



Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

Dear brothers and sisters of many different faiths,

Increasingly technologically advanced weaponry has aided in the preparation and implementation of wars with the sole aim of producing more death, suffering and destruction.

For some time now, **Artificial Intelligence** has been a major contributor to this end. Of particular concern are the so-called "lethal autonomous weapons" that can operate even without human decision-making. These are weapons programmed to identify targets and strike, sometimes even resulting in a certain number of deaths and injuries (collateral damage) of people not even directly involved in the conflict as combatants such as is the case with children. Currently such weapons (drones, killer robots, etc.) are being used in some of the bloodiest ongoing conflicts.

We pray to God that the intelligence with which He has endowed human beings will always be at the service of life and never of death. We pray that especially scientists, researchers and policy makers will receive the light they need to use their knowledge and expertise inspired by the love with which God embraces every creature.

Thus, from Assisi, we invite you to foster the hope for peace by uniting the voices of the faithful of every religion on June 27. Peace is the good that humanity particularly needs today, as was intuited by the leaders of religions gathered in Assisi on October 27, 1986, to address the one God of peace.

May the Lord give you peace

Assisi, June 2024

+ Domenico Sorrentino, Bishop