



Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

Dear brothers and sisters of many different faiths,

This month the itinerary that takes us to visit places of conflict and violence leads us to Colombia. The signing of the peace agreements, which took place five years ago, put an end to the longest and bloodiest internal conflict in Latin America, but, unfortunately, it did not produce the hoped-for success and various violations of agreements, as well as of human rights, continue to occur. Since April 28th, protests have taken place in all the cities throughout the country and, in face of a large popular participation, the police have become the instigators of serious violations. Independent international human rights agencies have documented killings and injuries, forced disappearances and rape, use of torture and arbitrary arrests. Demonstrators are asking for greater fiscal equity, especially in light of the damage caused by the pandemic crisis.

While the protests and violence continue, we ask that from Assisi and from all hearts that love peace, prayers be raised to God so that there will be room for dialogue and mutual understanding. May believers of all faiths, following the example of what happened in this city on October 27, 1986, help to fortify the hope of reconciliation with prayer and, on June 27, in the form they consider most in tune with their own tradition, turn to the only God to ask for peace in Colombia.

May the Lord give you peace.

+ Domenico Sorrentino, Bishop

Assisi, June 2021