



Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

Dear brothers and sisters of many different faiths,

In union with the whole world, we too are concerned about the increase in violence and armed conflicts. New outbreaks of war like ominous clouds are gathering on the horizon, leading to fears of even larger outbursts. Experts in the field and specialized institutes report an unprecedented increase in arms production and trade. Daily the news reports scenarios of devastation and death. In the name of the right to self-defense and the policy of prevention, scientific research is being directed toward the large-scale use of artificial intelligence and new technologies to produce increasingly sophisticated and destructive weapons. It raises the question of how much of this is an incentive to conflict, rather than deterring it.

It distresses us that arms production diverts substantial resources that should be used to combat the misery and hunger that afflict so many regions of the world.

We invite you to join us on April 27 in asking the God of peace to open the hearts and minds of those responsible for the arms race that they may feel the gravity of this policy and confidently open themselves to the conversion of war industries into industries of peace. May the Lord banish the threat of a global war and bring about a future of fraternal cooperation among peoples.

Our monthly prayer stems from the inspiration that brought leaders of the most diverse religions to meet and pray for peace in Assisi on October 27, 1986. Even more so today, we believe that women and men of all faiths must unite their spiritual strength, putting themselves at the service of projects of peace for all humanity.

May the God of life hear our prayer.

May the Lord give you peace

Assisi, April 2024

+ Domenico Sorrentino, Bishop