

**Participation of Fr. Marcus Fernandes OFM Cap. in the General Assembly of the Pontifical Mission Societies (PMS), May 2025.**



In fulfillment of his pastoral duty to promote a vibrant missionary spirit within the Apostolic Vicariate of Northern Arabia, His Excellency Bishop Aldo Berardi, O.S.S.T., Apostolic Vicar, has appointed Fr. Marcus Fernandes, OFM Cap. as his official delegate to represent the Vicariate in the ongoing mission of the Pontifical Mission Societies (PMS).

Fr. Marcus recently took part in the Formation and General Assembly of the Pontifical Mission Societies, held in Rome from 19th to 28th May 2025. A significant highlight of the assembly occurred on 22nd May, when 120 National Directors of the PMS gathered

to concelebrate the Holy Eucharist with Cardinal Luis Antonio Tagle, Pro-Prefect of the Dicastery for Evangelization.

Following this celebration, the participants were granted a special audience with His Holiness Pope Leo XIV. During this memorable encounter, the Holy Father acknowledged and affirmed the missionary spirit of the Pontifical Mission Societies, encouraging all to continue zealously in the work of evangelization.

On this blessed occasion, as seen in the attached photograph, Fr. Marcus had the privilege of presenting to the Holy Father a copy of AVONA, our Vicariate's official magazine SOWER, along with a box of dates—a humble token symbolizing the culture and hospitality of our region.

The opportunity to meet and receive the blessings of His Holiness was indeed a graced and inspiring moment, strengthening our collective commitment to the missionary mandate of the Church.

