**FRAGMENTS OF CHRISTIAN SPIRITUALITY**

**(How to be good disciples of Jesus today)**

**Catanzaro 19 February 2018**

**TOTAL CONVERSION OF THE HEART**

**When can we say that the heart lives of total conversion? When it is entirely oriented towards Christ Jesus, progressing in his Word, living his meekness and humility. The Alpha and the Omega of life is Christ Crucified.**

**Total conversion is not achieved in a single day. First of all we must obey the Ten Commandments, avoiding falling into mortal sin. It is the first conversion necessary to be able to advance.**

**If the Commandments are not observed, one is not yet been converted. He is far from Christ the Lord. He does not look towards God, but towards creatures. The creatures are the ones that have the place in the heart and not Christ Jesus.**

**Together with perfect obedience to the Commandments one must also achieve total liberation from vices. Vices are what prevent any movement towards Lord Jesus. Every vice is a chasm.**

**When one walks and rushes into a chasm, he also runs the risk of dying in it. Vices are the true death not only of the soul, but also of the spirit of man. Today vice is destroying man.**

**Today, already in the most tender age vices bloom so numerous that they come to modify the very genetics of our body. The changes they produce have devastating consequences, also concerning generation.**

**Even the slight or venial sins must be abolished. Every venial sin is like a weight on the feet that terribly slows down the race to Christ the Lord. Even these must be dismantled. With them the spirit lacks momentum.**

**Finally we must arrive not only to perfect obedience to every Word of Christ Jesus, according to truth, wisdom, science, prudence and love of the Holy Spirit, but also to realize every desire of Lord Jesus.**

**Perfect conversion takes place when one thinks like Christ, wants like Christ, speaks like Christ, desires like Christ, obeys like Christ, lives like Christ and dies like Christ.**

**Only when Christ the Lord is the life of our life and the heart of our heart can we say that we are in perfect conversion. Since Christ is always infinitely beyond, one advances towards conversion.**

**The Christian is asked to walk from faith to faith, from virtue to virtue, from obedience to obedience, from conversion to conversion and from truth to truth. The journey must be lived without any interruption.**

**One starts and ends only at the time of death. One thing must be said clearly: if you walk and then go back, all the work done is lost. When the flesh tastes sin, it hardly separates from it.**

**THE DAY OF THE LORD**

**A clarification regarding the third commandment is not only necessary, it is also indispensably urgent. It is a question of property and right and consequently it is a question of justice.**

**God, our Creator, is Lord of heaven and earth, of every visible and invisible being. He is the Lord not only by Creation, but for the use of his creation. He created time. Man's life is fulfilled in it.**

**Well, God, the Lord, the Creator, gave man six days. The seventh, which is Sabbath - for us Christians it is Sunday because of the resurrection of Jesus - he kept it for himself. Six are ours. One is his.**

**Being the seventh day his, we must live it according to the modalities established by him. This commandment concerns not only men but also animals that assist man in his hard work.**

**Not only animals, even the earth has the right to rest, according to the orders it has received from its creator. The first truth of Sabbath tells us that it is a day neither of leisure, nor of free time and nor of non work.**

**It is the day of the Lord. The second truth tells us that this day must be dedicated to the service of God, a service that is carried out by firmly placing the Lord our God in our heart, spirit, soul, thoughts and will.**

**The Lord must have first place on this day. He must not be given the last breath of the day. He must be given the first, all the others, and also the last one. Detachment from matter on this day is mandatory.**

**Today the Christian has lost not only the truth of the Lord's day, but also the awareness of the obligation that he has towards the Lord to give to Him what belongs to him. People live as if this day did not exist.**

**The Second Book of Chronicles reveals to us that every day of the Lord subtracted to Him, since it is of the Lord and not ours, will be taken back by the Lord, because it is his. In that text it is said that he had the earth rest for many years.**

**We should all have a more formed, more Christian conscience. Theft against God is a very grave sin. Even for this day the obligation of restitution is urgent. What belongs to God remains always with God.**

**Never might the ownership of the Lord be our property. Every Christian, wishing to respect the sacred day of God, should avoid all that makes him become the thief of what is not his.**

**Today, there are no rules governing the respect of this day. The only rule is a formed, upright and delicate conscience in order to be able to observe according to the heart of God this day that He has consecrated to himself.**

**LOVING FROM THE CHARITY OF CHRIST JESUS**

**Who wants to love from the charity of Christ, must know that nothing must come, arise and arrive from his heart. The charity of Christ is very pure obedience to God. Let us return for a moment to the total conversion of the heart.**

**Can one love from the charity of Christ by living in the transgression of the Commandments? Never. You are transgressors of the first, essential, vital divine law of love. Only one omitted commandment and one does not love.**

**Can one love from the charity of Christ by cultivating every vice of mind and body? Never. The vice takes away precious resources from the soul, the spirit, the body and the will. Might ever an idle man love from the charity of Christ?**

**Not even from venial sins can one love from the charity of Christ. Every venial sin is like ashes on a plate of macaroni. Macaroni might also be tasty, but the ash makes them bad.**

**Can we love from the charity of Christ, if we do not know the Word of the Lord, to which we must always give immediate obedience? Never. Today we cannot love from the charity of Christ, because Christ himself no longer exists.**

**Jesus exists for himself, but no longer for many Christians. Just as the Word no longer exists as the one and only norm of sound morality, which is the only foundation on which the Law of true love can be built.**

**It is evident that one might never love from the love of Christ if his spiritual growth is little, inexistent and hardly sketched. One loves from the charity of Christ if the heart of Christ becomes his heart.**

**But the heart of Christ alone is not enough. We also need the Holy Spirit who moment by moment suggests what to do and how to do it. It is the Spirit who puts us in communion with the will of the Father.**

**The charity of Christ has precise rules that must be observed. If a single rule is not observed, the charity of Christ is not lived. Human forms of love can be lived, but certainly the charity of Christ will not be lived.**

**If a presbyter does not carry out his ministry as administrator of the grace, truth, word and shepherd of the flock and gives himself to other tasks, he might also feed the world, but does not love from the charity of Jesus.**

**From the charity of Christ we love respecting ministry, charisma, vocation, mission and current will of God on each one of us. It is the Lord the one who wants to love through us. We are only an instrument of his eternal charity.**

**THE NECESSARY FORMATION**

**Forming is the verb of God. He takes the dust of the ground, kneads, models and makes it an inert figure, without any life; he blows the breath of life into its nostrils and the figure becomes a living being.**

**For the work of God, the being has become a new being. From a being without any life it has become a being with life, a being in the image and likeness of God. Forming in God is the work of true creation.**

**Let us observe well. The soil dust has been created by God. But it is lifeless. To give it life it is not even enough modelling it and giving it a new image or figure. Something is needed that only God possesses.**

**What does only God possess? The breath of life, the vital breath. A new formation is urgently needed for every man. With his sin he shattered, pulverized and reduced himself to dust from the ground, further more to dust of death.**

**The formation belongs only to God. No one can form the crushed dust into a new living being. Only God can do it. He decided to form the man by taking this time a new dust.**

**Together with the new dust, he also decided to give a new breath of life. The new dust is Christ Crucified. The new Spirit is the Holy Spirit of God. Christ Jesus forms man through his apostles.**

**In the formation of man the apostles avail themselves of priests. The presbyters are helped by every member of the people of God. He helps the presbyter who lets himself be formed by the presbyter without any interruption.**

**The presbyter must take the unformed matter of every single person, it has been reduced by sin because this way, give it the form of Christ Crucified and infuse the Holy Spirit into it.**

**But the presbyter must be a true imitator of God. He must first have in himself the image of Christ Crucified formed. He forms in the image and likeness of the Crucified Christ in his members.**

**Ma questo non basta. Occorre anche che sull’essere che forma soffi l’alito**

**But this is not enough. It is also necessary that on the being that forms the breath of life which is the Holy Spirit breaths. But not the Holy Spirit that is in the blessed skies, but the Spirit of God that has become his life breath.**

**This is the limit of every formation: Christ Crucified formed in us and the Holy Spirit which is the breath of our breath and the life of our life. Without Christ Crucified us and without the Holy Spirit there is no true formation.**

**This truth reveals us a second truth: who has the spirit of immorality, of folly, of insipidity, of vice, of atheism will form according to this spirit. Whoever has a false Christ will form a false Christ.**

**Let who wants to form, who is in charge of formation know that he might never transgress the rule of God. Forming is giving the form of Christ Crucified together with the breath of the Holy Spirit. The formed person will form according to truth.**

**When the breath of the true Holy Spirit is poured, then it is the Spirit of the Lord who takes the formed person and leads it according to the divine will. The one that forms gives life. The given life is guided by the Holy Spirit.**

**THE FIRST COMMANDMENT**

**The truth of man is from the truth of God. The true God makes the true man. The false God makes the false man. The non God makes the non-man. Man is always in the image and likeness of the God that he says he adores.**

**The first commandment asks him who has been formed, created, saved and redeemed by God, to have no other gods before whom he should bow down. He must not have others, because others do not exist. What does this mean?**

**True adoration is listening to the Word of the one and only true God. True life is from listening and in listening. The true worshiper of God cannot have other Words, other laws and other commandments. One is God and one is the Law.**

**One example is enough: Do not kill. Word of the true God. Abortion, euthanasia, murder, suicide and every violation inflicted on the nature of man belongs to other gods. They are not things of the only true God.**

**So also: "Let not man separate what God has united". The indissoluble and faithful marriage between a man and a woman is the only law of the one and only alive true God Creator and Lord. Divorce is of other gods.**

**The worshiper of the true God must choose. Either he remains in the Law of his God, or he certifies that he has changed God. Today, in order not to admit that we have changed God, we say that God has changed his Law.**

**Our God says that his house must be filled. The body of Christ must be formed with the addition of new members, his Church must be made to grow with new children. This is the will of our one, true God, Lord and Creator.**

**We disregard this Commandment, this Word and we say that it is enough to respect others. Respecting is one thing. Obeying God is quite another thing. Adoration is very pure obedience.**

**Do we obey? We are worshipers of the true God. Do not we obey? We have changed gods. We have changed spirituality. We have changed membership. We say we are, in truth we are not.**

**THE REMEMBRANCE OF THE WORD OF JESUS**

**The remembrance of the Word of Jesus is not the Gospel. The Gospel must first be transformed into our flesh and blood by the Holy Spirit, through the action of formation and illumination of the presbyter.**

**Turned into our flesh and blood, the Spirit will have to transform it into the breath of life. The Word of Jesus we must remind is in the gift of our breath of life, offered by the Spirit in the Spirit, as the Word.**

**If the Word of Jesus does not become our life, never might the Holy Spirit transform it into the Word of Jesus to give it to others, but not even our Word might ever be the vehicle through which He enters hearts.**

**The mission of the remembrance of the Word begins with the transformation into our flesh and blood. If this does not happen, and it does not happen when we think with our thoughts, never might there be true remembrance.**

**An example might enlighten us: it suffices to enter into any "social" and you realize that you think according to the flesh and not according to the Spirit. If we think according to the flesh, what Word of Jesus can we remind?**

**Whoever sees that we act according to the flesh, because we think according to the flesh, might he ever believe in a single Word uttered by us.**

**NECESSARY DISCERNMENT**

**Why discernment regarding the truth and the will of God that must govern our lives is always necessary? It is not only necessary, but also indispensable, "conditio sine qua non".**

**What is discernment? It is the adaptation of the mind of the individual to the mind of God, of the will of the individual to the will of God, of the obedience of the individual to the true Word of God.**

**Between our mind, our will, our heart and mind, the will and the heart of our God there is the Holy Spirit as the one and only link. It is the Spirit of God who must put us in communion with God.**

**The Holy Spirit is of the Church, of the Body of Christ. Administrators and Givers of the Spirit are the Apostles. The priests cooperate in the gift and administration of the Spirit with the Apostles.**

**In communities it is up to priests to make discernment if our will, our desire and understanding of the Word corresponds to the will and to the desire for the truth of God placed in the Word.**

**It is evident that the presbyter, if he always wants to make every discernment according to the purity of truth and doctrine, must grow in the Holy Spirit, up to becoming the thought of his thought and truth of his truth.**

**Everyone reads the Word of Jesus, understands and lives it according to the growth of the Spirit that takes place in him. If the presbyter does not grow in the Spirit, he will always read the Word from his heart and not from the Spirit.**

**A weak spirit and a weak understanding. An absent spirit and an absent understanding. A dead spirit and a dead understanding. A strong spirit and a strong understanding. A living Spirit and a living Word. A holy Spirit and a holy understanding.**

**It is a right for who asks for discernment, receiving it in words of pure truth in the Holy Spirit. It is the duty of who gives discernment to be formed in the highest truth and holiness of the Holy Spirit.**

**A discernment according to truth, sanctifies life. A discernment in falsehood ruins a whole existence. From the word that the other person utters, one can measure his growth in the Holy Spirit. It is often non-existent.**

**BIGOTRY AND TRUE RELIGIOUSNESS**

**Bigotry is live in religious forms, sometimes even carried to the height of exaggeration, but without any soul of truth and holiness in them. You live the form for the form. The heart must always be added to the form.**

**When the heart is added to the form, then it is the Holy Spirit that gives secondary value, of content to all forms. When the Spirit of the Lord governs us, it is He who from time to time suggests the form.**

**The risk of reducing faith to only external forms is always possible. It is the temptation that always lurks in thoughts. When do we know we are bigots? When we see that the forms are there and the Word is absent.**

**The Lord asks of man only one thing: that he obeys his Word. The Word is everything for us. Then it will be the Holy Spirit who will suggest ways, methods, forms and always updated structures to live the Word.**

**When we live religion without the Word, it is then that we rush into bigotry. The Word and only the Word of Jesus must be the one and only end of our life. Everything else is needed, if it is useful for the purpose.**

**UNDERSTANDING AT THE RIGHT TIME**

**The Lord did not ask the man to understand his Word. Instead he asked for obedience to it. The understanding of the truth of the Word takes at the right time, that is, as it is lived.**

**The Lord did not explain to Adam his command not to eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. He forbade him to eat its fruit, otherwise he would have died. Adam ate and understood.**

**We do not even know the fruit that our obedience will produce tomorrow. We eat the Word of Christ Jesus and little by little understanding comes through the fruits that are produced.**

**We cannot reverse the order of things. It is not understanding first and obedience later. Obedience comes first and then understanding. One listens, he obeys, he produces and understands.**

**If one does not obey, one will gradually understand the death which is produced by non-obedience. Obedience is to the Word of Jesus the Lord. The Word is given, obeyed, produced, understood.**

**Today, we are falling into a blindness and deafness that prevents any understanding. Isaiah's prophecy is being fulfilled: "You have eyes and you do not see, you have ears and you do not hear and you have a mouth and you do not speak".**

**We do not see the death of vices. We do not see the devastation produced by laws against man. We do not see the spiritual moral disaster that our laws produce and generate. We are totally blind.**

**If we do not get converted to God, to his Gospel, to his law and to his Word, there will be no future of life for us. If we continue to exile Christ Crucified from our land, it will truly be the end for us.**

**HEART AT DISPOSAL OF GOD**

**What does to put our heart at the disposal of God mean? It means putting it at service for the fulfilment of his will. We know that the Lord needs our heart, in order to operate his salvation.**

**The farmer, in order to turn the earth over and to be able to plant his seeds or plants that give him the precious fruit, must have a hoe available. The farmer puts strength, intelligence, wisdom, art and science.**

**But it is the hoe that sinks into the earth and it is for it that the earth might be turned. Without the hoe, the farmer will never be able to work. But even without the farmer, the hoe might not turn a single clod.**

**The farmer is available to the hoe, the hoe is available to the farmer. In a perfect communion every job is possible. We know that God is always at our disposal: who is missing is us.**

**We are missing because our thoughts and our will are always elsewhere. We are never in the hands of God. We are often in the hands of our vices, sins, foolishness, insipidity, pride and vainglory.**

**THE GOD OF THE TRUTH OF GOD**

**For whoever teaches, it is more than necessary that he teaches the God of the truth of God. God has given the truth of himself. Who wants to teach must know the whole truth of God and according to this truth impart the teaching.**

**When the God of God's truth is not taught, one falls into human thought or his feeling, wanting and imagining. Today God is imagined and is thought. God is not given his truth, which in him is essence and substance.**

**Today we live in idolatry disguised as words of the Gospel. There is a creeping atheism proclaimed as respect for man. We witness the most immoral of immorality proclaimed as most pure love and right.**

**PRAYING FROM THE TRUTH OF GOD**

**What does praying from the truth of God mean? It means that our prayer is true, if we are truth of God's truth in Christ Jesus, in the communion of the Holy Spirit and if we want to become the truth of God.**

**We must always pray from the Word, in the Word and for the Word. The Word is that of Jesus given to us by the Church. If we pray in absence and against the Word, prayer is certainly not from the truth of God.**

**SHORT FINAL CONSIDERATIONS**

**The only Formator of man is the Heavenly Father. He forms for Christ, in the Holy Spirit, for the mediation of the Church, in whom every member of the body of Christ lives his special, particular, personal mission, charisma, ministry and vocation. Ministries, charismas, missions and vocations, cannot be interchanged. Everything in the Church is by sacrament received and all by obedience to one's own sacrament and to the gift of the Holy Spirit bestowed on each person. Formation is from mediation, but mediation can act only in the sacramental communion of every single person.**

***Forming is the verb of God. He takes the dust of the ground. He kneads, models, makes it an inert figure of it, without any life, blows the breath of life into its nostrils and the figure becomes a living being. For the work of God, the being has become a new being. From a being without it has become a being with life, a being in the image and likeness of God. Formation in God is the work of true creation. Let us observe well. The soil dust has been created by God. But it is lifeless. To give it life it is not even enough to model it, giving it a new image or figure. Something is needed that only God possesses. What does only God have? The exalation of life, the breath of life. A new formation is urgently needed for every man. With his sin he shattered, pulverized and reduced himself to dust from the ground an further to dust of death. Formation belongs only to God.***

***No one can form the crushed dust into a new living being. Only God can. He decided to form the man by taking a new dust this time. Together with the new dust, he also decided to give a new breath of life. The new dust is Christ Crucified. The new Spirit is the Holy Spirit of God. Christ Jesus forms man through his apostles. The apostles in the formation of man avail themselves of priests. The presbyters are helped by every member of the people of God. Who lets himself be formed by the presbyter without any interruption helps the presbyter. The presbyter must take the unformed matter of every single person, because this way it has been reduced by sin, make it the form of Christ Crucified and infuse the Holy Spirit into it. However, the presbyter must be a true imitator of God. He must first have in himself the image of Christ Crucified formed. He forms in the image and likeness of the Crucified Christ in his members. But this is not enough. It is also necessary that on the being that he forms he breaths the breath of life which is the Holy Spirit. But not the Holy Spirit that is in the blessed skies, but the Spirit of God, that has become his true life breath.***

***This is the limit of every formation: Christ Crucified formed in us and the Holy Spirit that is the breath of our breath and the life of our life. Without Christ Crucified in us and without the Holy Spirit there is no true formation. This truth reveals us a second truth: who has the spirit of immorality, of folly, of insipidity, of vice and of atheism will form according to this spirit. Whoever has a false Christ will form a false Christ. Let who wants to form, who is in charge of formation know that he might never transgress the rule of God. Forming is giving the form of Christ Crucified together with the breath of the Holy Spirit. The formed will form according to truth. When the breath of the true Holy Spirit is poured, then it is the Spirit of the Lord the one who takes the formed person and leads him according to the divine will. The formator gives life. The given life is guided by the Holy Spirit.***

**If one does not enter sacramental communion, formation will always be half way or even ineffective and vain, because one is in the impossibility of realizing it. Obedience to communion is necessary, indeed indispensable. But no obedience will be possible without the spirit of humility. Obedience, sacrament and humility must be one.**

**May the Mother of God, the humble and meek Woman, always available to obedience to God, in the Holy Spirit, obtain for us from her Son a humble and docile heart. May the Angels and Saints sustain us in our daily work so that it may be a true formation of Christ Crucified in the heart, in the minds and in the bodies of people who desire and want to realize themselves in Christ the Lord, through the work of the Holy Spirit and the mediation of the Church.**