



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



Commissione "Spirito di Assisi"

Assisi, February 2020

Dear,

we want to express our closeness through prayer to the victims and their families struck by the current coronavirus epidemic. Once again we are experiencing how fragile our humanity is and how this fragility makes us feel more "alike" and helps us overcome the temptation to feel our belonging in distant, distrustful and hostile terms.

For this reason, in the usual appointment of the 27th of each month in which we ask the various religious expressions to unite with us, disciples of Christ, in praying for peace, we turn our attention to China and the many peoples, ethnic groups and cultures that live there. In particular, we ask you to pray for those in that country who experience poverty which perhaps exposes them to contagion and its most serious consequences. At the same time we want to turn our thoughts to those who suffer there because their rights are violated. According to international agencies there are violations with respect to workers' rights, freedom of expression and freedom of religion. We hope that the most recent dialogue between the Holy See and China on religious freedom will also be a sign of growth for all, in that immense country, of a climate of greater tolerance and understanding of ethnic and cultural differences. We hope that this will also foster the development of international dialogue that goes beyond economic and geo-political interests.

On February 27th, each with the communities to which you belong, according to your own tradition of worship or in the silence of your own home, pray to the one God for this great country and for all its children throughout the world.

May the Lord give you His peace.

+ Domenico Sorrentino, Bishop