



Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

Dear brothers and sisters of many different faiths,

From Assisi, the home of St Francis, we come to you with a plea that stems from our awareness of the cries of the poor and the realization that one of the most severe forms of oppression, today, is the heavy burden of **debt** that is suffocating entire populations.

Millions of people live in countries weighed down by financial obligations that are impossible to sustain. Resources that could be channeled into education, healthcare, employment, and the protection of life and the environment are instead swallowed up by interest payments and constraints that leave no room for respite. As we know, extreme poverty is the worst kind of war: a silent war that leaves no room for the future, prevents development from taking place, extinguishes hope and forces millions of people to live without dignity.

That is why, at our monthly gathering next Wednesday the 27th, we ask you to join us in a time of communal prayer, each according to your own faith and tradition, asking for the hearts of those in political, economic and financial positions of responsibility to be converted. Let us pray that justice, compassion and foresight prevail; that profit does not take precedence over people; that debt ceases to be a tool of domination and instead paves the way for processes of liberation, forgiveness and renewal.

However, prayer alone is not enough unless it is accompanied by concrete action. That is why we invite you to organize initiatives, public demonstrations, shared campaigns and awareness-raising activities that will help the world understand the urgent need to reverse this crushing and oppressive trend. Religions can still appeal to the conscience of humanity and remind us that no economy is just if it sacrifices the most vulnerable.

Assisi reminds us of the radical nature of the Gospel as lived by Saint Francis, who proclaimed forgiveness as a free gift from God to be reflected in human relationships. And it is precisely in the name of that 'forgiveness' that we believe it is possible to call for the 'remission' of debt: not as an act of charity, but as a choice for justice and peace.

We ask you to join us in this spiritual and humanitarian appeal, so that no people may ever again be condemned to survive without a future.

May the Lord give you peace

Assisi, May 2026

+ Felice Accrocca, Bishop