



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

So much suffering in the world! For example, how can we forget the dramatic situation that Lebanon is experiencing after the terrifying explosion of August 4, or the conditions to which the migrants and asylum seekers of Lesbos are subjected after the fire in the refugee camp in Moria, or the violation of human rights that is getting worse in Belarus and in many other places on earth? Our prayer is for this and for others. But in our usual monthly appointment, I would like to draw our attention to the **Ukraine**. There is a "low intensity" war going on that is typical of a forgotten conflict and for this reason we want to remember it, in the etymological sense of "take it to heart". Take it to heart because we are certain that the conditions of the inhabitants of Donbass are already present in God's heart, as for over six years, they have been subjected to serious limitations that have become even more painful due to the ongoing pandemic. Despite the truces proclaimed over time, the last of which came into force on July 27th, the armed clashes between the Ukrainian army and the separatists continue.

With the eyes of God we cannot help but look at this conflict from the side of the victims, that is, the people who, in addition to counting the dead, do not receive assistance, have seen their possibilities of movement limited, are unable to carry out normal working activities, have been forced to leave their homes and now live as displaced persons and are preparing to face yet another harsh winter without being able to count on the gas supply that has been missing for some time. If we are all brothers, as Pope Francis will soon remind us from Assisi, those sufferings belong to us. It is with the tears of the inhabitants of those places that we want to turn together, men and women of all faiths, to God who moves to pity the weak and converts the hearts of the violent.

So I invite you to direct your prayer on September 27th, as every month, in the wake of prayer for peace inaugurated by St. John Paul II on October 27, 1986 in Assisi.

May the Lord give you peace.

Assisi, September 2020

+ Domenico Sorrentino, Bishop