



Abrahamic Family House Delegation Received at the Vatican

- *The meeting underscores the necessity of advancing joint efforts to foster a culture of human fraternity, dialogue, and mutual understanding.*

Abu Dhabi, 29 October 2024: His Holiness Pope Francis received on Monday a delegation from the Abrahamic Family House, which is part of the efforts aimed at actualising the Document on Human Fraternity. The delegation is led by His Excellency Mohamed Khalifa Al Mubarak, President of the Abrahamic Family House.

The delegation's visit reinforces the imperative of continuing collaborative efforts to foster a culture of human fraternity, dialogue, and mutual understanding.

In a private audience with Pope Francis at the Vatican, the delegation made a symbolic presentation of St. Francis Church, located at the Abrahamic Family House in Abu Dhabi, in recognition of His Holiness's leadership and the Catholic Church's commitment to enhancing advancing interfaith dialogue and peaceful coexistence worldwide.

Mohamed Khalifa Al Mubarak, President of the Abrahamic Family House, stated, "The Abrahamic Family House embodies the UAE's enduring principles of mutual respect, interfaith understanding, and harmony, values which are integral to the Document on Human Fraternity's powerful call to action. Our ongoing partnership with the Holy See signifies a profound commitment to His Holiness in nurturing a global community anchored in human fraternity and peaceful coexistence."

The Abrahamic Family House reflects the principles outlined in the Document on Human Fraternity, signed by His Eminence the Grand Imam of Al-Azhar Ahmed El-Tayeb and His Holiness Pope Francis in Abu Dhabi in 2019, which calls for peace among all people in the world and the creation of a culture of dialogue, mutual respect, and collaboration between faiths.

The UAE has maintained a close relationship with the Holy See, working together on numerous initiatives to promote peace, and enhance interfaith cooperation that build on their shared values and the UAE's longstanding history as a place of diversity, encounter, and exchange.

Pope Francis thanked the delegation for their efforts in realising the aspirations of the Document on Human Fraternity for Global Peace and Living Together.

Representatives from the Vatican Dicastery for Interreligious Dialogue that support these efforts and members of the delegation also attended the meeting.

Located in the Saadiyat Cultural District in Abu Dhabi, the Abrahamic Family House is a centre for learning, dialogue and the practice of faith which encompasses three Houses of Worship – His Eminence Ahmed El-Tayeb Mosque, the St Francis Church, and the Moses Ben Maimon Synagogue – as well as shared spaces for gathering and dialogue.

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St. Francis Church is named in honour of St. Francis of Assisi, the 13th century Italian friar who is known for his dedication to peace, humility, and compassion.

Since opening in 2023, St. Francis Church has welcomed 130,000 worshippers for services and prayers, and has hosted more than 100 events, including marking important moments in the Christian liturgical calendar and celebratory occasions such as weddings and baptisms. In addition, the Church has hosted an ongoing programme of community lectures, workshops, and performances, such as concerts by the world-renowned Little Singers of Paris and the Sistine Chapel Choir.

On 20 October, His Eminence Ahmed El-Tayeb, Grand Imam of Al-Azhar and co-signatory to the Document on Human Fraternity, also received a delegation from the Abrahamic Family House.

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About the Abrahamic Family House

Rooted in the UAE's vision of bringing people and cultures together, the Abrahamic Family House is dedicated to fostering peaceful coexistence for generations to come.

Encompassing a mosque, a church, a synagogue, and a forum to learn and nurture mutual understanding, the Abrahamic Family House welcomes people from all walks of life to exchange knowledge and practice faith.

Inspired by the principles in the Document on Human Fraternity and the values of the UAE, the Abrahamic Family House embraces diverse beliefs, founded on common humanity, coming together in peace.

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