To conclude

by Ernesto Borghi

Anyone who wants to talk about the identity and actions of Jesus of Nazareth can find in the Gospel texts many references, much news. And this is already a very good reason to become more and more familiar with the biblical texts, from the New to the First Testament, texts that speak of human history and life in a concrete and eloquent way.

And the summary of the verse from Matthew 4 that we have considered this evening allows us to avoid abstract discourses and doctrinalistic reflections. These few, intense and schematic Gospel words emphasise the Nazarene’s relationship with his own religious and cultural roots and the fundamental object of his words and actions: the love of the God of Jesus Christ proclaimed orally and realised in concrete care for suffering people of all kinds.

If one wants to try to make Jesus of Nazareth known and to be a Christian, one must refer to these essential words and try to live according to the logic of the kingdom of God. This means helping to realise, as far as possible, this way of reigning, that is, a love that is precisely the kingdom of God, when it is a caring, daily, supportive relationship with others.

As we prepare to live Word of God Sunday 2023, let us think about all this, asking ourselves what we can do so that the biblical Scriptures may increasingly be the basis of all effective trust in the God of Sinai and of Jesus Christ, and asking ourselves, starting from the Matthias text that we have considered this evening, some questions, with which we conclude our meeting, thanking each and every one of you for your presence live and all those who will see us in the immediate and subsequent future. Greeting with grateful friendship Jan Stefanow, General Secretary of the Catholic Bible Federation for the technical direction of the meeting itself, we read out some questions that we trust will be helpful to all of you.

• What is it about the teaching of Jesus of Nazareth in the gospels that encourages me to live better personally and to make others live better?

• Do I try to realise some fragments of the gospel of the Kingdom, that is, of the love of the God of Jesus Christ in my personal and social life? How?

• Do I at least sometimes succeed in being a help to others to cope more serenely with the various possible difficulties of daily life? How could I improve in this regard?

Cordial greetings to you all!