



Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

Dear brothers and sisters of many different faiths,

Nicaragua is still going through a time of great suffering. For years, the population has been living under the weight of repression that has led to deaths, imprisonments, forced exile and an increasing curtailment of fundamental freedom. Thousands of people have left the country and many political opponents, journalists, human rights defenders and ordinary citizens have been imprisoned or deprived of their rights.

The situation regarding religious freedom is particularly distressing. Bishops, priests, men and women religious, and laypeople involved in the life of the Church have been forced into exile, and religious associations, educational and charitable organizations, and numerous pastoral activities have been either restricted or shut down. These are wounds that affect not only the Catholic community, but also every person's fundamental right to freedom of conscience, religion and expression!

Faced with this suffering, we cannot and will not remain indifferent. As the Spirit of Assisi Commission, which preserves the memory of the prayer meeting for peace held on October 27, 1986 at the request of Saint John Paul II, and convinced that religions – despite their diverse spiritual paths – can be a voice for peace, a defender of human dignity and a source of support for those who suffer, we invite you to join us spiritually in a day of prayer for Nicaragua.

We invite you to observe this moment on June 27th, each according to your own religious tradition and forms of worship, so that from every community a prayer may rise up for peace, justice, reconciliation and full respect for human dignity.

Let us pray for the victims of violence and repression, for those in prison, for those in exile and for their families, and for all those whose freedom of conscience and faith has been curtailed. Let us pray for those in positions of public responsibility, that dialogue, respect for fundamental rights and a sincere pursuit of the common good may prevail. Let us pray that the people of Nicaragua may regain their freedom, safety and peace.

Assisi continues to believe that genuine prayer does not divide but unites. It does not fuel divisions but opens up paths to fellowship. In an age marked by conflict and isolation, we wish to keep alive the hope that springs from encounter, from listening to one another and from the shared quest for peace.

We thank you for the spiritual support you offer and for every act of compassion and solidarity towards the people of Nicaragua.

May the Lord give you peace

Assisi, June 2026

+ Felice Accrocca, Bishop