



Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

Dear brothers and sisters of many different faiths,

As usual, in remembering that historic day of October 27, 1986, when representatives of religions met in Assisi to pray for peace, we ask you to join us in prayer on June 27 to focus our spiritual energy on an area of the world suffering from violence and war. During this month, I invite you to pray for peace to be restored in **Sudan**. It is one of the largest African nations geographically and ranks first in population. Civil war broke out on April 15 between two different factions who are taking advantage of the presence of mercenaries, military assistance, and weapons from abroad. According to some international agencies, by the end of May the conflict had claimed more than 1,800 lives. In addition to this, 1.5 million Sudanese have had to leave their homes and more than half of the population needs aid and protection. As we urge the United Nations to make every effort to enforce the cease-fire that is constantly being violated and to support dialogue, we turn to God who cares for each and every life of the thousands of people affected by the senselessness of war. Prayer is the way of the poor to stand fraternally with those who suffer. Therefore, on June 27, we ask that each person with his or her own community and according to the ways proper to each religious tradition remember before God the people of Sudan, asking that hearts be opened to accept the gift of peace.

May the Lord give you peace

Assisi, June 2023

+ Domenico Sorrentino, Bishop