



Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

Dear brothers and sisters of many different faiths,

Among the many distressing humanitarian crises facing the world at this time, we would like to ask you to put all your spiritual forces together on behalf of **the people of Kivu in Congo**. Although the conflict to which the whole region is subjected has been going on for several decades, recently there has been an exacerbation of the conflict, which as always hits the poorest. It is difficult to compile an overall number of victims, injured people, and particularly women who have experienced violence. The number of displaced people, that is, families who have been forced to leave their homes and villages to seek safe shelter, is even higher.

In this crisis, too, the reasons for resorting to violence lie in the richness of the subsurface from which raw materials and rare earths are extracted that spur the hunger of many powerful nations and many multinational corporations. It is up to each one of us to do our best to get the much-needed humanitarian aid to the people, to deepen understanding, take a stand and denounce injustice, but all of us together can pray that the God of mercy and peace may convert the hearts of the violators, inspire peaceful thoughts in the powerful and console the afflicted.

As on each 27th of each month, I invite everyone with their faith community to pray to the Lord for peace in the Democratic Republic of Congo without forgetting the other conflicts that unfortunately continue to stain the land with blood.

**May the Lord give you peace**

Assisi, February 2025

+ Domenico Sorrentino, Bishop