**FRAGMENTS OF CHRISTIAN SPIRITUALITY**

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

**Catanzaro 12 March 2018**

**SOME RULES OF THE VINEYARD**

**In the Lord's vineyard there is work for everyone. Not only is there work. The workers are always few. The vineyard needs an uninterrupted work, without respite. However, to work well in it, it is necessary to respect some rules.**

**FIRST RULE**

**It is directly given by Jesus: "The harvest is a lot. The workers are few. Praying the Master of the harvest to send labourers for his harvest". Prayer must be uninterrupted.**

**Everyone must not only pray, he must also imitate Jesus Christ. He must invite other people so that they carry out with him the work in the Lord's vineyard. The Lord always adds new workers.**

**If other workers are not added by Him, it is a bad sign. Either we did not pray, we do not pray or we did not call and we do not call. Or else we do not do the work according to his will.**

**To whom has been asked his Word to be reminded, he must stop and remember his Word. Ways and means are without number. But the end must always be one. Reminding the Word of Jesus, his Gospel.**

**To whom has been asked to fill the House of the Father, he must commit himself to fill the house of the Father. You cannot go alone into the Father's house. If the house is not filled, it is a sign that we do not work out of obedience.**

**To whom has been told to aggregate other workers to his work group, it cannot always remain the same for half a century. If this happens it is a sign that one does not work according to the will of the Lord.**

**SECOND RULE.**

**In the Lord's vineyard, the work to be done is assigned by the Lord. You work for obedience not as you please. We do not do what we like, but we do what the Lord wants to be done. He commands, we obey.**

**Work in the vineyard can be compared to the work of the human body. As in the human body every part of it carries out its particular activity for the benefit of the whole body, so it is in the Lord's vineyard.**

**St. Paul reveals that the body is one, but it is made up of many people, each of whom lives a particular charisma and also a particular ministry. Obedience to the charisma and ministry give life to the body.**

**If we get out of obedience to the charisma and the ministry, we bring only damage to the Lord's vineyard. We do what we cannot do by absence of charisma, for a task not received. Obedience is everything.**

**The fruiting of the vineyard is not from the work of a single worker. It is the final result of all the workers. The obedience of each individual is essential so that the vineyard produces excellent results. This truth is missing in many hearts.**

**Only chaos reigns in the vineyard when everyone wants to do everything, without being able to do it because they are not formed by the Holy Spirit. In the Lord's vineyard, work is specific, personal, individual and unique.**

**THIRD RULE**

**In the Lord's vineyard we work out of obedience to the Lord, who assigns every place to every worker. The Lord assigns a place for each worker. He also assigns those who must supervise and how they must supervise.**

**Now the subject is delicate, indeed very delicate. In the Church of God obedience is always hierarchical. It is hierarchical in a double meaning. It is hierarchical in receiving the sacraments and also in pastoral ministries.**

**The Pope is the guardian of the unity of the Church in the will of Christ Jesus. He must pay attention so that everyone remains in the right faith, in the sound doctrine, in the true morality that arises from the revelation of our God.**

**The Bishop must preserve the particular Church in perfect hierarchical communion with the Pope and in the right faith, sound doctrine and true morality which are the patrimony of the one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church.**

**The parish priest must guard the flock entrusted to him in communion with the Bishop of the particular Church in which he is placed to rule the flock of Christ, nourishing him of the right faith, sound doctrine and perfect morality.**

**The lay faithful must always let himself be fed with the right faith, sound doctrine and perfect and holy morality of his parish priest. Every lay faithful is a true church of God if he belongs to a lawfully governed flock.**

**FOURTH RULE**

**Groups, Associations and Movements, while living their own, singular, spirituality, are obliged to belong to their parish and diocesan church, which are the essence of their being Christians.**

**Although they are guided by an Ecclesiastical Assistant, it is right to know that the Ecclesiastical Assistant is appointed by the Bishop to watch so that they always remain in the faith and morality of the Church.**

**The Ecclesiastical Assistant also supervises so that everything within the Association, Movement and Group, is carried out according to the norms of the Statute approved by the competent ecclesiastical authority.**

**The Association, the Movement and the Ecclesial Group are not parishes. Each member must necessarily live a parish and diocesan life. All are called to obedience to the parish priest and the bishop.**

**In the Parish, in the Diocese every Group, Movement, Association can work bringing in them the richness of their spirituality, but always in obedience and in communion with the parish priest and the bishop.**

**Particular Statutes and Parish or Diocesan Statutes must never be identified. It is always the particular Statute that must be inserted in the Parochial Statute and be put in perfect obedience to it.**

**FIFTH RULE**

**In the Lord's vineyard we must always work as skilled workers each according to his own charisma or the mystery and vocation given by the Holy Spirit. Specialization requires great learning.**

**We know that Jesus formed his disciples in the knowledge of his mystery. He dedicated three years of hard school to them, showing them his truth, leading them to the olive grove, the beginning of his passion.**

**Even after his glorious resurrection he dedicated them another forty days in order to complete the work of his instruction. Then he sent the Holy Spirit. But he never stopped being with them and helping them.**

**The formation of every worker of the Lord's vineyard is more than obligatory. It is a doctrinal, spiritual and moral formation. We must know Christ, to conform to Christ and to live like Christ.**

**Without this triple assiduous and permanent formation - knowing Christ, conforming to Christ and living as Christ and for Him - never might there be true work in the Lord's vineyard. There are no fruits.**

**Each one will lead to the Christ not of the Scriptures, not of the Sacraments and not of the true faith, but to the Christ that is in his heart. A deformed Christ deforms. A well-formed Christ in the heart and mind, forms.**

**SIXTH RULE**

**What do we know that we are forming in the formation in Christ, for Christ and with Christ from? From the moral life we ​​lead. It is made up of a destructive, or demolishing and an educational or perfective part.**

**The destructive part is in the elimination of vices: pride, avarice, lust, anger, gluttony, envy and sloth must be uprooted from the heart, mind, body and soul. Without this work of eradication there is no formation.**

**While evil is destroyed one must think of building the good that is given by the seven virtues, three theological and four cardinals: faith, hope, charity, justice, fortitude, prudence and temperance. They are the true dress of the Christian.**

**If you do not deal with the eradication of vices, the most persistent and tenacious is pride. Never might one conform to Christ who is the meek and the humble of heart. With pride in the heart, all work is for Satan.**

**The first virtue that must be worn as the permanent habit of our being disciples of Jesus is faith. Through it we obey every Word of the Lord, we listen to his voice, we let ourselves be led by the Spirit.**

**Either Christ is formed in us and we might work with Christ and for Christ, or we work in vain, because we do not produce any fruit. From the vice cannot build the kingdom of God that is justice, truth, love and obedience.**

**SEVENTH REGULATION**

**Another rule to be observed is the relationship with the sacramental sources of grace and truth. In the Church of God, the one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church, these springs are the presbyters, they are the bishops and it is the pope.**

**They are - in respect of hierarchical communion - the administrators of the mysteries God, the ministers of his truth, the shepherds placed by the Holy Spirit to hold the flock of the Lord and to preside work in his vineyard.**

**In the Church of the living God no one can give grace by himself. Everyone must receive it. It is received through the straight and holy celebration of the sacraments. The sacraments must be lived well, holily and with love.**

**But even nobody can give himself the truth. It is received. Truth, even if received directly by the Holy Spirit, by motion or illumination or revelation, always needs the seal of the ministry of the Word.**

**Being attentive, humble and thirsty listeners of the teaching of "the apostles", makes one grow in truth and in light. The more we grow in the truth of Christ and the more we can walk in his light. Growth is mandatory.**

**Without humble listening, the Holy Spirit withdraws from us, because his public, official and ecclesial teaching has been despised. In humility he transforms the Word heard into light and into truth for us.**

**These are just some of the rules that must necessarily be observed by those who want to work with fruit in the Lord's vineyard. One single rule neglected and our work risks total vanity and uselessness.**

**THE INVITATION OF JESUS**

**Going to Jesus does not mean going to Jesus simply and purely. I'll explain. I have an illness, I go to Jesus, I ask to take it away and he takes it for me. I am in poverty, I go to Jesus and He solves every problem.**

**Going to Jesus means going to the Jesus of the Word. One goes, he stands at his feet, asks for the grace that speaks to our heart, that shows us the way of truth and justice and that enlightens us with its powerful light.**

**Going to Jesus still means going to the Jesus of grace. Grace is received in the conversion of the heart, in repentance, by wearing the dress of justice and obedience to the Word of our God.**

**Going to Jesus is going to Jesus Master so that he enlightens us; to Jesus rich with grace and Holy Spirit, so that he may fill the soul of grace and of the Holy Spirit, to Jesus doctor so that he eradicates every cancer of vices.**

**Going to Jesus does not mean going before a statue of Jesus and asking all these things. Instead, it means going to the living Jesus who is the priest, his minister, the administrator of his grace, light and truth.**

**We often willingly go to the Jesus statue. One can and must also go. But first we must pass from the living Jesus that is in our Churches. It is He who must prepare us to go also to the Jesus Eucharist.**

**PRAYER TO JESUS**

**The first prayer to be raised to Jesus is a request for forgiveness for every sin committed against his love. In him, crucified for love, all the eternal love of the Father is visible. It is a love that deserves love.**

**Whoever wishes not to sin, not only must ask for forgiveness, he must also ask Jesus to bind us intimately to Him, in an indissoluble way, through his Holy Spirit. Who is in the Spirit does not sin.**

**Whoever does not want to sin against the love of Jesus anymore must also let himself be helped by his Mother, who is the Immaculate. Taken by the hand by the Virgin Mary, we will be led from love to love to perfect love.**

**However, the desire not to sin is not sufficient. The other desire must be added to it: that of reaching Christ in his perfection of obedience, to be pleasing to our heavenly Father.**

**IN GOD AND IN THE VIRGIN MARY**

**Is it possible today to overcome all the obstacles of evil that are on our path? It is possible if we walk with two certainties in the heart. Everything is possible if day by day we grow in the grace of the Lord.**

**Grace is so powerful a help that it is transformed into a bronze wall between us the, obstacles and dangers. It is an armour that always makes us resist the fiery darts of the enemy. Either we grow up in grace or we are prey to evil.**

**But everything is also possible on condition that we always ask God, in a prayer without interruption, to free us from all evil. Only He can free us from evil. It is not in the forces of man to free himself from it.**

**If we are faithful to growth in grace and to the daily, uninterrupted request to the Lord, surely the Lord through us will conquer evil and the world will know that we are entirely from him and through him.**

**DOUBLE EDGED SWORD**

**The Word of Jesus is a double-edged sword. It is a sword that never goes blank. Jesus speaks to you. Either you get converted and save yourself. Or you refuse his Word and there is no other way of salvation and redemption for you. Now, you know the way.**

**Today, all the evils of the world are the fruit of non-faith in the Word of Jesus. He says one thing, the Christian says the opposite and contrary thing. Thus acting he declares Jesus the Lord a liar and a deceiver.**

**If Jesus says that "we will perish in the Gehenna in the same way", and we say that the Gehenna does not exist, either we are liars and deceivers or He is a liar and deceiver. The Gehenna cannot both exist and not exist.**

**If He says, "I do not know you" and we say that He will know everyone and will introduce everyone in his sky, either we are liars and deceivers, or he is a liar and deceiver. Two truths that deny each other simultaneously cannot exist.**

**TRUE LOVE**

**The Christian is asked to love his neighbour as himself. Jesus says to us to love one another as He has loved us. If a Christian does not love himself according to truth and justice, never might he love with true love.**

**If a Christian detaches himself from Jesus Christ with heart and mind, he does not take him as the one and only Master of his life, he might never love like Jesus. He is not his Master. He did not choose him as a model.**

**He loves himself who uproots every vice that in his body, soul and spirit. He loves himself who is clothed with every theological and cardinal virtue. He loves himself who draws strength in the grace of Christ and every light in the Word.**

**Whoever does not live in a true relationship or rapport of pure listening and obedience to Christ, might never love his neighbour as himself. From obedience Jesus does not love himself from obedience, never might he love others.**

**THE PERSECUTION OF THE PROPHET**

**Why is the true prophet always persecuted? Persecution is the price that must always be paid to attest to the truth of the Word of the Lord being announced. The world is made of sin, falsity and deception.**

**The prophet comes and he wants to plant the Word of the Lord in this world of sin, falsehood and deception. For the prophet not to sow and not to plant the Word of God, he is disturbed in many ways and different forms.**

**If the prophet persists and perseveres in his sowing, the world may even come to ask for the shedding of his blood. So with the physical elimination you are sure that he will not speak again.**

**The prophet must know only one truth. God is his protection and his powerful defence. He will be done what the Lord allows it to be done to him. Knowing this, the prophet will welcome suffering and offer it.**

**WISE LIFE**

**When is life wise? When it is lived by the Word of the Lord, in the Word and for the Word. The more Christ Jesus' Word we live, the more our life will be filled with wisdom and Holy Spirit.**

**But if we are separated from the Word of the Lord, we can also live with carnal, diabolical wisdom, but certainly not with spiritual, Christian and holy wisdom. The Word is everything for man. The Word is life.**

**Whoever wants to live a wise life must day by day grow in obedience to the Word. There is no wisdom out of the Word, because out of the Word neither the grace nor the Spirit of the Lord operates.**

**The Spirit of the Lord works also out of the Word, but always to bring into the Word, into the Church, into the sacraments, into the virtues and into the communion of the only Body of the Lord Jesus. From the Word for the Word.**

**ALWAYS FARWORD**

**It is not enough to start. You must persevere until the end. The work is given by the completion of all previous actions. We plough the land, we sow, we wait for the grain to grow, we reap, we thresh and we bring into the granaries.**

**But the action is not over yet. We mill, knead, bake, cook and eat good bread. Perseverance is in completing all intermediate actions. Remaining in the vineyard is not persevering.**

**One does not persevere physically by remaining in the evangelical structure. He perseveres by bringing to fulfilment all the intermediate stages of salvation and redemption. Without realization of the stages, there is no final result.**

**RESPONSIBLE RESPONSIBILITY**

**Who has been invested with responsibility by the Holy Spirit, must carry out every action related to his ministry as a responsible person. Only one unrealized action makes him omitting in his mission of salvation.**

**Before taking on a role of responsibility, everyone must know what the terms of the employment contract are. The terms are dictated by God, not by man. Who hires is obliged to know what he hires.**

**The Church, before ordering a presbyter, takes many and many years to demonstrate what the terms of the assumption are. If the Church does not explain the terms well, the responsibility is hers, if then they are not to be lived.**

**Instead, if the Church has manifested the term of the employment contract and who assumes them, then does not observe them, he becomes responsible to God for omission in the office and in the ministry. The ministry is never given in vain.**

**PRAYING SINGING**

**One prays singing, if the soul and spirit and not just the body are also singing. When do soul and spirit sing? When the soul is in grace and the spirit in obedience to the Lord. They sing to bless the Lord.**

**SHORT FINAL CONSIDERATIONS**

**We have been called and sent to work in the Lord's vineyard. We need careful training to carry out the work that is asked of us with wisdom, science and effectiveness. Some rules must necessarily be known. Being known, they must be observed for all the days of our life, until when, that is, our work is not concluded.**

***In the Lord's vineyard we must always work as skilled workers each according to his own charisma or the mystery and vocation given by the Holy Spirit. Specialization requires great learning. We know that Jesus formed his disciples in the knowledge of his mystery. He dedicated three years of hard school to them, showing them his truth, leading them to the olive grove, the beginning of his passion. Even after his glorious resurrection he dedicated them another forty days in order to complete the work of his instruction. Then he sent the Holy Spirit. But he never stopped being with them and helping them. The formation of every worker of the Lord's vineyard is more than obligatory. It is a doctrinal, spiritual and moral formation. We must know Christ, to conform to Christ and to live like Christ. Without this triple assiduous and permanent formation - knowing Christ, conforming to Christ, living as Christ and for Him - never might there be true work in the Lord's vineyard. There are no fruits. Each one will lead to Christ not of the Scriptures, not of the Sacraments and not of the true faith, but to the Christ that is in his heart. A deformed Christ deforms. A well-formed Christ in the heart and mind, forms.***

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**Mother of God, you who have been very faithful to the work entrusted to you in the Vineyard of God, clothe all of us with your same fidelity. Angels and Saints, support our work, so that nothing is done from our will, but everything is carried out in the love of the Father, in the grace of Christ Jesus and in the communion of the Holy Spirit for all the days of our life.**