

A Dream Comes True

He is the one whom the entire universe looks up to, the one whose words of wisdom echo in every nook and corner, whose sparkling eye captures everyone, eradicating all differences, whose simplicity radiates true divinity... He is none other than the Man of God, the Messenger of the Good News to all people of Good Will, the Good Shepherd Pope Francis, who came down in search of His own in the little Island the Kingdom of Bahrain, Gulf of Arabia. 3rd to 6th November 2022 are truly memorable days for the entire Gulf.

The arid land refreshed with varied greens, hoisted flags in the clear blue skies mingled with colours yellow and white bearing His Holy Crest depicting the Holy ground Vatican, beside which was the Royal flag of Kingdom of Bahrain, in bright red and dazzling white. The whisper of Good News of peace and joy in fraternal love spread all over as they flew with abandon in the skies above.

The first assembly of the Ecumenical gatherings was held on the 4th eve at the Cathedral of Our Lady of Arabia where Pope Francis urged His flock to live in unity, peace and witness to a multi-cultural leadership. On the morn of 5th, the National Stadium Bahrain, clothed in brilliant white, readily received the Man of God with great Honour. He took a slow round in His mobile traveller and reached out to touch the long waited weary eyes and embraced the little ones to his bosom with His broad smile. This was followed by the Eucharistic Celebration where celestial voices joined as one in singing the praises to the Triune God. 'Live your lives in love and affection' is the key message which He imprinted in the hearts of us all.

On that golden evening 5th November 2022, the atmosphere of the 'Sacred Heart' School at Issa Town Bahrain rejoiced to receive the Holy One in its midst. We were blessed specially to hold His meeting with the Youth in the premises of the school which he normally does not include in any of his schedules during his Apostolic visits.

We were indeed glad to face this great event with peace and with enough strength as we had our dearest and closest one, the Shepherdess, Rev. Sr. Nirmalini our Superior General. Setting aside her heavy responsibilities and schedules she stood by us with words of encouragement as the beacon on the shore. At the visit and the presence of His Holiness Pope Francis we represented our beloved Congregation Apostolic Carmel in our mission land Bahrain. This Temple of Learning – Sacred Heart School was enormously blessed by His Holy visit. The welcome address by Rev. Sr. Roselyn Thomas Principal of the School, portrayed the mission in crystal clear words. Though hands were few, we shouldered the countless activities in prior to His visit, but the great joy of receiving Him and having him near surpassed everything that crossed our ways; rather we grew with vigour and inner stamina, led by the divine power to accomplish the great task assigned by God in His own time. Our youth asked many questions to Pope Francis, which he answered, with the concern of a loving father.

On the 6th morning he addressed all the clergy, religious and the lay ministers of the church gathered at the Sacred Heart Church Manama, the Capital of Bahrain. “Let joy, unity and prophecy be the guiding stars of you my little flock who witness to the mystic Christ in an effective manner in this Arabian Gulf”, said Pope Francis, admiring the faith of this growing church.

This shepherding concern and love show that he walks the talk, and thus *resembles ‘Jesus the True Shepherd’ who desired to gather His children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings.*

Hours and days have passed, and his tangible physical presence too has vanished, but his lively gaze and fatherly voice mingled with His words of wisdom linger in our hearts as a life-giving legacy in Jesus our Lord. Yes, He made our Dream come true.



Vatican News 



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As Pope Francis meets with young people at Sacred Heart School, the Superior General of the Apostolic Carmel Congregation, Sr. Maria Nirmalini, expresses her joy to welcome the Pope to Bahrain's only Catholic educational institution, which five of her sisters run in Awali.



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