

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

Dear brothers and sisters of many different faiths,

Every day we are becoming more aware that there is a real war going on against the natural environment. We are reminded of this by the catastrophes that happen in various forms: melting of glaciers, floods, inundations, storms, desertification, and rising oceans. Various consequences such as climate migration, armed conflicts, widespread poverty, etc. are associated with each of these phenomena.

The 29th Conference of the Parties of the United Nations Convention on Climate Change (COP29), which took place in Baku, Azerbaijan, and ended a few days ago, is a potential step on the part of the international community toward a possible reconciliation with creation that awaits a genuine ecological conversion on our part. There are currently 198 Parties to the Convention (197 countries plus the European Union).

In the prayer that unites us on the 27th of every month for the victims of an armed conflict, for an area of the world endangered by war, or on an issue concerning widespread violence, we want to place in God's hands the conclusions of COP29 concerning the adoption of transparent national plans aimed at reducing CO2 emissions into the atmosphere, supporting the ecological transition even in the poorest countries, and implementing lasting and rapid plans of action to keep temperatures under control in order to stay below the 1.5°C threshold.

May the God of peace hear our common prayer and inspire us with good thoughts and actions.

May the Lord give you peace

Assisi, November 2024

+ Domenico Sorrentino, Bishop