



Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

Dear brothers and sisters of many different faiths,

During the year that is coming to a close, many armed conflicts have been fought in different parts of the world, and some of these are still going on. The victims reported in conflicts are mostly innocent, ordinary citizens, who, although they did not choose war, suffer its effects to the extreme. Among these people, I invite you to pray especially for the **children** who, in various ways, are victims of the violence of terrorism, organized crime, war, and the violation of human rights. Besides the sizable number of children who have been killed, there are those who are injured or scarred for life by indelible trauma. The crisis that has broken out between Israel and Palestine is nothing but the most abnormal reflection of what is also happening daily in conflicts that take place far from the limelight of the news media and are referred to as "forgotten." We have often turned to the one God that He might hear the cry of the suffering, the humiliated and those trampled by violence. Today we realize that too often that cry is only a mere wail or the muffled cry of a child. In the face of the horror of a child's death, we cannot make any sort of distinction, and for this, we agree with Liliana Segre, a survivor of the concentration camps in which she spent part of her adolescence who said "We must cry for children of every nationality, every color and every belief". May God receive that weeping which becomes prayer, and may our prayer join theirs on the 27th of each month, an echo of the meeting of faiths for peace

**May the Lord give you peace**

Assisi, November 2023

+ Domenico Sorrentino, Bishop