**FRAGMENTS OF CHRISTIAN SPIRITUALITY**

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

**Catanzaro 14 May 2018**

**FREEDOM AND OBEDIENCE**

**Freedom for those who believe in Christ Jesus is very pure obedience not to the Law of the Lord, not to the Gospel, not to a very high morality and nor even to a code of holiness. Instead it is obedience to the Holy Spirit.**

**It is the Spirit of the Lord who must teach us how to live the Law of the Lord, his Gospel and the very morality. Who can guide the Holy Spirit? Only whoever day by day lets himself be renewed in his nature.**

**How does one let himself be renewed in nature? Immersing ourselves in the sacraments of the Church, receiving them with faith, dwelling in the Word of Jesus, living it with ever new obedience. Freedom is in the Word.**

**Obedience is to the Word, but not understood by our heart or our mind, by our science or intelligence, but just as the Holy Spirit teaches it individually to each heart, day after day.**

**Since obedience is to the Word and to the Spirit, being the Spirit and the Word of the body of Christ, it is only in the body of Christ, as the Body of Christ, that we can live our obedience in perfect freedom.**

**What then is freedom for a Christian? Delivering our dead, wrecked, broken, crushed and scrapped nature to the Holy Spirit so that he may recreate it in Christ, and so that after having recreated it, He is the one who will leads it.**

**If the new creation and the perennial conduction of the Spirit are lacking, there is no real freedom. A nature in death or consummated by vice might never live with freedom. It is a slave to death, sin and vice.**

**Whoever is a new nature, led by the Spirit, will always let the Spirit make every other nature new and will always allow the Spirit to lead it as he is led. The Spirit is freedom and must be left free.**

**If a Christian receives a gift from the Holy Spirit and lives it in the freedom of the Spirit, he will always let the Spirit give the charismas according to his will and move who received him to live by his will.**

**Impediments, obstacles, contrapositions, wars and conflicts arise only when one remains in the flesh. Who is in the flesh acts according to the flesh. Whoever is from the Holy Spirit will always work from the motion of the Spirit.**

**In the Spirit, freedom and obedience are one. The Spirit creates new nature in Christ and the Spirit, always in Christ, moves and leads it. Whoever remains old in nature will be a slave to it.**

**VICTORY OVER TEMPTATION**

**What is a temptation? It is every direct or indirect invitation, with words or deeds, so that we withdraw from the government of the Holy Spirit and take life in our hands, according to our will and our desires.**

**A temptation comes because we take our life away from the government of the Lord and place it under the government of the creature. He who falls into temptation lives of disobedience to God, both in doing evil and in doing good.**

**He does the evil forbidden by the Lord. He does the good not commanded by Him. Not corresponding to his nature. The temptation so that the good commanded by the Lord is not done today is a real scourge for every disciple of Jesus.**

**Today's temptation is aimed at destroying, cancelling and annulling any good that comes from the sacrament received. The good is universal because it must be done to everyone. However, it must be done according to the new nature received.**

**How to overcome temptation? With science and knowledge of the fruits that every new nature is obliged to produce. With incessant prayer to ask God for every strength. Reviving the Spirit of the sacrament.**

**Can we overcome temptation? We can if they let ourselves be helped. If we do not walk alone. If we meditate on the Word of the Lord. If we want to obey the Holy Spirit. If we celebrate the sacrament with love.**

**IN THE PATH OF HOLINESS**

**It is always necessary to ask oneself: what is Christian holiness and how is it acquired? Are there particular ways, easy methods, simple forms for walking in holiness? What does God think of holiness?**

**According to Scripture or Divine Revelation, the way of holiness is not imagination. It is not a man's invention. It is not a fruit of the mind or human heart. For Divine Revelation, holiness is perennial obedience.**

**For Divine Revelation, holiness is first of all obedience to the Two Tablets of the Law, to the Ten Commandments. We are outside the Commandments, we are outside the Alliance, we are outside the God who is the Saint.**

**For Divine Revelation the Commandments or the Law are what a man will never have to do if he wants to walk on the path of holiness. The Ten Commandments are the limit that must never be exceeded.**

**When the limit is exceeded, immediately one must return, with repentance, conversion, the request for forgiveness, a perfect obedience to the Law of the Lord. The Commandments are the base, the land on which it is built.**

**At the limit of the evil that must never be exceeded, there is the health of God to be reached, its perfection. What does the holiness of our God consist in? In an eternal, universal love, which is the fruit of his nature.**

**Being the nature of God most pure love, most holy good, love and universal good, whoever believes in Him must imitate him in this universal good and love. We cannot love whoever we want, how we want and when we want.**

**Since we cannot imagine the nature of God, the Lord himself has revealed to us how He loves and has given us the Laws of love. I am a saint. You will be saints. You will obey my every command of good.**

**If the holiness of God is the fruit of his nature which is eternal and universal good, if we want to walk in holiness, we must let ourselves be made new by Him in nature and grow from a new nature to a new nature.**

**The new nature is made in every sacrament that is celebrated. Every sacrament requires a new fruit from man. New nature and new fruit. Every sacrament requires and wants a diverse and different holiness.**

**One thing is the sanctity of a baptized person, another the one of a confirmed person, a deacon, a presbyter and a bishop. Even the Pope has his own personal, specific holiness that comes from the nature of bishop and pastor of the whole Church.**

**Is this enough? Not at all. With every sacrament we deliver our will to the Holy Spirit. The holiness of the Christian is obedience to every motion of the Holy Spirit, lived according to his seven gifts.**

**The Law, the Gospel, the new nature, are the statute of Christian holiness, The Holy Spirit moves because the love of God, in the fullness of the grace of Christ, is lived according to his will, not ours.**

**The Christian, by sacramental nature, cannot love the whole world. He must love every person that the Spirit wants him to love. If nature is delivered to the Spirit in the sacrament, it must love from the Spirit.**

**What walking in holiness means for a disciple of Jesus according to the Divine Revelation: being in the world love of the Father, grace of Christ Jesus, Communion of the Holy Spirit, according to the new nature.**

**Holiness for the Christian is giving the soul to the Father, the spirit to the Holy Spirit, the body to Christ, so that they make of us a true holocaust and a sacrifice for the redemption and salvation of humanity. The sanctity of the Christian is salvation.**

**A Christian that does not cooperate with God, in Christ, in the perennial obedience to the Spirit, for the redemption, salvation and formation of the body of Christ, which is the Church, in history, can also be good, but never holy.**

**Redemption, salvation and creation of the body of Christ, are the essence of Christian holiness. A Christian is holy in the measure in which he loves salvation, redemption and the eternal life of the brothers and commits himself to it with his life.**

**Holiness is not doing good. But letting oneself be made true body of Christ, by the Holy Spirit, to make Christ's body, in the Holy Spirit, every other man. Where the body of Christ is not made, there is no true Christian holiness.**

**THE MANY GIFTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT**

**Who lavishes gifts in the Church, who gives birth to charismas is the Holy Spirit, whose will cannot be subjected to the test of the human mind. To each duty, the obligation not to extinguish any gift of the Spirit.**

**To everyone the obligation of discernment if the gift is from the Spirit, or is the man who thinks being invested with a particular charisma of the Spirit of God. Who must discern is first of all the single person.**

**He must be certain that his gift is from the Spirit. For this he must let himself be helped by his Spiritual Father. If then the gift must be placed at the service of the community, obedience is needed together with discernment.**

**Since the Church is constructed and built up in the Parish, obedience to the parish Priest to live the gift in the Parish is obligatory. He is responsible for God's flock. The parish priest cannot extinguish the gift.**

**If he extinguished it he would not be in the Holy Spirit. He regulates its exercise so that it can produce every fruit of good and puts it in communion and in synergy with all the other gifts that are lived in his community.**

**Who is in the Holy Spirit always recognizes the Spirit. Whoever seeks the Spirit recognizes the Spirit. Those who fight the Spirit also fight the gifts of the Spirit. Those who oppose the Spirit want to extinguish every charisma.**

**Every gift of the Holy Spirit is a grace given to the body of Christ so that it may live its mission of salvation and redemption of man. If the gifts are lived without this purpose, there is a true betrayal of them.**

**The Christian must know that in every sacrament he offers his life to Christ for a particular purpose to be achieved concerning the salvation of his brothers and also for their greater sanctification.**

**If the end of eternal salvation and of the greater sanctification fails, the charisma is lived in vain and often sinfully. Is not today the charisma of the body lived in the greatest vanity and sin?**

**Have not we turned the end of our body into the realization of vain, ephemeral things, of vice, sin and temptation? Is not today every gift of God placed at the service of futility, the ephemeral and or nothingness?**

**We are guilty not only of grave sin of omission, but also of betrayal of the true end of every gift given by the Holy Spirit. The gifts of God must never be used for futility, vanity, vice, sin and nothingness.**

**Let's try for a moment to read the current world with the eyes of the Spirit. We will note that no gift is used for supernatural purposes of salvation and redemption. All are used for vanity and sin.**

**Yet it would be enough to live a single gift of the Holy Spirit Lord according to truth, to show all the light of God's love. But can a man without God use God's gift according to the will of God?**

**LOVE THE LAW OF THE CHRISTIAN**

**When we speak of Christian love, it must necessarily be understood as obedience to Christ and the Holy Spirit. It is obedience to Christ Jesus, because it is obedience to his Word.**

**It is obedience to the Holy Spirit, because the truth of the Word is his perennial gift. It is He who must lead us to the whole truth. If we are detached from Christ, we can no longer love. There is no Word.**

**If we are detached from the Holy Spirit, we cannot even love anymore. We are deprived of the truth of the Word, to which our obedience is due. Word and truth must be one, not two. Never.**

**Today everything is called love. The Commandments must be abolished for the love of man. We must erase the precepts of Christ Jesus for the love of man. No distinction must be made between good and evil for love anymore.**

**Nor can we speak of Christ and his Gospel for love. Christ must be excluded from the relationship with the Father for love. The Church from the relationship with man for love. Even the truth must be excluded for love.**

**For love we no longer want to talk about truth, justice and sanctity anymore. For love of man, eternal hell has also been erased. For love, man is left in sin and is allowed to approach the sacraments.**

**But we do not realize that out of love we are emptying the Church and even Heaven and we are filling hell. For love we abort. We commit suicide for love. For love we divorce. For love we kill.**

**For love we are building a world without truth, justice and virtue. Out of love we are exiling God, Christ, the Holy Spirit and the Church from our land. For love we are declaring our very nature to be false.**

**For love, an animal is an animal it is in all like man and we can also marry with it, we can leave it our inheritance. For love one can commit all wickedness. Everything is lawful for love.**

**Love is the new idol of the world and also of Christians. Why is love today the universal idol? Because it is emptied of its content of supernatural truth, to which all obedience must be given.**

**What do we know our love is idolatry from? From the fruits it produces. Idolatry is the generator of all immorality. Since today immorality affects the whole life of man, his love is only an idol.**

**Today, idolatry has been clothed with a mask of love, so it has been pleasing to every heart and also to the hearts of Christians - I am not speaking of little and the simple ones who refuse it - but of the learned, the wise and the intelligent.**

**Today, it is this idolatry that is destroying the Church, Christ, the Holy Spirit, the true God, Lord and Creator of man. It is idolatry that takes the dog away from the kennel to take it into the house, but takes away from the house the family members.**

**It is idolatry that also renounces to marry, to generate children, to educate them, because we must devote ourselves to the ephemeral, to vanity, to that which is ephemeral, to material well-being and to the absolute emptiness of spirit and soul.**

**Love without truth is the idol that is turning out to be a true universal deluge. It is submerging us all. It is because of this idol that we are all losing our truth of nature and of sacrament. Universal idolatry.**

**This idolatry is assuring that idol is the God we worship, idol is the Christ in whom we believe, idol is the Holy Spirit from whom we are led, idol is the Church, idol is the Gospel and idol is the Christian.**

**Can we react to this idolatry of immorality and death? We can on one condition: that we put back into the word love all the truth of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit and the whole truth of Revelation.**

**Love is in the truth. Truth is in love. When love separates itself from the truth it is an idol. When the truth separates itself from love it is an idol. Love makes truth true. The truth makes love true. Love and truth are one thing.**

**REMINDING THE WORD OF JESUS**

**When God created man on earth and made him in the image of his own nature, he left nothing to his imagination: thought, intelligence, wisdom, desire and aspiration for good and evil.**

**From the first moment he revealed him what to do and what not to do, told him the good to do, the evil to avoid. The relationship between God and his creature is not based on thought, but on the spoken and heard Word.**

**But it is not a Word left to the free reception of man. It is a commanded Word and therefore a Word that obliges. In its obedience is the life of man. In its disobedience is his death. The Word is everything.**

**What's happening today? That the Word that obliges has been replaced by the imagination, fantasy, thought and desires of man. It is true what the man imagines is true and it is false what man says it is false.**

**Not only. Even the Word of the Lord, for those who still read it, has been transformed into interpretation and consequently into human thought. It is not the Word that speaks to man. It is the man that speaks to it.**

**It is the man that tells it what it must say and what not to say. This reversal of roles is also very pure idolatry. Man has taken the place of the Holy Spirit and gives the Word his heart and mind.**

**Instead we affirm that every obedience must be given to the Word, since it does not act from our understanding or interpretation, but always from the very pure truth that is in it.**

**If we disobey the Word, because we give it a wrong, false and bad interpretation, what is true in it is accomplished. If it says that in disobedience there is death, there will be death. The Word is like poison.**

**Whoever drinks poison even inadvertently dies. Death is not caused in relation to his science, conscience and will. If I know, I die. If I do not know, I live. You drink and you die. You do not drink and you live.**

**So it is with the Word of Jesus. It is observed, man is in life. It is disobeyed, one enters a process of death. Science, conscience help for life. Non-science and conscience do not save from death.**

**If the non-knowledge of the Word were indifferent to man, then reminding or not reminding it would be the same thing. Since every life arises from it, it is the obligation of love for the disciple of Jesus to remind it.**

**Whoever loves his brothers, reminds the Word of life. Who does not love them, does not remind it and abandons them to death. However, if we are the first to disbelieve, it becomes impossible to think of reminding the Word to others.**

**For the Word to be reminded, not only faith in it is necessary. We must live it with perfect obedience. By tasting the fruits of the Word, we can also invite others to taste them. Our responsibility is great.**

**For us, man remains in death and for us passes to life. For us it goes from death to death and for us it passes from life to life. For us he is dehumanized and for us he is humanized. Everything is from our faith in the Word.**

**THE SPIRIT IS FREEDOM**

**The Holy Spirit gives his gifts and charismas, guided and moved only by his eternal Wisdom. He gives them for the greatest good of the evangelizing and sanctifying mission, so that every man may enter life.**

**He gives them to the body of Christ, to each member in particular, so that the body of Christ may live by manifesting all his power of grace and truth for the conversion, redemption and salvation of man.**

**Who loves Christ Jesus, who works for him, is joyous when the Holy Spirit gives a special, particular and great charisma for the good of the body of Christ. Sometimes a single charisma can give new life to the whole body of Christ.**

**WITH THE EUCHARIST IN THE HEART**

**Where does every charisma always draw new life? In the Eucharist, the great mystery of the body and blood of Christ. The Holy Spirit bestows his charismas. The body and blood of Christ makes them live without ever failing.**

**Indeed, the more we nourish ourselves of the body and blood of Christ with true love, pure truth, sincere faith and righteous conscience and the more the charisma expands its branches and produces much fruit. Far from the Eucharist the charisma dries up.**

**The charisma is in all similar to a tree. If the tree is planted along watercourses, its vitality is great and bears fruit abundantly. If the charisma is nourished by the Eucharist, it grows out of all proportion and produces richly.**

**WITH THE VIRGIN MARY, ANGELS, SAINTS**

**The journey of the evangelizing mission cannot be done without the Virgin Mary. Jesus gave her to John as his true Mother, so that she supported him in his mission for the evangelization of peoples.**

**We are all of us, her disciples, in the person of John. If we want our mission to produce fruits of conversion and holiness, we must always walk with our Mother in the heart and on the lips.**

**Together with the Virgin Mary there are always Angels and Saints who crown their Queen, ready to carry out her every order and command. This faith must never abandon the missionary of Christ Jesus.**

**WITH A CONSTANT PRAYER**

**The disciple of Jesus knows that he is like a tree. There are things that he can draw from the earth and things that can only come from heaven. Those of heaven do not come but with an incessant and uninterrupted prayer.**

**Just as the tree needs the sun to ripen its fruits, so the disciple of Jesus needs the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit to bear fruit to the Word that he announces. Heaven comes if it is invoked.**

**SHORT FINAL CONSIDERATIONS**

**Sometimes it is enough to offer only one principle of truth to enter the mystery of life. Today we want to offer a principle on Christian holiness to give truth to all our being disciples of Lord Jesus. We are the body of Christ to make the body of Christ.**

***It is always necessary to ask oneself: what is Christian holiness and how is it acquired? Are there particular ways, easy methods, simple forms for walking in holiness? What does God think of holiness? According to Scripture or Divine Revelation, the way of holiness is not imagination. It is not a man's invention. It is not a fruit of the mind or human heart. It is not a thought of our mind to be realized. For Divine Revelation, holiness is first of all perennial obedience. For Divine Revelation, holiness is first of all obedience to the Two Tablets of the Law, to the Ten Commandments. We are out of the Commandments, we are out of the Alliance, we are out of the God who is the Saint. Without the Commandments in the heart there is no path of holiness. For Divine Revelation the Commandments or the Law are what man must never disobey if he wants to walk on the path of holiness. The Ten Commandments are the limit that must never be exceeded. On this side you are on the path to holiness. On the other side you are out. When the limit is exceeded, immediately one must return, with repentance, conversion, the request for forgiveness and a perfect obedience to the Law of the Lord. The Commandments are the basis, the land on which onebuilds. Without obedience to the Law, one cannot build.***

***Remaining in the limit of the Law that must never be exceeded, the sanity of God and his perfection are to be reached. What does the holiness of our God consist in? In an eternal, universal love, which is the fruit of his nature. The nature of God is eternal and infinite love. Being the nature of God the purest love, most holy good, love and universal good, whoever believes in Him must imitate him in this universal good and love. We cannot love whoever we want, as we want and when we want. We always love from the nature of God participated to us. Since we cannot imagine the nature of God, the Lord himself has revealed to us how He loves, giving us the Laws of love. I am a saint. You will be saints. You will obey my every command of good. I will be the one to show you the good to be done even in the smallest details. If the holiness of God is the fruit of his nature which is eternal and universal good, if we want to walk in holiness, we must let ourselves be made new by Him in nature and grow from the new nature to new nature. The creation of the new nature is the essence of holiness. The new nature is made in every sacrament that is celebrated. Every sacrament requires a new fruit from man. New nature, new fruit. Every sacrament requires and wants a different, dissimilar holiness. This truth is the essence of Christian holiness. One thing is the sanctity of a baptized person, another that of a confirmed person, a deacon, a presbyter and a bishop. Even the Pope has his own personal, specific holiness that comes from the nature of bishop and pastor of the whole Church. Sanctity is very personal. There are no equal saints.***

***Is this enough? Not at all. With every sacrament we give our will to the Holy Spirit. The holiness of the Christian is obedience to every motion of the Holy Spirit, lived according to his seven gifts. The Spirit is the only Master of true Christian holiness. The Law, the Gospel and the new nature, are the statute of Christian holiness. The Holy Spirit moves because the love of God, in the fullness of the grace of Christ, is lived according to his will and not ours. The Spirit moves if we are true Christ of Christ. The Christian, by sacramental nature, cannot love the whole world. He must love every person that the Spirit wants him to love. If nature is delivered to the Spirit in the sacrament, it must love from the Spirit. The Spirit says how to live all the love of the Father. What does walking in holiness, then mean for a disciple of Jesus according to Divine Revelation? It means being in the world love of the Father, grace of Christ Jesus and Communion of the Holy Spirit, according to the new nature. Holiness is true Trinitarian communion. Holiness for the Christian is giving the soul to the Father, the spirit to the Holy Spirit, the body to Christ, so that they make of us a true holocaust and sacrifice for the redemption and salvation of humanity. The holiness of the Christian is salvation, it is redemption and it is leading to eternal life. A Christian who does not cooperate with God, in Christ, in the perennial obedience to the Spirit, for the redemption, salvation and formation of the body of Christ, which is the Church, in history, can also be good, but never holy. Holiness is accomplishing the purpose of Christ. Redemption, salvation and creation of the body of Christ, are the essence of Christian holiness. A Christian is holy in the measure in which he loves salvation, redemption and the eternal life of the brothers and commits himself to it with his life. In holiness, life is consecrated to salvation. Holiness is not doing good. But letting oneself be made true body of Christ, by the Spirit, to make Christ's body, every other man in the Spirit. Where the body of Christ is not made, there is no true Christian holiness. Christian holiness is aimed at building the Church.***

**Mother of God, Angels, Saints help every disciple of Jesus to believe that he is called and sent into the world to make the body of Christ, becoming himself the true body of Christ and his true Church.**