



Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

Dear brothers and sisters of many different faiths,

In our time of prayer on the 27th of this month of February, I suggest that we recall the sad anniversary of the beginning of the war in **Ukraine**. As the year has gone by, the information we have received seem to have been deflated, the words of diplomacy are muffled, and the deafening noise of weapons continues to prevail, producing destruction, death, and unspeakable suffering. That is why we want to raise our voices in prayer and place all our hope in God. Let us entrust to prayer the weeping of the inhabitants of Ukrainian cities threatened daily, the silence of the victims and the cry for peace that emerges from every corner of the earth. Let the violence stop everywhere in the world, especially in those areas that seem to be forgotten and about which we receive only very little information.

May the victims and survivors of the immense tragedy caused by the **earthquake** in Turkey and Syria also be present in our prayers.

At the same time let us remember the **Iraqi people** who in the coming days will mark the second anniversary of Pope Francis' visit. In those days we were able to witness the courage and prophecy of dialogue and encounter that generate harmony and reconciliation. That meeting of different religious leaders can be a model for building peace in other contexts as well. It is a seed of hope that we want to plant in the good soil of prayer. May the Lord hear our plea as we seek to make room for His will in our lives.

May the Lord give you peace

Assisi, February 2023

+ Domenico Sorrentino, Bishop