**FRAGMENTS OF CHRISTIAN SPIRITUALITY**

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

**Catanzaro 11 June 2018**

**WHO THE PARISH PRIEST IS**

**The parish priest is the presbyter appointed by the bishop for the spiritual care of Christians who live in a well-defined and circumscribed territory called the Parish. Each Parish is a part of a Diocese.**

**The Bishop is responsible for the spiritual care of a diocese. The Bishop takes care of the flock entrusted to him in a hierarchical communion with the Pope and in communion with the other Bishops. Communion is in faith in Christ.**

**The parish priest feeds the flock entrusted to him in a hierarchical communion with the bishop, to whom he owes obedience and respect. The parish priest exercises a triple ministry: teaching, sanctifying and directing.**

**In the Parish Community he acts in the name of Christ the Head and Shepherd of his flock. The lay faithful owe him obedience and respect in things that concern the faith, truth and grace of Christ the Lord.**

**The same respect and obedience that is given to Christ the Lord must be given to the parish priest by the lay faithful. If you do not have a very high vision of faith, you will see the parish priest as you see a public official.**

**Indeed, the parish priest is not even seen as an official. If the official says that something cannot be done, it cannot be done. When the parish priest says that something cannot be done, it must be done.**

**It is a sign that we are totally out of true faith in Christ Jesus. From the relationship with the parish priest we know who is in the right faith and who instead plays and jokes with faith, because he has stifled it in his heart and mind.**

**Who murmurs, who criticizes, who does not listen in the things of God, who despises, who mocks, who teaches contrary things, who rebels, who judges, who condemns and who denigrates his parish priest attests to the world that he is without faith.**

**Since there is no evangelizing mission without faith, whoever is outside hierarchical obedience, will never be blessed by the Lord. His mission is a failure. Faith must be urgently placed in the heart.**

**Someone could object: but the parish priest is not a saint. There is a very secret weapon with which we overcome the world: the incessant prayer raised to the Lord for our and others' conversion.**

**Strictness. If we are not saints, because we are sinners or have a custom-made faith of our little spiritual elegance, we judge and condemn, we kill with the mouth and we send to hell.**

**It is enough that we truly convert to the Gospel of Christ the Lord for our heart to love differently and our eyes also to see differently. The sinner sees from sin.**

**The saint sees from holiness. The superficial person from his superficiality, the damned from his damnation, the simple from his simplicity, the bad one from his evilness, the wicked from his wickedness and the pitiful from his pity.**

**For the lay faithful, obedience to the parish priest in the things of God is a true way of sanctification, of spiritual growth and of great exercise in the virtues. I do not think that the parish priest crucifies. Jesus obeyed his crucifiers.**

**When we enter the purity of faith, we see God in everything. Who does not see Christ in the parish priest certainly is not pure at heart. If the heart is not pure, it is a sign that there is sin in it. Sin makes everything impure.**

**The parish priest has the solicitude of all the souls entrusted to his care. He knows that he must not lose one of them, otherwise the Lord will ask him for an account. Why has that soul been lost? Who is responsible?**

**If the lay faithful wants the evangelizing mission to bear fruit, let him put true faith in the heart, true obedience in his spirit and true holiness in his soul. If our heart is holy, the words are holy.**

**WHO THE SHEPHERD IS**

**In the Old Scripture or Old Testament, the Pastor is God. He guides his people in a direct way with his interventions in history. But also indirectly, through the Kings and Priests, responsible for the care of the flock.**

**We can say that almost all of the Lord's shepherds have failed their mission. God sees and always promises to send a pastor according to his heart to lead his flock with wisdom and intelligence.**

**With Ezekiel he promises to take care of his flock personally. He the one that cares about his flock. This promise will be fulfilled entirely in Christ Jesus, who is the Good Shepherd, the Nice Pastor to whom the Father entrusts all his flock.**

**Christ Jesus is the one and only shepherd that the Father knows. Whoever wants to be a Pastor can only be in Christ, through Christ and with Christ, in his Church that has a visible foundation on Peter.**

**No one is true Shepherd in Christ, with Christ and for Christ, unless he is consecrated by a bishop in apostolic succession in hierarchical communion with Peter, who is the Pastor of the whole Church.**

**But even if the Pastor is a true Shepherd, he must never be detached from the heart of Christ, becoming one heart with him, just as Christ and the Father are one. The separation from Christ makes the Shepherd a bad Shepherd.**

**As Christ, the Shepherd of the Father, is in the Father, so the Shepherd of Christ, if he wants to be a Good Shepherd, must stay in the heart of Christ. Without the dwelling in the heart of Christ, the risk of becoming mercenaries is run.**

**If the Pastor leaves the heart of Christ, the flock is exposed to a grave danger: that of idolatry, of immorality, of the very abandonment of the true Christ, of the true Gospel, of true faith and of true hope.**

**Damages can also be eternal. But the Lord will ask the Pastor for an account of every soul that is lost or does not reach perfect sanctification. The soul is lost. The Pastor must give an account to God.**

**If every Pastor wants to be a true Shepherd, he must always keep his eyes in contemplation of Christ Jesus and his ears directed towards the Holy Spirit in order to listen to his every motion, desire and will.**

**If these two attentions will be without interruption, night and day, always, the Shepherd will gradually receive the form of Christ and will walk in the light of the Holy Spirit. He does not need other models.**

**The Pastor says an essential reference to the flock entrusted to him. He owes the life of his flock in the same way as Jesus, indeed in him, with him and through him. The flock is nourished by Christ, the way, truth, life, light, peace, love and holiness.**

**For his work of light, truth and life, the flock must come to feel true flock and it is true flock when every disciple feels the other disciple an essential part of himself, when he lives in unity.**

**Today, however, the faithful tends to transform the Pastor into an assistant in his personal needs less of the spirit and more for the things of the earth. The individual does not live like a flock and in the flock; he loves to live alone.**

**The Shepherd is not of one sheep or single sheep. He is Shepherd of the flock and it is necessary that every single desires, wills and lives as the only flock of the Lord Jesus. A single flock, a single Shepherd and a single light.**

**WHO THE SINNER IS**

**Sinner is the one who has abandoned the Father's house and has chosen to make a life without Him. The Father's Commandments, his Laws, his truth, his Will and listening to his voice are his house.**

**The sinner remains a sinner as long as he remains far from the Father's house. He does not return to the Father's house, asking for forgiveness, but by physically and spiritually returning to the house of God.**

**For the Christian home of the Father is the body of Christ, the body of Christ is the Church, the house of the Church is Christ the Lord in his truth and grace, in his Gospel and in his eternal life. The light of the house is the Holy Spirit.**

**There is no true repentance of sin, nor is there any true request for forgiveness to God, as long as one remains outside the Father's house, that is, outside the Church, outside the Body of Christ, outside the fold and outside the Gospel.**

**True repentance lies in the desire to return to the house of God to dwell in it for all the days of our life. We do not ask for forgiveness to stay out, we ask for it to go back inside.**

**As long as one remains in sin, it is useless to come only with the body into the Church. In the Church one comes with the body, the soul, the spirit, the will and the desire to be reconciled with the Father through the minister of Christ.**

**The forgiveness of the Father is in Christ and for Christ that one receives and lives with Christ, as his true body. The forgiveness of Christ is in the Church and for the Church that one receives and lives with the Church, as a true flock of Christ.**

**Forgiveness is theological if it is Christological, it is Christological if it is ecclesial, it is ecclesial if we return to be true Church of Christ, true temple of the Holy Spirit, true community of believers in Lord Jesus.**

**HOW THE WORD IS REMINDED**

**The announcement of the Word is true if some essential rules are respected. If the rules are not observed, the announcement is not according to its truth. Without the truth, the announcement does not produce any fruit.**

**First rule. The Word that one wants to announce must be a Word that must always be received. The Word is received by the Church, through her ministers, and by the Holy Spirit, by listening to his voice.**

**Second rule. The Word heard from the Church and from the Holy Spirit must be fully lived. The missionary of the Word must always be a witness of its truth. He is a witness if he lives the Word, the whole Word.**

**Third rule. The Word heard and lived must be announced in its fullness, without adding or taking anything away from it. If one adds or takes away it is no longer the Word of God, but the word of man. It does not produce fruit.**

**If one of these three rules is missing, fails, is not observed, there is no true evangelizing mission. Without listening there is no life, without life there is no witness and without witness there is no gift of the Word.**

**The three rules must be observed in a perfect chronological order: we listen, we live, we witness and we announce. The announcement can only be the result of listening and testimony. We do not listen, we do not testify.**

**We do not witness and we do not announce. One separates from the Church, he is separated from the Spirit. One separates from the Spirit, he separates from the Church. The Spirit and the Church are one voice, one truth and one Word.**

**It is vain to appeal to the Spirit to get away from the Church. Just as it is vain to appeal to the Church in order not to listen to the Spirit. The missionary must listen to the Spirit and the Church. Whoever hears the Church is in the Spirit.**

**THE UNIVERSAL MEDIATION OF JESUS**

**The mediation of Jesus is universal. Everything comes down from God to the earth through Christ. Everything rises from the earth to God through Christ. The first mediation of Christ Jesus is in the gift of the true Word of God.**

**When this mediation is declared void, all other mediations are without any fruit of eternal life. All other mediations occur if man is in his truth, in his light and in his Word.**

**The rest of Christ for fatigued and oppressed comes when man is in the Father's house, that is, in his Church, in the body of Christ, in the Gospel. The prodigal Son found rest when he returned to the Father's house.**

**Every grace, every consolation, every rest, every liberation from evil, from God, through Christ, in Christ and with Christ, is given to man if he is in his house that is the Church. One comes out of the Church there is no real mediation.**

**Today we want the fruits of the universal mediation of Christ, without Christ. We want God without Christ. Peace without Christ. Forgiveness without Christ. The Church without Christ. Humanity without Christ.**

**Wanting without Christ is pure theological, Christological, ecclesial and anthropological folly. Christ is the heart of God and of man, of history and of eternity. The heart of Christ today is his Church, his body.**

**Without Christ, it is nothingness in relation to true salvation. Without Christ it is also being without the Church. The Church is the body of Christ and Christ fulfils everything through it. Everything from the Father through Christ. Everything from Christ through the Church.**

**Who excludes the Church from the process of mediation, excludes Christ. Who excludes Christ is excluded from every way of salvation. There is no Christ without the Church. Without Christ there is no Father. There is only one God without identity.**

**SIN AND FORGIVENESS**

**What sins are forgiven? All except sin against the Holy Spirit. Sins are forgiven if the laws of forgiveness are observed. If the laws are not observed, forgiveness is not given.**

**The first law of forgiveness is our unconditional forgiveness towards those who have offended us. If we forgive from the heart, God forgives from the heart. If we do not forgive, God does not forgive. It is the law of essence.**

**The other law of essence wants God's forgiveness to happen through Christ, through his minister of forgiveness. Forgiveness is asked of God, asking it to the minister of Christ the Lord. It is the law of Christ Jesus.**

**God forgives, if the minister forgives. The minister forgives, if he can forgive. He can forgive if the laws of forgiveness are observed. The law to be observed is the desire to abandon sin and live in the Word.**

**Today, in truth, all ask to be forgiven, but to remain in sin, without any desire either forthcoming or remote to return to the Law of God. The return to the Law is a primary condition for forgiveness.**

**Sin against the Holy Spirit is not forgivable, because the heart is so hardened as to fight to destroy the very source of forgiveness that is Christ and is the Church. There is obstinacy against God.**

**EVERY TRUE GIFT IS FROM GOD**

**Every gift, every charisma, every grace comes from God. If it comes from God it is the obligation of every worshiper of the true God, to respect his will. The divine will is respected, welcoming the gift and placing us at his service.**

**It is urgent to possess a right vision of faith to see God in all his gifts. The right vision is of one who has a pure heart. The non-acceptance of a gift from God reveals and attests that our heart is unclean. It must be purified.**

**LIGHT OF THE WORLD**

**Light of the world is only Christ. No one else is light. The Christian is the light of the world, if he is light in Christ Jesus. He is light in Christ Jesus if he feeds his flame by living the Word and transforming it into his life.**

**The lived Gospel is what makes the Christian, in Christ, the light of the world. If the Gospel is not lived, the Christian is darkness with darkness, because he is an light extinguished. A Christian that does not live the Gospel is a lamp without oil.**

**IN GOOD COMPANY**

**The disciple of Jesus is not alone. The Father is with him, the Spirit is with him, Christ Jesus is with him, the Mother of God is with him. Angels and Saints are with him. When all the sky is with the Christian? When he is in the Word.**

**If the Christian is not in the Word, he is a scandal for the world. Who is not in the Word is outside the Word, but also against the Word, because he is disobedient to it. Every disobedience is a scandal.**

**Every scandal moves away from Christ Jesus. It is a great obstacle for others to believe in Him. It can also induce into the temptation that we may be of Christ, despite being against His Word. The scandal is an eternal sadness.**

**IN THE WILL OF JESUS**

**The will of Jesus is only one: that his Word is all lived. When one is in his Word, everything else is given in abundance. We live by listening to him, the Lord. The Lord lives to hear us.**

**Jesus said it: whatever you ask from the Father in my name, He will grant it to you. But how do you ask in his name? It is asked in the name of the lived Gospel, of the Word heard and with the heart in the Gospel.**

**SHORT FINAL CONSIDERATIONS**

**God, our Lord, has given man some laws that can never be disregarded. Every law disregarded, ignored, transgressed, voluntarily or involuntarily, means that no evangelical fruit is produced by us. Everything happens from obedience to the law. It is the Law of God, the Law of Christ, that the Christian makes his home the Church of Christ. It is the Law of God, the Law of Christ that Christ is the Head of this house. It is the Law of God, the Law of Christ, that in his name and with his authority his house is governed by the pope, in communion with him, by the bishops, in communion with the bishop, the parish priest.**

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**May the Virgin Mary give us wisdom and intelligence to live the Law of Christ. May the Angels and Saint guard over us, so that we never make our own laws. No fruit will be produced.**