



Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

Dear brothers and sisters of many different faiths,

The violation of the universal and inalienable right to **water** is presently a cause of conflict and a source of suffering, resulting in social, environmental, economic and human disasters. On June 8th, in a message on the occasion of World Oceans Day in Costa Rica, Pope Francis reiterated that 'water is necessary for human life, without it no progress, not even social progress, can exist'. Therefore, today more than ever, defending the right to water means defending the right to life. This is why we consider the deprivation of access to drinking water for a very large number of the earth's inhabitants as a real war that threatens life and dignity and undermines peaceful coexistence. Water security is compromised by factors such as pollution, conflicts, climate change and exploitation of natural resources. In fact, the very fulfillment of this right is a prerequisite for peace. These are the reasons why we believe that this natural resource cannot be considered as a private good that generates profit according to the laws of the market.

In this month of July, I invite all believers, of whatever religion, to continue their commitment to pray for peace by raising prayers and petitions to God so that all people and every creature may be assured access to water. The prayer appointment, as always, is for the 27th, which commemorates the prayer for peace that took place in Assisi on October 27, 1986.

May the Lord give you peace

Assisi, July 2024

+ Domenico Sorrentino, Bishop