



**Diocesi di
Assisi – Nocera Umbra – Gualdo Tadino**



Commissione "Spirito di Assisi"

Assisi, March 2020

Dear,

Last month we prayed for those affected by coronavirus in China and the many peoples, ethnic groups and cultures that live there. Now, the pandemia is affecting the entire globe. There are many questions that challenge us in seeing the vulnerability of a society based on well being and consumerism. Faced with the extreme need, which also affects populations that are more economically stable, we realize that we are all in the same boat, and only by staying united can we look for a way out. What kind of peace do we want to build? We also ask this question to the brothers and sisters of other religions who want to join us in prayer. For us Christians, while we are living in this time of Lent, a special time of conversion, our thoughts turn to Jesus, who took all of the suffering of humanity upon himself, in order to restore the merciful embrace of God and the beauty of lost brotherhood.

We deeply feel the invitation to change course, to move in a direction towards a true solidarity, which leaves no one abandoned or on the edge. A change of course that is expressed in small or large ways, such as those that we are admiring in these days of crisis, of the many people who are giving the best part of themselves to the service of others, especially those who are working on the front lines to save lives.

If a "virus" is capable of bringing the world to its knees, it is time for everyone to get involved, to defend ourselves against this and many other "viruses" that generate scenarios of war, violence and indifference. The "coronavirus" and all other "viruses" are not invincible. On the 27th of the month, the day that commemorates the commitment to peace of all world religious leaders, let our prayers shine from one point to another on the planet. The apostle Paul wrote that "all things work together for the good of those who love God." The pandemic that is threatening the planet impels us to take decisive steps to build a more united and fraternal world.

May the Lord give you peace

+ Domenico Sorrentino, Bishop