

This Sunday after two baptisms I shall be beginning a walk of great beauty over 130 miles.

I am doing this for the beauty of the thing

But as a community we are using this occasion to raise money for the Catholic Association for Overseas Development. That is CAFOD.

Thus money raised in this parish during next Sunday's masses as I am walking over the hills will go to CAFOD

The first time I saw a starving child was as a student in West Africa. I had gone to Liberia before the outbreak of the massive period of civil war to join the Salesian Community who had committed themselves to Education

Education is a means of creating the liberation from hunger

That said on a visit to a village an experienced priest, pointed out the light coloured hair, and bloated stomach of a malnourished child.

I was helpless

I am still helpless

When I consider events such as this in my life, I feel that I too am only giving lip service to the Gospel I profess.

The worship that I give feels worthless.

Bombarded as we are with images from Afghanistan, there is again that sense of helplessness.

What can I do

What can we do

Here ironically it is with faith that we must act

Faith by its nature is expressed with humility

I am not God

You are not God

We can only do our best

And our best whenever celebrated sincerely is good enough.

So next Sunday you will give some money

And somewhere a child will drink fresh water

Next Sunday you will contribute

And the notion that we care will be expressed

Next Sunday you will share with our sisters and brothers the poor.

Because we are one family
And it is the love of the one God
that calls each one of us into existence

Here and now upon this earth and upon this time
We today consider

After death
in eternity
we shall stand before those who tasted real hunger

And we shall be ashamed

But I am not God
And you are not God

Indeed the God that loves me
Accepts my prayers without the arrogance of my own condemnation

I am but a child of God
This lip service
A child's attempt at expression
An attempt which will be accepted and celebrated
In ever greater participation

The worship I give
the money we share
the political change I encourage
the sacrifices we make
are never worthless
within the humility of faith

They are the expression
the attempt
At participation

Share your food with me
Share your love with me
Then in eternity
What little we have
Will become a feast.

Next Sunday please give
We will not solve the world's problems
But we can do our best
And for people of faith
That is enough.

We can do our best
For the people of faith
That is enough