



Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

Dear brothers and sisters of many different faiths,

Since the dawn of this new year, new fronts of war and violence have opened up. Of particular concern are the ongoing violations of international law, which until now have managed to curb and reduce, if not prevent, new armed conflicts. In fact, it seems that the use of force is once again being justified in pursuit of objectives that sometimes appear plausible, but without any attempt to seek consensus through international bodies such as the UN, which, although imperfect and in need of reform, were created precisely to guarantee a future of peace for the world.

Of particular concern is the current situation in **Iran** where, regardless of how one interprets the facts, the reality is that blood has been shed. Faced with the suffering, tensions and deep wounds that affect so many people, we feel a moral and human obligation to stand together, as religious communities, in the name of peace, human dignity and respect for life. In the diversity of our spiritual paths, we are united by a shared sense of compassion and responsibility to promote justice and reconciliation.

Our shared prayer, experienced by every person according to their own faith, is meant to be a gesture of solidarity with the Iranian people and a public sign of our common commitment to dialogue, non-violence, and the protection of fundamental rights.

We will meet spiritually on the 27th of this month, commemorating the meeting in Assisi held on October 27, 1986, which marked a real turning point in relations between religions. We wish to reaffirm that religions must be a voice of hope and peace, even in the most difficult situations.

May the Lord give you peace

Assisi, January 2026

+ Domenico Sorrentino, Bishop