



Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

Dear brothers and sisters of many different faiths,

Recently we have used so many words to promote a commitment to **peace**. Appeals, declarations, speeches, interventions... Just when we seem to have no more words or to have worn them out, we are pressed to open ourselves up to the secret and silent word of prayer addressed directly to God.

In this precious time for Christians in the East and the West who are celebrating Easter, but also for our Muslim brothers and sisters who are celebrating Ramadan, we would like to turn all together to the God of peace imploring a breakthrough in the hardness of heart that is at the root of suffering, destruction and death in the Ukraine and in so many wars painfully hidden in the folds of the world's map.

No gift of peace from God can be effective if there are not hearts willing to accept it. No seed sprouts and bears fruit unless it receives water. Jesus calls the Spirit of God "living water." We need it more than ever.

For this reason, we would like our prayer, which on the 27th of every month is raised to God to commemorate the historic meeting of religions in Assisi in 1986, to become a **river** to water the seed of peace that God has planted in the soil of the world. The deeper and more heartfelt our prayer, made authentic by the "conversion" of our hearts, the more will we succeed in overcoming the heartlessness of those who close themselves off from the good of peace.

May the Lord give you peace.

Assisi, April 2022

+ Domenico Sorrentino, Bishop