communities in Italy. He is a premier example that it is possible to combine the modern world with the halachic world. For nearly 30 years, Rabbi Alfonso Pedazur Arbib has been teaching Judaism and Jewish values to students in the University of Milan. In 2016 he was appointed the president of the Italian Rabbinical Conference, whose function is to link the rabbinical institutions in Italy with other institutions around the world.

He disseminates Torah to students and youths of different communities. He teaches them not only Jewish law and customs, but also other treasures of Judaism. His depth of thought and broad vision encompasses the young, old, religious and non-religious, drawing them to their Father in heaven.

The rabbi was one of the first to understand the benefits of technology and the efficacy of emerging media. Hundreds of his Torah lectures were filmed and are watched by numerous fans in every media. From the simplest to the most complex ideas, they

clearly and eloquently convey the message of Judaism and make it accessible to all, thereby contributing to the development of Jewish law in modern life.

His prolific activity is unique due to the rare combination of a diligent Torah scholar and successful speaker who is able to make his Torah knowledge come alive to all his listeners.

His devotion to the Jewish people and his pleasant and sweet manner has made him into one of the most prominent rabbis in Italy and the worldwide.

In consideration of all the above, the selection committee has decided to award Rabbi Alfonso Pedazur Arbib the Katz Prize for 2019.


Professor Menahem Ben-Sasson | Rabbi Aryeh Stern | Rabbi Shlomo Dichovski | Rabbi Haim Sabato