



Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

Dear brothers and sisters of many different faiths,

Far too many armed conflicts, international crises and violations of people's rights around the world leave us appalled at the number of victims and the suffering they cause. For each of them, I ask for prayers and supplication to God. There are some dramatic situations that have been going on for a long time without making the news. There are victims who are even denied the opportunity to make their plight known. These are voiceless sufferings.

Such is the case, for example, with the people of the **Rohingya**, Myanmar's Muslim minority, whose basic rights are denied and who are subjected to deprivation of all kinds to the point that they are forced to seek refuge in neighboring Bangladesh. Their tragedy includes mass murders and rapes. Their homes are being systematically destroyed along with their places of worship. According to the United Nations, the Rohingya are among the world's most persecuted ethnic minorities. These are enough reasons to present their suffering before God and make us hear their cry for help.

Therefore on July 27, I invite you to pray for these people without neglecting other conflicts. May each of you, with your own community and according to your own tradition, continue the commitment made by so many representatives of different religions in Assisi on October 27, 1986.

May the Lord give you peace

Assisi, July 2025

+ Domenico Sorrentino, Bishop