



Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

Dear brothers and sisters of many different faiths,

October 27 marks the 39th anniversary of that historic event, which was a major turning point in interfaith relationships. Representatives of different faiths gathered in Assisi on October 27, 1986, for a solemn and unprecedented event, almost a spiritual pledge, so that religion would never again be seen as a reason for violence and war. In fact, throughout history, there have been many instances of this type of going astray, arising from an immature religious spirit. Even more often, God has been used by those in power to camouflage other interests and legitimize the use of force. But people of faith, of all faiths, are called to dispel this falsehood: in no religion and for no reason in the world does God, the one Father of all human beings, ask that a brother or sister be killed in his name. For this reason, at the invitation of Pope Leo XIV, we ask that "religions not be used as weapons or walls, but rather lived as bridges and prophecy."

In this month of October, I invite everyone to turn to God in prayer "that we believers of different religious traditions may work together to defend and promote peace, justice, and human fraternity." Let us pray that religions offer an essential contribution to building true peace, which goes far beyond the mere absence of war and recognizes others as brothers and sisters. May religions become training grounds where we learn to welcome others and embrace differences, experiencing the joy of journeying together in the service of humanity.

May the Lord give you peace

Assisi, October 2025

+ Domenico Sorrentino, Bishop