



Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

Dear brothers and sisters of many different faiths,

The 27th of each month has become a small reminder for us on the calendar of our conscience. I want to pick up and continue this initiative that Bishop Domenico Sorrentino launched some years ago. It is the day that recalls the historic meeting in Assisi, when Saint John Paul II summoned men and women of different faiths to pray for peace. It was not merely a symbolic gesture; it was a proclamation that when faiths listen to the deepest voice of the Spirit, they do not divide but safeguard life.

Today, that memory challenges us with even greater urgency. The numbers in the arms race are rising across the globe. Weapons are being stockpiled, mistrust is deepening, and fear is becoming the language of politics. But we know full well that arsenals do not build security; they fuel instability and pave the way for tomorrow's wars, and when they are nuclear, they become a threat of total destruction.

That is why we invite believers of all religious traditions to join us on March 27th to pause and pray. Let us each pray according to our own faith that a new era of **disarmament**, dialogue and shared responsibility may dawn upon the world. But let us also combine prayer with the courage to act: educating for peace, calling on governments to adopt policies of arms reduction, and supporting initiatives for cooperation and justice among peoples.

Assisi has taught us that peace is achieved when religions become sources of brotherhood. Let us ensure that this seed continues to sprout. Even today, and especially today, the world needs people of faith who know how to pray and take action so that weapons may fall silent and peace may finally find a place in history.

May the Lord give you peace

Assisi, March 2026

+ Felice Accrocca, Bishop