



The Holy See

***VIDEO MESSAGE OF HIS HOLINESS POPE FRANCIS
ON THE OCCASION OF HIS UPCOMING APOSTOLIC JOURNEY TO THE UNITED ARAB
EMIRATES***

[Multimedia]

Dear People of the United Arab Emirates,

Al Salamu Alaikum / Peace be with you!

In a few days' time, I am happy to be able to visit your country, a land that seeks to be a model of coexistence, human brotherhood and encounter between different civilizations and cultures, where many find a safe place to work and live freely, while respecting diversity.

I am happy to meet a people who live in the present with an eye to the future. With good reason, Sheikh Zayed, the Founder of the United Arab Emirates, of honoured memory, declared: "True wealth lies not only in material resources, but the true wealth of the nation lies in the people who build the future of their nation ... True wealth is mankind".

I warmly thank His Highness, Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, who invited me to participate in the interreligious meeting on the theme "Human Brotherhood". And I am grateful to the other Authorities of the United Arab Emirates for the excellent collaboration, generous hospitality, and fraternal welcome offered so nobly to realize this visit.

I thank my friend and dear brother the Grand Imam of Al-Azhar, Dr Ahmed Al-Tayeb, and all those who collaborated in the preparation of the meeting, for their courage and will to affirm that faith in God unites and does not divide; it brings us closer despite differences; it distances us from hostility and aversion.

I am happy that the Lord has given me this opportunity to write, on your beloved land, a new page in the history of interreligious relations, confirming that we are brothers and sisters even though we are different.

With joy I will soon meet and greet "*eyal Zayid fi dar Zayid*" / "the children of Zayid in the house of Zayid", a land of prosperity and peace, a land of sun and harmony, a land of coexistence and encounter!

Thank you very much, and see you soon! Pray for me!