



Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

Dear brothers and sisters of many different faiths,

This month, we would like to place our prayer into God's hands for the people of **Malawi**, who are suffering dramatically in the aftermath of Tropical Cyclone Freddy. No one has thus far been able to accurately report the number of dead, injured and displaced. International agencies report at least 500 dead, but those in neighboring Mozambique and Madagascar must also be accounted for. It is worth mentioning that Malawi is among the poorest countries in the world and is already crippled by a violent cholera epidemic. In the aftermath of the cyclone, many families have been left homeless and without any means of livelihood, and among them are many children who now suffer undernourishment and malnutrition.

According to experts, extreme weather events have become much more frequent due to climate change causing droughts, global warming, storms, and tropical cyclones. These are all reasons for us to pray for help and relief for those who are experiencing this tragedy and for all those who have the possibility to lessen their pain by initiating effective policies to curb climate change.

Peace is not only the absence of war but the work of justice, solidarity with the poorest, brotherhood and caring. That is why we think that the Spirit of Assisi, inaugurated in 1986 by the historic meeting of faiths and prayer, should be revived for the betterment of life in every corner of the world.

Beyond our merits God hears our prayer.

May the Lord give you peace

Assisi, March 2023

+ Domenico Sorrentino, Bishop