



Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

Dear brothers and sisters of many different faiths,

there is certainly no shortage of concern about the all too many dramatic situations that scar so many communities, peoples and entire nations. Along with the Ukrainian crisis that we have become well acquainted with and whose end is not in sight, let us join our anxious concern for the situations of violence taking place in Africa, Asia and the Americas.

In particular, we want to pray for the invitation that Pope Francis addressed to the whole world last May 11: "I address a special thought to the people of **Sri Lanka**, especially the young, who in recent times have made their cry heard in the face of the challenges and the social and economic problems of the country. I join with religious leaders in urging all sides involved to maintain a peaceful approach, without giving in to violence. I appeal to all those with responsibility to listen to the aspirations of the people, guaranteeing the full respect of human rights and civil liberties".

May this plea become a prayer in our hearts and on our lips, and may it also give a voice to the victims of all armed conflicts and violence. May the God of peace hear the prayer that will bring women and men of all religious traditions and languages back together spiritually on May 27 in the "Spirit of Assisi."

May the Lord give you peace

Assisi, May 2022

+ Domenico Sorrentino, Bishop