**FRAGMENTS OF CHRISTIAN SPIRITUALITY**

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

**Catanzaro 23 April 2018**

**PRESENCE IN THE SPIRIT**

**The disciple of Jesus knows that in a place he can be present with the body, without the spirit and without the soul. It is a vain presence. But he can always be present with the spirit, when with the body it is impossible.**

**When is one present with the spirit? When our heart is there where we would like to be with the body, but without it being possible, as in the case of illness, suffering and other difficulties not dependent on us.**

**But there is a special presence in the spirit which is that of the prophets. It is the presence of the spirit that sees and hears as if one were really present with the body. This presence is the perfection of presences.**

**When one is present with the body, he can also be distracted, the attention could fail. You see with your eyes. When prophets are present in spirit in one place, they see with the very eyes of God.**

**But they see what the Lord wants them to see and hear what the Lord wants them to hear. When the Lord wants, He grants his prophet the knowledge of what is in every heart.**

**We are asked for a presence of communion in prayer, so that the Lord carries out also without our presence what was in our ability to do. We are not there, but it is as if we were there.**

**This presence of communion in prayer is essential for who must fulfil a mandate received. You are not present, send your Guardian Angel, the Virgin Mary and Christ the Lord so that they are the ones to work.**

**But you can say: But they are already there. They are there for others, but not for you. Your presence is missing. It must be filled. The mission is yours too. You cannot be missing. The Angel, the Mother of God and Jesus take your place.**

**This presence in spirit in prayer must never be lacking in carrying out our mission. the Lord always sends his Spirit to do what is his. We must also send the spirit.**

**If there is love for the mission this happens. It is done. If love is little, we forget, we do not remember and we live as if the mission did not belong to us. Absence says lack of love and lack of desire.**

**CHOSEN AND CALLED FOR AN END**

**When the Lord calls and chooses, he calls and chooses for an end. The Lord does not call a person for multiple ends. The purpose is particular and the mission is also particular, because the person is particular.**

**A Pope is called to be a Pope. A bishop to be a bishop. A presbyter to be a presbyter. A deacon to be a deacon. A confirmed to be a witness of Jesus and a baptized child of God.**

**For the called one to live his special, particular and personal vocation, the Holy Spirit gives personal charismas. Charismas must be used for the exclusive service of one's own particular mission.**

**If vocation, election, mission and particular grace remain one, the Holy Spirit is always made life of vocation, election, mission and particular grace. Without the Spirit nothing can be operated.**

**If fidelity to the vocation, election, mission and particular grace is lacking, the Spirit withdraws and even the "natural" gifts cannot be exercised anymore according to truth. The Holy Spirit is like water for trees.**

**Even the richest tree of life, if it is deprived of water or the sky or the earth or the subsoil, has no chance of survival. When the Spirit withdraws because of our infidelity, it is the end.**

**Since in the mission of evangelization, or of the gift, or of the remembrance, or of the announcement of the Gospel, it is the Holy Spirit that must convert the hearts after and while the Word is announced, if He is absent, all ends.**

**For the Holy Spirit to be able to work the one called, the chosen one, the sent must remain faithful to the mandate received. He was called to fulfil a particular will of God, not for other wills.**

**Other wills, even if they belong to God for others, are not for him. If Jonah is sent to Nineveh, he must go to Nineveh. If Moses was sent to Egypt, he must go to Egypt. Loyalty to the command is everything.**

**Everyone is obliged to know what his vocation, his election and his mission even in the smallest details are. He will have to know every command of the Lord inherent to it. Everything must be from the Spirit.**

**Who is sent to remind the Word, he must know the Word. For this it is necessary to educate oneself, to form oneself in the knowledge of the Word according to the truth placed in it by the Holy Spirit.**

**The training must be uninterrupted. We leave the formation, we fall into the thought of man. There is no gift of the Word, but communication of thoughts of the earth. You do not live the mission. Salvation is not worked.**

**When one detail of the will of God is omitted, salvation is no longer accomplished. If then the mission is to be done in communion, if one fails in his mystery, all the others lack that particular grace.**

**In order for the mission to succeed every single person must put every commitment so that fidelity may be lived for it at the height of self-denial and sacrifice. From his loyalty is the life of others.**

**THE WILL OF CHRIST JESUS**

**The will of Jesus on the missionary of his Word is twofold. The missionary is of Jesus because he has handed his life over to him. If the missionary is of Christ for the mission, he can no longer be of himself.**

**Who gives himself to the will of Christ gives himself forever. We do not give ourselves to Jesus for a fixed or an indeterminate time and not even for a project. We give ourselves entirely to him: soul, spirit and body, forever, for life.**

**The missionary of Jesus must have this science and conscience: I belong to Jesus. I no longer belong to myself. I cannot do what I want. I have to do what He asks. I cannot say what I want, but what He wants.**

**If this science and conscience fail, we say we are of Christ, but we are only of ourselves, our own thoughts, aspirations, wills and desires. We are from others, from the thought and the will of others.**

**Being from the thoughts and wills, desires and aspirations of others is true betrayal of Christ Jesus. In this temptation we fall more than what we think. For a friendship, Jesus is betrayed.**

**For a company, Jesus Christ is denied. To go behind the thought of the other Christ Jesus is sold. The tempter is responsible for his temptation. The tempted is responsible for his denial or betrayal.**

**Being from the will of Christ Jesus obliges to tell the world that we cannot be of anybody else because we are of Christ Jesus. A powerful power and light coming from the Holy Spirit urge to do this.**

**The second will of Jesus concerning his missionaries reveals to us that Jesus makes himself their shield, their strength and their defence. They can go and live their mission because Jesus will always be with them and for them.**

**Knowing that Jesus is his shield and his defence, the missionary lives his mission knowing that what happens in difficulty and contrasts have only one aim: proving his love, his fidelity and his perseverance.**

**Just as Jesus was put to the test until he died on the cross, and the things he suffered made him perfect, so it is for everyone of his missionaries. He must also be tried to be able to achieve the highest perfection.**

**THE MISSION ACCORDING TO CHRIST JESUS**

**Today, the mission according to Christ Jesus can be carried out living well three simple words: Go. Save. Convert. Go. Where one is? One goes where he is. It is not a physical, but a spiritual going. You go to the heart of the other. You enter it.**

**Why do you go to the heart of the other? To sow in it the Word that saves and redeems, changes life and transforms it. But is it enough to sow the Word? No. The heart must be invited to conversion, to adherence to the Word.**

**But is it enough to invite to conversion, to adherence to the Word? No. You must also invite him to the sacraments of salvation. Where are the sacraments of salvation received? In the one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church.**

**Is it enough to receive the sacraments of salvation? This is not enough either. True conversion is the path from truth to truth in order to achieve one's own sanctification. But is it enough to sanctify yourself to be okay?**

**This is not enough either. We must go, save, convert. Salvation is true, conversion is true, sanctification is true if it becomes a true mission of proclamation and remembrance for the conversion of the world.**

**If one does not go spiritually into the heart of the other to sow the Word, there is mission. The end of the mission that is to bring every other man into the heart of Jesus is missing. Going for body encounters is of no use.**

**Everyone is obliged to examine his mission, whether it is in the truth of Christ, or in the falsity of the world. The mission is always in the falsity of the world, if the Word is not sown in the heart.**

**The mission is always according to the falsity of the world, if the heart is not invited to adhere to the Word and to let itself be transformed by the sacraments of the Church, in order to begin a life of mission for the salvation of all.**

**This will of Jesus according to these three words - going, saving and converting - will never have to be altered. Every day you have a thousand possibilities to enter the heart of the other and it is not done.**

**It is a serious omission for those called to go, to save and to convert, to leave the heart without the seed of the Word and without an explicit invitation to conversion to Christ Jesus, in his Church and to form one body.**

**A missionary of Christ might never be presented to a man as a man, but always as a missionary. It is his nature, his essence and his life. The mission must always be lived from the will of Jesus the Lord.**

**WITNESSES OF CHRIST**

**The witness to Christ is rendered in one true and perfect way: by attesting before every man who dwells on earth that his every Word is true and that it can be lived, because we live it in every moment.**

**Without the witness of life, exemplary in everything, the other will believe that one thing is Christ, one thing is the Word and one thing is life. As we are disciples without Word, so they can be without Word.**

**One thing must never be forgotten. If the Word is not in the heart, never might it be on the lips. If the Word is not lived, it will not even be said. If we say it, we say it without any truth. We say it in a false way.**

**Whoever wants to be a true witness of Christ must lead a perfect Gospel life. Even a single venial sin hinders the full faith in Jesus Lord. A single fly spoils the perfumer's ointment (Qo).**

**WITH THE LOVE OF THE VIRGIN MARY**

**The Virgin Mary is the Mother that Christ Jesus entrusted to us from the Cross, while he was crucified. He gave her to us, so that she took us by the hand and always led us on the right path of his Word.**

**Mary gave Christ to the world. Jesus gives Mary to his disciples. It is a necessary gift. Who does not have Mary as his true Mother, before all things does not love Christ. He might never love the Gospel. He does not know it.**

**Whoever has to lead us and make us remain on the path of the Gospel is only Her. With Her in the heart and on the lips we will always recognize the true Christ, the true Word of Christ, the true Church of Christ and we will live as true Christians.**

**WITH THE ASSISTANCE OF THE ANGELS**

**The Guardian Angel and the Angels of God must also be invoked. They must be more than the shield and the armour for the soldier. A soldier without defence weapons is prey to his opponent. The body must be protected.**

**So the Christian. The Guardian Angel, if invoked by him, and the other Angels act to him as a wall, a rock, a bulwark of defence, protection and custody against all the assaults of the rebel and unfaithful Angels to God.**

**IN PARISHES**

**Why does every disciple of Jesus have to be inserted in the parish? Because the Parish is the house of Christ, the house of the Eucharist, the house of Grace and Truth, the house of the Shepherd and the spiritual home of the sheep.**

**It is in this house that the disciple of Jesus lives his mission of evangelization. It is in this house that he co-operates as the true body of Christ to the building up of the kingdom of God. A homeless disciple is lifeless.**

**In the parish the disciple of Jesus goes not to necessarily do something, but to learn how to live the Gospel, helping as he can, others so that they too live the Gospel.**

**WALKING IN THE WILL OF THE LORD**

**To walk in the will of the Lord it is necessary that every day everyone denies himself, takes the cross of the Word of Jesus, listens to his voice and walks behind him, living the Gospel in truth and charity.**

**Those who walk in the will of the Lord will help the other not so that he walks according to his will or the will of other men, but only by listening to the Holy Spirit that speaks to the heart through the Gospel read and heard.**

**WITH CONSTANT PRAYER**

**The disciple of Jesus knows that everything in him and in others, in the whole world, is by the grace of Christ the Lord. He also knows that grace must be asked to the Heavenly Father with an incessant prayer. Everything must be asked of the Father. Everything is grace.**

**The disciple of Jesus cannot ask as an enemy of Jesus, an enemy of the Father and of the Holy Spirit. We pray in the grace of God, as true friends and brothers of Jesus, as the true temple of the Holy Spirit and true sons of the Father.**

**SHORT FINAL CONSIDERATIONS**

**There is a truth that must never be forgotten. God calls, elects, chooses and sends. Whoever is chosen, called, elected and sent always receives a command from God to live until he himself intervenes and modifies it. When it comes to the sacraments, the command is intimately linked to the consecration to Christ that is performed in the sacrament. The command is the same for everyone. Even the powers are the same for everyone. What is different is the personal charisma, the development and the vitality of the charisma and also the efficacy of the Holy Spirit that depends on our gospel life. Everything is from fidelity to the mandate received, but also everything is from the development of charismas and growth in the Holy Spirit. There is no operational equality in the kingdom of God, because although we all receive the same Spirit and each one his gift, some put it to the best advantage, some less and some for nothing.**

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***The Holy Spirit is like water for the trees. Even the richest tree of life, if it is deprived of water or the sky or the earth or the subsoil, has no chance of survival. When the Spirit withdraws because of our infidelity, it is the end. Because in the mission of evangelization, or of the gift, or of the remembrance and or of the announcement of the Gospel, it is the Holy Spirit the one that must convert the hearts after and while the Word is announced, if He is absent, all ends. For the Holy Spirit to be able to work the one called, the chosen one, the sent must remain faithful to the mandate received. He was called to fulfil a particular will of God, not for other wills. The other wills, even if they belong to God for others, they are not for him. If Jonah is sent to Nineveh, he must go to Nineveh. If Moses was sent to Egypt, he must go to Egypt. Loyalty to the command is everything. Everyone is obliged to know what his vocation, his election, his mission even in the smallest details, is. He will have to know every command of the Lord inherent in it. Everything must be from the Spirit.***

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**May the Mother of God, Angels and Saints, help us to grow in grace and wisdom, with God and with men, because only from this ordered growth it is possible to be faithful to the mandate received. Where there is no growth in grace and wisdom, one is already stunted in the heart, mind, thoughts, desires and aspirations of salvation and redemption. Thinking of being equal to others in the Holy Spirit is possible provided that one is equal to the others in growth in grace and wisdom, and every other virtue. The difference is made by the sacrament that is received, but also by the good will of the man that walks by listening to the Holy Spirit.**