



Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

Dear brothers and sisters of many different faiths,

There is no end to the widespread plight of suffering and death, which impels us to pray for all peoples who are subjected to very serious violations of human rights and to the raging of war and all forms of violence. So, let us not forget Ukraine, Israel and the Gaza Strip, Myanmar, Sudan, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Haiti, and we could go on and on.

In our monthly meeting, I would like to ask each community of all faiths and religions to join in prayer on behalf of the people of **Bangladesh**. We should remember that this is one of the most populous countries in the world with more than 173 million people. In recent months, internal clashes have claimed a high number of victims (more than 300 deaths have been reported). Today, at last, it seems that Bangladesh is on a path of peacemaking and reforms that should enable its inhabitants to resume normal life and for the rights of each person to be recognized as specified by the Universal Declaration.

For this reason, we would like to accompany this new phase of a painful but hope-filled process with our prayers. This was clearly indicated to us by the leaders of the religions who chose to meet in Assisi on October 27, 1986, giving birth to the "Spirit of Assisi", which we want to keep alive.

May the Lord give you peace

Assisi, August 2024

+ Domenico Sorrentino, Bishop