



Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,
Dear brothers and sisters of many different faiths,

The challenge of peace asks us to accept from the one God the invitation to feel like brothers and sisters, and to live as such, learning to respect, live in harmony and, as much as possible, value our diversity in light of the common good.

I would like to draw the attention of our prayer to two scenarios. The first is the **Holy Land**, where we continue to witness enmity between the Israeli and Palestinian peoples. Of course, there is no shortage of people of good will, on both sides, and attempts at reconciliation unfortunately are not publicized sufficiently. Instead, the Israeli government's decision to annex certain areas of the West Bank is seen as a threat to peace, with a predictable outcome of increased misunderstanding and possible violent reactions. We invite you to pray that the two sides, also taking into account supranational assessments and mediations, will return to talk with each other and recreate possible coexistence, while respecting the rights of all.

Our commitment to prayer also turns to **Turkey**, a land that unites East and West, different faiths and cultures. We pray that the Christian basilica dedicated to Divine Wisdom (Saint Sophia) is preserved in its original form, in a relationship between Christians and Muslims that exceeds the logic of conflict and develops in terms of dialogue, encounter and mutual recognition.

So, I ask everyone to join spiritually in prayer on the 27th of this month so the God of peace can open hearts to meet the other, to listen to their reasons and their history until, in the discernment of truth and good, true peace can be built through "living unity in diversity".

May the Lord give you peace

Assisi, July 2020

+ Domenico Sorrentino, Bishop