



Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

Dear brothers and sisters of many different faiths,

On a daily basis, we receive news about Iran that causes no small amount of concern. In many **Iranian cities** there are widespread protests simmering against the government because of the denial of women's freedom and rights.

This is not the place to go into the details of the claims, situation and responsibilities. In keeping, however, with the spirit of Assisi, which puts us in the line of the Gospel's message of peace embodied in an exemplary way by Francis, we cannot fail to note with great dismay the violence that traverses the streets and squares with its toll of victims and wounded, of fear and suffering.

For this reason, in our monthly prayer on November 27, we wish to unite spiritually with all brothers and sisters of many different faiths to offer our prayers to the one God that, on the issue of respect for women's rights and freedom, a great step forward will be taken through dialogue, far from all violence and in mutual recognition.

Starting from this particular situation, we call for recognizing preserving and guaranteeing the dignity of women, while respecting faith traditions in each religion as an important aspect of God's plan for humanity, also expressed in the Universal Declaration on the Rights of the Human Person.

May the God of peace welcome our plea and work so that every heart may be open to his gift and to the understanding that leads to reconciliation.

May the Lord give you peace

Assisi, November 2022

+ Domenico Sorrentino, Bishop