



Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,
Dear brothers and sisters of many different faiths,

How we wish that all the armed conflicts currently raging around the world would come to an end! Instead, we are faced with the reality that new conflicts are erupting, reviving old disputes that promise to be disastrous. This is the case with the conflict that has reignited between **Thailand and Cambodia** over a border issue inherited from the colonial era. At that time, borders were often drawn without taking into account the ethnic groups to which the people belonged and without paying too much attention to the history of those people. We believe that this was also the case with the conflict between these two Asian countries.

I propose that we pray for them during this last month of the year at our meeting on the 27th, keeping alive the memory of the prayer meeting for peace that many people of different faiths experienced in Assisi in 1986. Let us pray for the Cambodian and Thai people involved in a conflict in which the use of landmines and cluster bombs has been reported. These are very dangerous weapons, mainly targeting the civilian population. Likewise, there is documented evidence of air raids and drones that strike homes, causing casualties among the inhabitants. These are the reasons that are driving a massive number of people to abandon their homes and join the multitude of displaced persons that international agencies have been registering since the beginning of the conflict.

For this reason, I invite you to pray to the one God that the safety of the people be guaranteed and, at the same time, that the desire for peace on the part of the leaders of both nations be encouraged. For Christians, this is the sacred time of Jesus' birth, and I would like to share with each and every one of you the angels' invitation to peace, which waits to be accepted by all humanity. I too join in that invitation, which is also a wish for you, your families and the entire human family.

May the Lord give you peace

Assisi, December 2025

+ Domenico Sorrentino, Bishop