



2 February 2024

Dear consecrated sisters and brothers

May the Lord give you peace and joy!

On the occasion of the XXVIII World Day of Consecrated Life, which is also the feast of the Presentation of the Lord in the Temple, I would like to reach you with this short message first of all to thank you.

I am grateful to you for your vocation and for everything you do in our Apostolic Vicariate. Many among you are priests and draw from their spirituality to announce the Gospel and accompany the faithful in Christian life.

I think of the many consecrated sisters who dedicate themselves without reservation to running schools and pastoral commitment in the parish, to catechesis, to being close to families and people in need. We must say that our Apostolic Vicariate could not exist concretely without the dedication of consecrated people. Your spirituality and the different charisms are an immeasurable wealth for our local Church.

However, I would like to thank you today above all for what you are even before what you do. Thank you for your testimony of life consecrated to God. Thank you for your generous 'yes' to Christ's call to follow him on the path of the evangelical counsels.

Today I would like to recommend young people in particular to you. I invite you to spend your time with them and invite them to participate in your life. Especially when you see that in them there is a desire to know more about Jesus Christ and the Gospel, when you see that they have deep questions in their hearts about the meaning of their life, have the courage to invite them to share your spirituality.

Do as Jesus did with the first disciples and tell them: come and see! Help young people to delve deeper into the profound questions they have in their hearts and demonstrate to them the beauty of leaving everything to follow Jesus.



Let us pray to the Lord on this day to inspire vocations among young people and help us all to be faithful to our vocation. Be joyful because the Lord has called you to follow him!

Thank you with all my heart. May the Lord bless you and make your commitment fruitful.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to read 'Paolo Martinelli'.

+ Paolo Martinelli OFM Cap.,
Apostolic Vicar of Southern Arabia