



Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

Dear brothers and sisters of many different faiths,

Lebanon has been going through a very stressful time for over a month now. Thousands of people have been forced to flee their homes; entire families are living in turmoil, in precarious conditions and amid a widespread atmosphere of fear and uncertainty. The wounds are deep, visible in the faces of those who have lost everything and in the silence of those who no longer have hope. Above all, the bombings have claimed too many lives.

In the face of such suffering, we cannot remain indifferent. I invite you, with respect and brotherly love, to join together in a moment of prayer according to your own traditions, so that the God of life may embrace the victims, sustain their families and comfort all those who mourn. Let us pray for those who have been driven from their homes, that they may find shelter and dignity; for world leaders, that avenues for dialogue and peace may be opened; and for all of us, that we may never lose the courage to be united in solidarity and speak out against the causes of violence and those responsible for it. Indeed, we must not forget the example of Saint Francis: his primary aim was to 'put an end to animosities' and 'lay the foundation for new peace treaties', as recounted by an eyewitness, Tommaso da Spalato, who saw the Saint preaching in the square in Bologna on August 15, 1222.

Assisi, a city of peace which, on October 27th forty years ago, hosted the prayer meeting for peace organized at the time by Saint John Paul II, once again wishes to become a place of gathering and shared prayer. Let us together nurture the glimmers of hope which, though fragile, continue to shine in the hearts of men and women of good will. I therefore ask you to join me in spirit on April 27th for a moment of prayer for the people of Lebanon.

I send you my blessings and thank you for every gesture of support you can offer.

May the Lord give you peace.

Assisi, April 2026

+ Felice Accrocca, Bishop