



Dear diocesan men and women,

On December 21, 2020, the United Nations General Assembly proclaimed February 4 as the International Day of Human Fraternity. This date coincides with the anniversary of the signing of the Document on Human Fraternity for World Peace and Human Coexistence by Pope Francis and the Grand Imam of Al-Azhar, Almed Al-Tayyed during Pope Francis' apostolic journey to the United Arab Emirates from February 3 to 5, 2019.

I invite you to read and promote this Abu Dhabi Declaration and the encyclical letter *Fratelli Tutti*, two very important documents of Pope Francis' social teaching. They will give you ideas and offer you ways to mark this International Day of Human Fraternity and to commit yourselves resolutely "to build human fraternity, safeguarding creation and the whole universe and supporting every person, especially those most in need and the poorest" as stated in the Abu Dhabi Declaration.

In addition to the misfortunes and calamities that affect our world today, such as: injustices, arms race, corruption, moral degradation, terrorism and attacks on democracy, wars and armed conflicts, social injustices, etc. The Covid-19 pandemic has plunged our planet into an enormous crisis in which solidarity and mutual aid, but also selfish withdrawal and the search for one's own interests have manifested themselves. The distribution of vaccines is an example of the serious inequalities between nations.

More than ever, our faith must lead us to see in others a brother, a sister to love and support, and to work to build a world based on the values of goodness, charity and peace. The future belongs to tenderness, fraternity and solicitude.

+ Noël, Bishop