



Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

Dear bothers and sisters of many different faiths,

As we once again join our prayer to the weeping and pleading that rises to God from **Afghanistan**, who in these days is experiencing dramatic moments of uncertainty and violence, we commit ourselves to opening our hearts to solidarity and hospitality. Likewise, from **Haiti** and from so many regions of the world we hear the cry of the Earth, our common home, **devastated by the destructive power of fire and water**. These events also challenge us because, in large part, they are the effect of climate change and the lack of care for the land, due to individual behavior but also to seriously culpable political and economic conduct.

Satellite images show us an unrecognizable planet, in which irresponsible hands are guilty of a real environmental "annihilation", to the detriment of individual populations of people and the whole world. The destruction of vegetation is often accompanied by the death of innocent animals and people.

In the face of so much desolation, the Canticle of Francis of Assisi resounds strongly in us, as a powerful invitation reminding us of the deep relationship of brotherhood among everything that exists. We have the responsibility to act accordingly, starting with every simple daily act of respect and love, to break the logic of violence and exploitation and generate acceptance and peace.

On the 27th of this month, let us pray that feelings of intolerance subside among human beings, all the more so if wrongly justified by religious reasons and aimed at innocent people, women and children. Together we ask our merciful God for light and grace, so that those who are blinded by the pursuit of selfish advantage open themselves to the contemplation of the wonders of life and all, and as true brothers and sisters, learn to protect and guard the beauty of every creature.

May the Lord give you peace

Assisi, August 2021

+ Domenico Sorrentino, Bishop