



Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

Dear brothers and sisters of many different faiths,

This month, we would like to turn our thoughts and prayers to the people of **Cabo Delgado Province**, in northern **Mozambique**, where a conflict that has been all but forgotten has been raging for years. While keeping in our hearts all the other people suffering from war, we know that in that region, thousands of people continue to endure violence, lose their loved ones, flee their homes, and see their dignity trampled upon. This conflict involves a complex interplay of armed extremism, poverty, social exclusion, and control over the region's vast natural resources—natural gas, rubies, graphite, and other minerals—which all too often become a source of exploitation and violence rather than an opportunity for development for the local population.

Every war inflicts a wound on the entire human family. No conflict is so far away that it does not affect us; no suffering is so hidden that it can be ignored. When a whole population is forgotten, even silence risks becoming a form of complicity.

With this in mind, we invite all communities of different faiths to come together on the 27th of this month for a moment of prayer, each according to their own religious tradition and forms of worship.

Let us pray for the victims of violence, for the children deprived of their childhood, for the families forced to flee, for those who courageously work to aid the population, and for all those who seek dialogue, reconciliation, and peace.

We call on the leaders of the countries and the conflicting parties to have the courage to lay down their arms and to put the dignity of people ahead of economic and strategic interests.

As we prepare for the 40th anniversary of the historic prayer meeting for peace held in Assisi on October 27, 1986, we want to continue to uphold its spirit: we must not let indifference prevail over brotherhood, nor allow war to have the final say.

May our prayers become a call to understand, to remember, and to build—each in our own sphere—a culture of peace, justice, and mutual caring.

May the Lord give you peace

Assisi, July 2026

+ Felice Accrocca, Bishop