



*To Reverend Father Michael Anthony Perry, OFM
Minister General of the Franciscan Order of Friars Minor*

Having just returned from my visit to the United Arab Emirates, I am writing to thank you for your work of preparation and that of all the Friars Minor for this eight hundredth commemoration of the meeting of Saint Francis with the Sultan of Egypt in 1219, that has borne fruit in a remarkable way in the recent visit to Arabia.

As the Saint was inspired to visit God's Muslim people those centuries ago, I would ask you to persevere earnestly in your work of presence among and service to all God's holy people, wherever they may be found.

Mindful that the work of the Friars is rooted in the bonds of friendship with Muslim communities established by your holy Founder, I would ask you to continue on this path of mutual esteem, free of any suggestion of proselytizing that would alienate those who do not know Christ Jesus as Lord.

With renewed gratitude for your work and your witness to God's love for all men and women, I willingly bestow upon you my Apostolic Blessing, as a pledge of grace and peace.

From the Vatican, 9 February 2019

