



Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

Dear brothers and sisters of many different faiths,

The expanding armed conflict in the Middle East is serious and worrisome because it creates even more instability, insecurity, and destruction. Above all, it impacts the people involved once again.

The whole world is watching anxiously as the crisis unfolds because it actually sows even more mistrust in relations among peoples, and not only among those directly affected. These are more than enough reasons for every believer to turn to God to ask for the peace that comes only in accepting God's own gift and letting one's heart be converted to good.

Hatred, enmity, and the pitting of one against another have never opened the future to the good of peace, and that is why we ask everyone to drop the weapons from their hands and remove feelings of violence from their thoughts. Let us rather be converted to peace, love, and justice. Let us ensure that, thoughts, words and gestures open up to friendship and understanding of each other's motives.

We are convinced that even the conflict between **Israel and Iran**, albeit to a small degree, depends on our daily choices and the approaches we choose to make toward those who are far from our viewpoints, take other stances, or direct their hearts elsewhere. The ocean is made up of many drops. Every drop of good can be multiplied.

I therefore invite communities of all faiths to gather in prayer on June 27 in remembrance of what happened in Assisi on October 27, 1986, and ask God that the gift of peace be received, which He never fails to give to the whole world and which is urgently needed today especially in the Middle East.

May the Lord give you peace

Assisi, June 2025

+ Domenico Sorrentino, Bishop