

THE VISIT OF POPE FRANCIS TO THE UNITED ARAB EMIRATES
3-5 FEBRUARY, 2019

**Text of Pope Francis' video message
to the people of the UAE before the arrival**

31 Jan 2019

Dear people of the United Arab Emirates,

Al Salamum 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 honored 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 land, a new page in the history of relations between religions 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 Zayed in the house of Zayed”, a land of prosperity and peace, a land of sun and harmony, a land of coexistence and encounter!

Thank you so much and see you soon! Pray for me.

Source: <https://youtu.be/TO6vBoblBaU>