



Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

Dear brothers and sisters of many different faiths,

Many regions of the world are crying out for the gift of peace. For far too long, the images we have been receiving from Gaza and Ukraine have given us immense pain. It is inconceivable that there is no sense of urgency to lay down arms and attempt to dialogue for a just and lasting peace. So many other less newsworthy places in the world have similar death scenarios. Each of these is in our hearts and urges us to pray that violence and suffering will terminate for those living in these areas.

Embracing his predecessor Francis' cry for peace, Leo XIV began his ministry as Bishop of Rome and successor of Peter by echoing the words of the risen Christ, "Peace be with you." We, too, would like this benevolent greeting to reach every creature. That is why we carry in our hearts all the conflicts that continue to stain the earth with blood, and we ask you, brothers and sisters of all faiths, to unite in prayer this coming May 27th for a special intention: negotiating for peace in the conflict that appears to be reigniting in **Libya** and that has all the characteristics of a civil war, threatening to cause suffering, destruction, and mourning. We pray that the minds and hearts of the leaders of the two factions will be opened to embracing the highest good of peace rather than asserting their control over territory.

Continuing in the witness we received in Assisi on October 27, 1986 when so many believers of all religions gathered to pray for peace, we ask you to invite your respective communities to turn to God to plead for peace for every person, for every living creature and for the people of Libya, in particular.

May the Lord give you peace

Assisi, May 2025

+ Domenico Sorrentino, Bishop