



---

**DIOCESE OF VENICE IN FLORIDA**  
*OFFICE OF THE BISHOP*

---

April 8, 2026

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

In his first Easter message to the city of Rome and to the world on Sunday, “Urbi et Orbi,” Pope Leo not only proclaimed the central tenet of the Christian faith that “Christ, my hope, is risen from death,” but also called on those waging war to lay down their weapons and choose peace.

To this end, the Holy Father will lead a **Prayer Vigil for Peace** in St. Peter’s Basilica this Saturday, April 11, at 6:00 p.m. Rome time (Noon ET), and **has requested that all join him in praying for peace.** The Prayer Vigil for Peace will be livestreamed from Rome [here](#).

In this special Jubilee Year honoring St. Francis of Assisi, who was the very model of Christ’s peace, let us come together to further support the Holy Father’s request, and to embrace the great Easter gifts of harmony and peace.

**In response to the Holy Father’s request, here in the Diocese of Venice all Parishes have been asked to include petitions for peace in the Prayers of the Faithful at all Masses this weekend, April 11/12. Further, it is asked that the Faithful of the Diocese of Venice continue to pray for peace.**

As Pope Leo reflected in his “Urbi et Orbi” message on Easter, “To the Lord we entrust all hearts that suffer and await the true peace that only He can give. Let us entrust ourselves to Him and open our hearts to Him! He is the only one who makes all things new (cf. *Rev 21:5*).”

May peace flourish in your heart, in the Diocese of Venice and throughout the world, and may God continue to abundantly bless you and your family.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

+ 

+ Frank J. Dewane  
Bishop of the Diocese of Venice  
in Florida

FJD/nml