



Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

Dear brothers and sisters of many different faiths,

On the anniversary of the Spirit of Assisi, October 27, 1986, we cannot help but turn our eyes once again to the many ongoing armed conflicts and to raise our voices to the pain of the many victims they engender. As women and men of faith, we are called to adopt God's gaze on humanity, a gaze that is always a desire for peace.

For this reason, as members of so many different religions, we are called to reassert **the supreme good of peace** in our consciences, in our prayers and in our choices, just as happened at that historic meeting in Assisi. We must disclose any and all instrumental attempts to use God and religion to justify or even motivate the use of force and violence in all its expressions.

Therefore, we willingly endorse what Pope Francis and Ahmad Al-Tayyeb, Grand Imam of Al-Azhar, stated in the Document on Human Fraternity in Abu Dhabi on February 4, 2019: "We, who believe in God and in the final meeting with Him and His judgment, on the basis of our religious and moral responsibility, and through this Document, call upon ourselves, upon the leaders of the world as well as the architects of international policy and world economy, to work strenuously to spread the culture of tolerance and of living together in peace; to intervene at the earliest opportunity to stop the shedding of innocent blood and bring an end to wars, conflicts, environmental decay and the moral and cultural decline that the world is presently experiencing".

Almighty and merciful God, to whom each and every one of us invokes according to our own tradition, hear the world's yearning for peace and the sincerity of the prayer to which we are all invited on the 38th anniversary of the Spirit of Assisi.

May the Lord give you peace

Assisi, October 2024

+ Domenico Sorrentino, Bishop