



ADDRESS BY BISHOP PAOLO MARTINELLI

TO PRIMARY STUDENTS, A FEW STAFF AND MANAGEMENT

On the occasion of the pastoral visit to the parish in Dubai, I am very happy to have the opportunity to visit St Mary's Catholic High School. This school is part of the St. Mary's Group of Schools, an expression of the dedication of the Apostolic Vicariate to the education of the new generations.

Everything we do today for children's education is an investment for the future. Why it is so essential to have a commitment to the world of education? Because promoting education is a great sign of hope for every people and nation. Without education, there is no future.

We need an education that introduces the new generations to a deep relationship with the whole reality. We need knowledge and Wisdom. Wisdom is the gift we need to enter a harmonious relationship with people and things and build good not only for oneself but for everyone, with profound respect for creation and the environment. God created everything with Wisdom. And he wants us to learn to use all things wisely to be men and women capable of building a better and more fraternal world.

Dear students, make good use of these unique years of your life. The time of youth is unrepeatable. You have school experiences that will decide your future. You have the time and tools to learn about life in all its aspects. You can have many relationships with different people. Learn Wisdom, tolerance, respect, and acceptance of all people. Learn to love and promote the common good.

Never let yourself be stopped by difficulties. Do not be afraid of problems that may seem big to you. Remember that you are never alone. Your families are there, ready to support you. There are your teachers who accompany you every day. Trust in God, who created us for happiness and to live together as brothers and sisters.



I also address my thoughts to your families and parents, dear students, and I thank them for the trust they have placed in our school. Of course, the primary responsibility for your education rests with your parents. But they can find a strong and competent ally in school. Every day the school accompanies the journey of your families.

Another special thanks to the teachers. You are entrusted with these young people who are society's and the world's future; they are the promise of a more just and peaceful world. Take care in the educational relationship. It is not just a question of transmitting knowledge but of arousing dreams, questions, and desires for good in the hearts of young people. We need words of Wisdom that enable us to have a new inspired vision for the future. I wish you to experience the beauty of being an educator every day. Be happy to be educators of the youth.

A word of Gratitude for all members of the Staff and Management. Thank you for your commitment and competent work in the daily life of the School. We know, there are so many challenges to face every day to keep the School in order. Your commitment ensures the proper functioning of the school structure and the organization in all its activities. Managing an educational activity such as a school requires foresight, planning and innovation skills. Thank you for your dedication to our students.

Special thanks to the sisters of St. Joseph of Chambery. Their presence and their faithful and total commitment constitute the heart of our educational proposal.

God loves each of us —students, parents, families, teachers, and staff. God will never let his Wisdom be lacking for the educational experience to be effective. We trust in God and walk daily together on the way to building a more fraternal and human World.

May God give you Peace, Joy and Blessings

.... **Bishop Paolo Martinelli OFM Cap**
Apostolic Vicar of Southern Arabia