



Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,
Dear brothers and sisters of different faiths,

With a heart full of pain, we turn to the one God aware of **refugees** fleeing war, violence and misery and who are not being welcomed and recognized. My thoughts go to the brothers and sisters who are forced into the cold and with dreadful suffering in the mountains of the Balkans and who are sometimes even violently rejected. Along with them we are also aware of those who are being subjected to the same fate on the border between Mexico and the United States, between Myanmar and Bangladesh or Thailand and many others. May God convert the hearts of those in the international community who have the power to transform rejection into acceptance and respect.

I also invite you, to remember before God, the dramatic situation in **Myanmar** (formerly Burma) of which we only have scant news. As far as we can understand, the clear dissent towards the perpetrators of the coup is widespread in a large part of the population of that country and risks degenerating into a bloodbath as already happened in 1998 and 2007. May the God of mercy protect the inhabitants of that land from such a trial and redirect the conflict that has opened towards peace which is a guarantee of good for all. On Saturday the 27th may each, with his or her own community, in family or personally and according to the way that seems best, be an echo of that cry for peace that arose from Assisi 35 years ago.

May the Lord give you peace

Assisi, February 2021

+ Domenico Sorrentino, Bishop