

Pope calls out anti-vaccine sentiment in Catholic Church



Pope Francis has called on Catholics worldwide to get vaccinated against COVID-19

Vatican City, September 16 (RHC)-- Pope Francis has called on Catholics worldwide to get vaccinated against COVID-19, in an apparent rebuke to a U.S. cardinal who was hospitalized with the disease after anti-vaccination comments.

Cardinal Raymond Leo Burke, who is in his early seventies, was hospitalized with severe COVID-19 in August and placed on a ventilator. He survived, but now faces an intensive rehabilitation. Cardinal Burke previously called vaccinations “totalitarian” and repeated a conspiracy theory that COVID vaccines carry hidden microchips.

Speaking to journalists aboard a return flight to Rome, Pope Francis rejected anti-vaccine sentiment and said getting a shot is an “act of love.” Pope Francis said: “It is a bit strange, because humanity has a history of friendship with vaccines. As children, we were vaccinated for measles, polio. All the children were vaccinated, and no one protested.”

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