



Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

Dear brothers and sisters of many different faiths,

the absence of peace is not always caused by war as we have come to know it historically with the conflict between two regular armies. Much more frequently it is **organized crime**, criminal organizations, and mafia groups that generate violence, death, human rights violations, and threaten peaceful coexistence, which first and foremost sow fear and tend to completely control the territory. Combating their illicit activities are the state bodies charged with this task and many civil organizations that seek to foster and promote a culture and education that respects the rules, is based on justice and is absolutely opposed to any use of violence.

Faith communities play a prominent role: evidence of this is the high number of murders, violence, threats, and kidnappings against members of those communities. Recently, all this has been seen especially in Haiti, Nigeria, Central America and particularly in Mexico where the Catholic Bishops' Conference has felt the need to call a day of prayer for peace in this regard. In view of this, I propose that on July 27, as in each of our monthly meetings in the "Spirit of Assisi," we pray that the violence of criminal organizations will cease and that each person will open his or her self to welcoming the peace that God gives and asks for.

May the Lord give you peace

Assisi, July 2022

+ Domenico Sorrentino, Bishop