**FRAGMENTS OF CHRISTIAN SPIRITUALITY**

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

**Catanzaro 02 April 2018**

**JESUS ​​INVITES AT HIS DESK**

**Jesus gave Himself to us in the Eucharist so that, by nurturing really, substantially and truly of Him, we become similar to Him. What does to become similar to Him mean? Can a creature become like Him?**

**Jesus himself gives us the answer: "As I live for the Father, so he who eats me will live for me". What does to live for Christ mean? Doing the will of Christ in the same way that Christ does the will of the Father.**

**Jesus is very perfect in obedience until death by the cross. Even who feeds on Christ the Eucharist will be very perfect in obedience. He will make the Word of Christ his life as Christ makes the Word of the Father his life.**

**Similarity is in obedience because it is also in nature. Just as Jesus is pure nature wholly governed by the Holy Spirit. Thus also the nature of the Christian who feeds on the Eucharist will become very pure.**

**The Eucharist has within it the power to transform man according to the flesh into man according to the Holy Spirit. From an animal nature he makes it a spiritual nature. What was previously impossible to do, with the Eucharist becomes possible.**

**Eating Christ the Eucharist must not be only of the body; he must be eaten also in the spirit and the soul. The Eucharist is the nourishment of the whole man in all his parts. But often only the body eats it.**

**Neither the soul and not even the spirit eat it. But how do the soul and the spirit eat the Eucharist? With true hunger, true thirst and true desire to be transformed into heart and mind, a true yearning for perfect obedience.**

**A real aspiration to achieve full conformation to Christ in faith, hope and love. Examining our conscience and finalizing the Eucharist so that we free us from sin, even from the slight one.**

**One notices when he only eats the Eucharist with the body. Our spiritual life is stagnant in sin and in non-growth in virtues. Not even thoughts change. They always remain the same.**

**If soul, mind, spirit, feelings, desires, will and heart do not change, if one does not grow in virtues, if one does not decrease in vices it is a sign that only the body receives the Eucharist. Soul and spirit remain outside.**

**Then let us not speak of those who do not even receive it with the body, because years and years they stay away from the table of the Lord. It is urgent to realize that without the Eucharist there is no life of obedience to Christ.**

**Finally, today we have to highlight a bad tendency of the Christian: receiving the Eucharist in mortal sin, without any knowledge of the evil that is in us, without any knowledge of the very truth of the Eucharist.**

**AT THE TABLE OF JOY**

**Each of us is obliged to review the purpose for which he approaches the Lord's Table. But he is also called to change the ways of approaching the Lord's altar. Approaching by habit is now a fashion, a habit.**

**Once it was taught that to approach the Eucharist one had to be in the grace of God, with the soul without the mortal sin in it, knowing and thinking about who he is going to receive. And he has to be fasting for an hour.**

**In addition to the very serious thing that we are approaching with sin in the heart, without even being aware of sin and without any desire to be amended, we also stand as distracted, inattentive and unconscious persons.**

**Instead the Eucharist must be for all the sacrament of joy. One goes to be nourished with his own God, with eternal life, truth, light, grace, the Holy Spirit, the Father, resurrection and love.**

**After, this divine wealth must be transformed into our life. But if the Eucharist is received badly, it is also lived badly. If it is received with the body alone, what fruit might one ever produce? The soul is absent.**

**If one receives it in sin, we are faced with a true contradiction. It is given to remove sin, not to live with it, as if it were almost nothing. The Eucharist received holily sanctifies the world.**

**If I could use a strong word, I would say that the Eucharist is that sacrament in which all God - Father and Son and Holy Spirit - is "transformed" into us, is transubstantiated, so that we transubstantiate in him.**

**I know it. It is a strong expression, out of every theological and real language. Some expressions are sometimes needed so that we can approximate a little to the great mystery. Without "transubstantiation", one lives badly.**

**On the other hand, the ancient Fathers said that God became man so that man could become God. understood in the Holy Spirit, every expression, even if it is strongly inadequate or inappropriate, reveals a truth.**

**In truth, I am interested in only one thing: that is the great, unspeakable, eternally incomprehensible mystery of the Eucharist is received by the whole man; soul, spirit and body, respecting its purpose.**

**The Eucharist is the new tree of life. Whoever eats of this tree according to truth, walks towards eternal life and the glorious resurrection. Every spiritual sickness attests that Christ is eaten badly.**

**When a Christian community is confused, immersed in sin, it is the source of every vice, in it the virtues do not grow and we do not live according to the Spirit, but according to the flesh, it is a sign that the Eucharist is received badly.**

**With those outside one must start with the gift of the true Word. With those from within one must always begin, without ever interrupting, with the right, holy, devoted, composed, respectful, participation in the Eucharist.**

**THE TRUE MISSION**

**The true mission of the Christian is not the proclamation of the Gospel, it is instead the announcement of having found the Author of the Gospel, he who is our Gospel, our truth, our grace and our eternal life.**

**A clear distinction must be made between Christ Jesus and every other founder of religion, or philosopher or thinker or ideologue of salvation. Salvation for the Christian is not to obey a law, a statute and a precept.**

**Salvation for the Christian is to follow Christ, to listen to Christ, to obey Christ, to imitate Christ and to become one with him in Christ. The Christian places Christ at the centre of his faith.**

**His faith is in Christ. Being in Christ he is in his Word, truth, grace, eternal life, cross and resurrection. But not as its own separated realities, but as one "essence", one body and one life.**

**But this still is not enough: as one Word, one obedience, one listening, one cross, one resurrection and one eternity. The true mission is to invite to this encounter with Christ and to bring to Christ.**

**Jesus preached the Gospel of God, the Gospel of the Father that was Himself. Christ and the Gospel are one. We are called to preach the Gospel of Jesus and Jesus the Gospel of God. But how?**

**We and the Gospel must be one. Indeed we are the Gospel of Christ, in Christ, like Christ, in the Father is the Gospel of the Father. This happens if you live in the full and perfect communion of the Holy Spirit.**

**Just as Christ Jesus is the most pure Gospel of God, so also the Christian must be the most pure Gospel of Christ. This is the vocation of the Christian. As the Gospel of Christ, showing Christ, we must bring to Christ.**

**Like Christ, the true Gospel of God, brings to the Father. Or more perfectly: the Father gives to Christ so that Christ may lead to him in the most true holiness, so it must also happen with the Christian. Christ gives to the Christian.**

**But which Christian does he give to? He gives to the Christian that is the Gospel of Christ. He gives to the Christian, so that the Christian, in him, through him and with him, sanctifies the donated hearts and hands them over to him sanctified, renewed and purified.**

**It is evident that if the Christian is not the Gospel of Christ, never might he bring to Christ, because Christ does not give him souls to be sanctified and brought to him. The non holy cannot sanctify and the non pure purify. A vain mission.**

**As Christ lived at the peak of perfection his mission of full and total obedience to the Father, so the Christian will live his mission at the height of perfection in full and total obedience to Christ Jesus.**

**TRUE INVITATION**

**Who can proclaim Christ to his brothers? Who made Christ his Gospel, his life, his truth and his everything. If Christ is out of the missionary, he will always speak of him as a distant and absent reality.**

**Who lived far from Christ gradually also separates from his Word. There remains some residue of morality in the conscience. But this is not enough to live our evangelical mission. Christ is needed.**

**Just as Christ and the Father are one Gospel - Christ is the Gospel of the Father - so the Christian and Christ must be one Gospel. The Christian must be the Gospel of Christ. When is this possible?**

**It is possible when the Christian becomes the life of Christ, one life, just as Christ is the life of the Father, one life. If Christian and Christ are two different things, never will the Christian be the Gospel of Christ in the world.**

**Then it is right that every disciple of Jesus asks himself: am I the true Gospel of Christ Jesus? I am the true Gospel of Christ if I am the true life of Christ. If I am not the true life, I cannot even be the true Gospel.**

**But if I am not the true Gospel, I am not even the true Word, true witness and true missionary. Everything is in the Christ - Christian relationship. If this relationship is false, the mission is false. If it is true, the mission is true.**

**If it is superficial, the mission will be superficial. If there is no relationship, neither might there be any evangelizing mission. The Christian says the Word living it, he announces Christ by manifesting him.**

**Jesus loves the Father. He is the life of the Father from the Father. The Christian loves Christ. He is the life of Christ from Christ. The evangelizing mission becomes love toward man. He wants to bring every lifeless man into the life of Christ.**

**But if we say that we do not need Christ to have life, if we affirm that Christ is no longer necessary so that every man is in life, it is a sign that true faith in Christ is dead in our hearts.**

**If our faith is dead, Christ also died in us. If Christ died, every other dead is equal to every other dead. Every disciple of Jesus is obliged to keep alive the true faith in Christ and grow in it.**

**History every day places us on the top of the mountain, in whose valley there are only dry bones of dead people. Only Christ can infuse in them the Spirit of their resurrection. The Christian is the one who has to bring the Spirit.**

**But if the Christian has not risen in Christ himself he cannot even bring the Spirit. Without the Spirit in him, he does not even see that the bones are dry. He does not see. He is blind, does not speak, he is mute and does not listen. He is deaf. The bones remain bones.**

**Who reads Chapter XXXVII of the Book of the prophet Ezekiel will witness a unique event in the history of salvation. The prophet sees the bones, on the Lord's command he invokes the Spirit and life returns to the bones.**

**THE DOCTOR OF THE SKY**

**Jesus says: Come to me all you who are tired and oppressed, I will give you rest. What is the rest that Jesus gives to those who go to Him? Give the rest of truth, of grace, of light, of life and of hope.**

**With the restoration of the truth Jesus frees us from the slavery of sin and death, of falseness and ignorance of God and of man, of injustice and immorality, of the kingdom of Satan and leads us into the kingdom of his Father.**

**With the restoration of grace he gives us all strength to be able to live in the truth that we have become. Our truth now is that of being the body of Christ, the living temple of the Holy Spirit and sons of adoption of the Father.**

**With the restoration of light, Jesus always illuminates our eyes so that we can always remain on the right path that leads to the eternal kingdom of God, his heaven and his paradise. With this light we see the light.**

**With the restoration of life the Father, eternal, divine, immortal, holy, pure, true life, in Christ, through the Holy Spirit, is made the life of the Christian. The life of the Father, in Christ, through the Holy Spirit, is received in the sacraments.**

**This life, which is God himself, is daily nourished through the sacrament of the Eucharist, the frequent attendance to the sacrament of penance, the uninterrupted prayer and the works of charity.**

**If life is not fed, it gradually is extinguished like a lamp in which oil is not added. Our oil is God. But he must be drawn through our good will.**

**With the rest of hope, Christ pours into our hearts the Holy Spirit and He will always make us know the eternal end of our every action, word, mission, thought and desire. The eternal end is everything for man.**

**The fact that today Christians have transformed the primary end or primary ends with the secondary, futile ends of vanity, sin, folly and insipidity, is a sign that they lack the true refreshment of hope.**

**The Spirit of the Lord is absent from the heart and mind of the disciple of Jesus and it is due to this absence that the end or primary ends have been lost. Lacking the Holy Spirit, the flesh has taken its upper hand.**

**When the flesh takes over, the primary ends are always abandoned and replaced with secondary, ephemeral and vain ends. Even the Gospel, the primary end of the Christian, is replaced with the thoughts of the earth.**

**That the flesh triumphs in us and not the Holy Spirit is attested by the choices of our life. The family according to God is dying. The Church according to God is dying. The Gospel according to God is dying.**

**All this is dying, because the Christian according to Christ is dying. Even the Christian has transformed the primary aim of his mission into a multiple series of secondary ends that give no true life.**

**FOR CHRIST TO THE FATHER**

**Christ does not lead to himself, but attracts to himself to bring to the Father. He attracts disastrous souls, purifies them in his blood, sanctifies them in the Holy Spirit, makes them perfect in love and hands them over to the Father in true justice.**

**The Christian, imitating Christ, but even before letting himself be renewed by Christ, in the Holy Spirit, attracts souls to himself in order to purify them, in Christ and through the Holy Spirit, so as to be able to deliver them to Christ in true holiness.**

**Christ Jesus, in the Holy Spirit, hands them over to the Father. For the Christian, in Christ and for the Holy Spirit, to Christ. For Christ, in the Holy Spirit, to the Father. The mission is perfect if the souls can be given to the Father.**

**If the soul does not pass from us to Christ, the mission is vain. It attests that we are not really of Christ. Christ did not give us to the Father. We are not of Christ. No one might be of Christ for us.**

**A good missionary of Christ Jesus always verifies his relationship with Christ. If it is badly lived, every relationship with the other souls will be badly lived. The life of the missionary is from Christ. Always.**

**JESUS ​​NEST OF LOVE**

**We have already spoken in the previous Fragments of Christian spirituality of the parish nest of love. But when will the parish become a real nest of love for us? When Jesus is truly a nest of love for us.**

**But what does it mean for us to make Jesus our true nest of love? It means choosing his heart and making it become our home. It is in this house that every life, every truth, every hope and every peace are found.**

**When the heart of Christ becomes our true home, the heart of the Father also becomes our home and we become the house of God and of Christ, in the Holy Spirit, among our brothers. It is our true mystery.**

**If God, in Christ, through the Holy Spirit, lives in our house, because we are in his house, in our house we can invite every person to make an encounter with the Father, in Christ, for the Holy Spirit.**

**If the heart of Christ is not our nest of love, not even our heart will be the nest of love for Jesus. Since we are empty of Him because He is empty of us, who meets us meets the void. He will never meet Christ.**

**But if the other person does not meet Christ in us, who can he meet him in? Here then is the right question to ask: Does who meet me, meet Jesus Christ in me? If Christ is not met, everything becomes useless. Nothing has value.**

**SAVOURED EUCHARIST**

**Whoever wants Jesus to be his true nest of love, nest of eternal life, of peace and true holiness, must make of the heart a true nest of love for Jesus the Eucharist. It must be received in the greatest, most true and holiest love.**

**The Eucharist is received to grow in love, so that the next time it is received, the heart is not the same, but transformed by its power of holiness, justice, truth and perfect obedience to the father.**

**It is certainly not a good sign to receive the Eucharist today with the same degree of holiness as yesterday. It is so rich in grace as to make we grow in every grace and truth, justice and holiness. Every Eucharist received must raise us up.**

**This is why it is right that the desire to receive the next Eucharist grows in us with a greater love, more true charity, more authentic holiness and the will to defeat even the smallest sins or imperfections.**

**Never one must become accustomed to the Eucharist. Whoever becomes accustomed to the Eucharist become accustomed to the mediocrity of his holiness and of his spiritual growth. But also to the mediocrity of the mission and of every other responsibility.**

**Getting used to the Eucharist is certainty that from mediocrity we then move on to the transgression of the commandments, even in the most serious form. But if we grow in love for the Eucharist, everything grows in us day by day.**

**It is right every now and then to make a good examination of conscience also in relation to the sacrament of the Eucharist: after the last Eucharist received, have I grown in wisdom, grace, love, justice, truth, faith and hope?**

**If I have not grown, it is right that I commit myself so that this can happen, otherwise I will have received in vain this sacrament of eternal life. I did not receive it in order to realize in me all the life contained in it.**

**WHAT THE VIRGIN MARY WANTS**

**It is right every now and then to ask ourselves: What does the Virgin Mary want from us? What is her wish? She has only one desire: that every man makes of the heart of Christ his nest of love. That Christ may live in every heart.**

**How might this happen? If the disciple of Jesus makes of his heart the nest of love for Jesus. If he becomes the Gospel of Christ in the world as Christ is the Gospel of the Father. This desire of hers is great.**

**Only that Christian, that has made and wants to make the Gospel of Christ his Gospel, might carry out the mission of proclaiming the Gospel in the world. We become the Gospel of Christ, we announce the Gospel of Christ.**

**FROM THE CHANGE OF LIFE**

**Young people are powerful missionaries to young people. Those who live without Christ, delivered to evil, will drag many other young people away from Christ and deliver them to evil. Everyone leads to the God he adores.**

**The worshiper of evil will lead to evil. If the young become with their life the true Gospel of Christ Jesus, they will lead to Christ Jesus. We bring there where our hearts are. It could not be otherwise.**

**A young man might bring to Christ Jesus only from the change of his life. If Christ is in his heart, in his spirit and in his body, he will manifest Christ, he will attract to Christ and will lead to Christ. The effective way.**

**UNIVERSAL PRAYER**

**If the Christian wants to pray according to truth, he must always ask the Holy Spirit to show us the thoughts of the Father, his will and his desires. We know and ask the Lord according to his will.**

**SHORT FINAL CONSIDERATIONS**

**The true Christian is revealed by the truth of his mission, just as a true fisherman manifests himself in the science and art he uses to fish. Just as he is not a true fisherman the one who throws the nets into the sea and always pulls them empty, so he does not reveal to be a true Christian who leaves the nets of the kingdom always empty of new souls. The Christian is true if his mission is true. His mission is true if he brings souls to Christ. This is why he must become a true Christian, that is, he must become the true Gospel of Christ in the world, in the midst of his brothers. If he does not become the Gospel of Christ, never might he attract one single soul Christ. He misses the net that is himself transformed into the Gospel of Christ.**

***The true mission of the Christian is not the proclamation of the Gospel, it is instead the announcement of having found the Author of the Gospel, he who is our Gospel, our truth, our grace and our eternal life. A clear distinction must be made between Christ Jesus and every other founder of religion, or philosopher or thinker or ideologue of salvation. Salvation for the Christian is not to obey a law, a statute and a precept. Salvation for the Christian is to follow Christ, to listen to Christ, to obey Christ, to imitate Christ and to become one with him. The Christian places Christ at the centre of his faith. His faith is in Christ. Being in Christ he is in his Word, truth, grace, eternal life, cross and resurrection. But not as his own realities, but as one "essence", one body and one life.***

***But this still is not enough: as one Word, one obedience, one listening, one cross, one resurrection and one eternity. The true mission is to invite to this encounter with Christ and to bring to Christ. Jesus preached the Gospel of God, the Gospel of the Father that was Himself. Christ and the Gospel are one. We are called to preach the Gospel of Jesus and Jesus the Gospel of God. But how? We and the Gospel must be one. Indeed we are the Gospel of Christ, in Christ, like Christ, in the Father is the Gospel of the Father. It happens if you live in the full and perfect communion of the Holy Spirit. Just as Christ Jesus is the most pure Gospel of God, so also the Christian must be the most pure Gospel of Christ. This is the vocation of the Christian. As the Gospel of Christ, showing Christ, we must bring to Christ.***

***Like Christ, the true Gospel of God, brings to the Father. Or more perfectly: the Father gives to Christ so that Christ may lead to him in the most true holiness, so it must also happen with the Christian. Christ gives to the Christian. But which Christian does he give to? He gives to the Christian that is the Gospel of Christ. He gives to the Christian, so that the Christian, in him, through him and with him, sanctifies the donated hearts and hands them over to him sanctified, renewed and purified. It is evident that if the Christian is not the Gospel of Christ, he might never bring to Christ, because Christ does not give him souls to sanctify and bring to him. He cannot the non holy sanctify and cannot the non pure purify. A vain mission. As Christ lived at the peak of perfection his mission of full and total obedience to the Father, so the Christian will live his mission at the height of perfection in the full and total obedience to Christ Jesus.***

**The fruits of the mission reveal the truth of our being in Christ, the Gospel of Christ. The mission is true, not because we gather together to do something for ourselves. It is true if it brings other souls to the heart of Christ. We are the ladder to enter the heart of Christ if we live in the heart of Christ. If we are in the suburbs, we will take even the souls to the suburbs. But if we are in the heart of Christ, we will also bring the souls to the heart of Christ. The Christian becoming the heart of Christ, becomes the Gospel of Christ, is transformed into a true missionary of Christ. There are no other routes for a mission rich in many fruits.**

**May the Mother of God help us to become the true heart of Christ, to be true Gospel of Christ. It is the right way for many souls to be attracted to Christ the Lord. May she be the one to watch over us, so that we never leave the heart of Christ. We would no longer be the true Gospel of Christ and not even his true missionaries. We miss the heart of the mission that is the heart of Christ. May the Angels and Saints act for us as a fortress so that we never leave the heart of Christ. For us it would be a failure in time and in eternity. If we are in the heart of Christ, our nets will always be empty. The heart of Christ is the net that draws souls for him.**