

*Bism Illah Al-Rahman Al-Raheem*  
*Allahuma salli 'ala Sayidna Muhammad*

**A WORD OF WELCOME**

BY: H.R.H. PRINCE GHAZI

21.11.2011

*Al-Salaamu 'aleikum wa Rahmat Allah wa barakatuhu,*

I would like to warmly welcome the distinguished guests to this, the Second Meeting of the Catholic-Muslim Forum entitled *Reason, Faith, and the Human Person: Christian and Muslim perspectives*. It is a great honour for the Royal Aal al-Bayt Institute for Islamic Thought to host this dialogue. The symbolism of hosting this Forum here at the Baptism Site of Jesus Christ ﷺ—the place where Christianity began and a holy site developed, nurtured and protected by Muslims for Christians—will not be lost on anyone. However, perhaps our Christian colleagues are unaware that we Muslims learn this from the *Sunna* of the Prophet Muhammad ﷺ, who invited the Christians of Najran to pray in his own mosque before engaging in an interfaith dialogue with them.

As we all know, the Catholic-Muslim Forum, was formed and first convened in 2008, as a direct consequence of the *A Common Word* Open Letter of October 13, 2007. Since then, despite some misunderstandings, I dare say the general Muslim-Catholic ambiance, has ameliorated considerably, *wal-HamduLillah*. Catholic-Muslim dialogue and contact—particularly dialogue amongst religious and political leaders and educators—has thus helped forward the cause of peace in the world. I hope and pray that, God willing, this dialogue, too, will also prove to be worthwhile and beneficial not just for all involved, but for many Christians and Muslims around the world *in sha Allah*. May Allah grant us His *tawfiq*. Thank you.

*Wal-HamduLillah Rabb Al- 'Alameen.*