



**APOSTOLIC ADMINISTRATOR**  
**APOSTOLIC VICARIATE OF NORTHERN ARABIA**  
(BAHRAIN, KUWAIT, QATAR AND KSA)

Abu Dhabi, 11<sup>th</sup> November 2022

**His Holiness Pope Francis**

Vatican City State

Your Holiness, dear Pope Francis,

Pax et Bonum!

Early this month we enjoyed your historical and memorable visit to the Kingdom of Bahrain (3 – 6 November 2022). Your presence has been a blessing for the faithful of the Church in Arabia and for the people of the Islamic faith. The enthusiasm of our people was a sign of their love, tangibly expressed when they welcomed you for the Holy Mass at the National Stadium.

Your visit strengthened us in our faith and was a public recognition of our Christian identity by the Church and government alike. Being a migrant Church, very often we feel of being a minor part within the Catholic Church and society. Thank you for giving us through your presence recognition and encouragement.

Your commitment to fostering dialogue and friendship with all “people of goodwill”, and insisting on the implementation of the common declaration on “Human Fraternity” signed in 2019, encourage all of us to remain faithful to our mission of being messengers of peace and mutual understanding in a world torn by dangerous conflicts. After your visit to Abu Dhabi in 2019 I wrote to you regarding “Human Fraternity”: “We shall do our best to be among those who implement the spirit and letter of the document and to collaborate with the government and the Muslim community wherever it is possible.” We commit ourselves once again after your visit to Bahrain, to continue this task within the Catholic Church and with the other Christians as well as our relationship with the Muslim population in Arabia.

I thank you for celebrating with us the Holy Eucharist at the National Stadium, and for speaking from your heart to the Muslims and to the Catholics alike. I am sure that your strong message regarding true religious freedom, the culture of care and our witness as messengers of joy will bear fruits.

Thank you for the chalice you gifted me at the end of the Holy Mass at the stadium. It will find its place and use at the Cathedral of Our Lady of Arabia and thus be a reminder of your visit to Bahrain where the people will continue to pray for you and the whole Catholic Church.

Dear Pope Francis, together with my fellow faithful in Northern Arabia I thank you again for your visit and assure you of our prayer and of our obedience to the Catholic Church. Holy Father, may you grant us again your blessing.

Yours in Christ,

+ Paul Hinder

+ Paul Hinder, OFM Cap.

Apostolic Administrator of Northern Arabia

