**Comboni Missionaries**

The message of all the three readings today is an invitation for us to participate in building and sustaining the kingdom of God.

The Prophet Isaiah invites us to be part of the banquet of the Lord, regardless of our financial status. He says, “All of you come to the water even if you do not have money.” What is important is that you are part of the celebration.

St Paul tells us in the second reading that we should not be afraid of anything, because nothing can separate us from the love of God. We should all come together to share our unity in the risen Lord. We are called to place our trust in Him to overcome the temptations that we face.

In the Gospel today, Jesus’ heart was moved with pity and he cured the sick. He tells his disciples not to send the people away hungry, but rather to share the little they had with the people. From 5 loaves and two fish multitudes of crowds were fed to their satisfaction.

Jesus invites us today in the Gospel, to bring to him all that we can afford, including our prayers, to help and assist those who need our help more at this particular moment.

Based on all these invitations in today’s readings, our presence with you today as Comboni Missionaries is to invite all of us to go beyond the today’s situations, like the pandemic challenges, to assist those who need our help. The disciples were so afraid of how to feed such a multitude with the little they had, but Jesus told them do not worry but put the little you have together and help. No one can do everything, but everyone can do something.

It is true that we have all been hit hard by Covid-19. We are struggling to put bread on the table and send our children to school but Jesus says, like the little kid who surrendered his fish and bread to feed the crowd, we can help others with what we have. It is not about how much I give, but rather that this little be part of I give helps the people in need.

The great challenge we face now, as Comboni Missionaries in the places where we work, is the health crisis caused by the virus. We have, ourselves, lost some of our priests, religious sisters and brothers while ministering and sharing the love of God with the people globally. Here in Cincinnati, our provincial house, we lost one of our priests in the month of May.

We would like to thank you for your tireless support of the missions. Through your continued support towards the mission of the Church, many have benefited and experienced the love of God in their lives. We also understand what you are experiencing these days, and we promise to keep you and your family in our prayers always. May God protect you and keep your family safe.