



Dear Brothers and sisters in Christ,

Dear brothers and sisters of many different faiths,

In this tragically disturbing and threatening time for so many members of the human family, we are called upon to intensify our prayer. God is asking us; the victims are asking us; the whole of humanity is asking us. We cannot let the fraternity that must always inspire our thoughts and behavior to be buried in the rubble of the bombings we are witnessing these days in the Ukraine.

**Prayer** must be intensified because it is through intimate union with God that we renew that deep and authentic bond of fraternity. "God is only the God of peace, he is not the God of war, - Pope Francis reminded us recently - and those who support violence profane his name".

It is the spirit of Assisi; it is the meaning we wanted to give to this monthly prayer initiative to be directed to heaven regardless of our religious affiliation.

Let us, therefore, increase our times of prayer for **peace** and gather again especially on the 27th to invoke peace for our brothers and sisters in the Ukraine, Myanmar, Haiti, Ethiopia, the Congo and every other corner of the world where war brings its toll of fear, pain, destruction and death. We want to make the cry of the victims rise up to God more fervently, praying anew for the conversion of the hearts of the aggressors and to open us all to the gift of peace.

**May the Lord give you peace.**

Assisi, March 2022

+ Domenico Sorrentino, Bishop

