**FRAGMENTS OF CHRISTIAN SPIRITUALITY**

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

**Catanzaro 25 June 2018**

**LOVE FOR LOVE**

**That Jesus loves us today of a very special love is attested by every person whom He calls and sends into the world to remind and proclaim his Gospel with the power of the Holy Spirit that works for him.**

**That Jesus today loves the world is revealed by his love of salvation and redemption that from his heart decants in many other hearts, making them true witnesses of his Gospel, of his grace and of his Holy Spirit.**

**If the Lord loves us to such a point as to sacrifice the life of a person so that he brings us into his heart - his elect do this: they consecrate their whole life to Him for the salvation of many hearts - his is true real love.**

**It is not the love of when He was in his body of flesh, which drove him to give his life for the salvation of humanity. Instead, it is the love that today He gives through some elected members of his body consecrated to him.**

**Today, if He loves us so much as to sacrifice a life for us, what must our love for Him be? Consigning our life to Him so that He may continue to love every man with his love of salvation.**

**If our love for Him is not of work for the salvation of our brothers, we love him little. Jesus does not need a human love, made of friendships in which among other things there is murmuring, judgement, condemnation and slander.**

**These friendships are not at all evangelical if they lack true love for Christ Jesus and it is true love when we offer ourselves to him so that he makes us instruments of the Holy Spirit for the salvation of many brothers.**

**When can we claim to be his? When our Word is his. No Word is his if it is a Word of murmuring, criticism, judgment, condemnation, contempt, gossip, insult, falsehood and things like that.**

**Either our word is in all similar to his word of mercy, forgiveness, excuse, reconciliation, benevolence, comfort, enlightenment and peace or the Holy Spirit might never speak with our mouth.**

**Let no one delude himself: friendships that are born from the Gospel must always be lived in the purity of the Holy Spirit. If we live them in the impurities of the flesh, they might never produce fruits of eternal life. We are in the flesh.**

**Who has passed from the flesh to the Spirit, must always remain in the Spirit. If from the Spirit he returns to the flesh, because his works are of the flesh, no fruits of salvation are ripened. The flesh produces fruits of perdition.**

**If we are of the Holy Spirit we must use the Word according to the rules and methods of the Holy Spirit. If we use it according to the rules and methods of the flesh, the Spirit withdraws and our work is vain.**

**The flesh kills the Spirit of the Lord in the other, it extinguishes it. Instead the Spirit recognizes the Spirit that is in the other and always vivifies him, making him grow. The Spirit acts according to the Spirit, the flesh according to the flesh.**

**Who wants to love Jesus, who says he loves Jesus, must always act according to the Spirit from the Holy Spirit. When one acts from the flesh, works of death and not of life are generated. The Gospel does not exist in the flesh.**

**Another thing that must be put in the heart. When one has given life to Christ, only the interests of Christ are to be cared for. Christ does not love the interests of the world to be cured together. He is with whoever takes care of his interests.**

**Who enters into the brawl of men, according to the rules of men, who follows his instincts and acts by their motion, let him not hope to work for the kingdom. He can also work, but the world does not recognize him as a worker of Jesus.**

**In the altercation of men we enter and we remain expressing judgments, harsh criticism, defence of partiality and falsity, fury against the opposing party, often with words of bad taste and real insult.**

**When one is in human brawl it is the flesh that triumphs. The Spirit always loses. Never a man of God, who truly says he is of God, has let himself be dragged into human brawl. He was always in the Spirit of the Lord.**

**The Spirit is truth. The flesh is falsehood. The Spirit is light. The flesh is darkness. The Spirit is life. Flesh is death. The Spirit is holiness. Flesh is sin. The Spirit is Paradise. The flesh is hell.**

**Everyone chooses. If he wants to be in the Spirit, his fruits must be according to the Spirit. If he wants to be of the flesh then he can produce any work. But let him know that he does not love Christ, even if he is an angel.**

**Heaven is in great sadness when people who say they have chosen Christ, daily produce works according to the flesh. Nor can one be in private of the Spirit and in public of the flesh. It's just deception.**

**Who in public is flesh, even in private is flesh. Who in private is of the Spirit, of the Spirit of Jesus it is understood, even in public he is of the Spirit. The heart is not a jacket that changes as you like. It is one.**

**As it is in the morning, so is in the evening. As it is in public, so it is in private. As it is with friends, so it is with the enemies. As it is in Church, so it is outside the Church. As it is in winter, so it is in summer. Nobody has two hearts.**

**If one has the heart of Christ, to love according to the heart of Christ, in strength and wisdom, intelligence and light of the Holy Spirit, he cannot be presented to the world with his heart of stone, uncircumcised and not holy.**

**LET THEM SEE YOUR GOOD WORKS**

**It is A right thing to ask oneself: what are the good works that those who love Jesus must produce in order to be recognized as his true disciples? What must these works have in particular and who can do them?**

**These good works are neither particular, nor special and nor reserved to some people. The good works that Jesus asks is the transformation into the personal life of every Beatitude, none excluded, but all realized.**

**But the Beatitudes must not be lived according to our particular interpretations, but according to the official interpretation that Jesus himself gave in his Sermon on the Mount. He placed all their truth in it.**

**The Beatitudes are like the good soil on which then every tree must be planted to produce according to its own nature. If a tree is planted by the Spirit so that it produces in the Parish, it must produce in the Parish.**

**If it is planted so that it produces in other places, it must produce in other places. Let everyone question himself and pray with will and desire of most pure obedience. The Holy Spirit will always reveal where He wants to plant us.**

**The first principle on which everything must always be built wants that the Lord is always the Lord of our life. He is the Lord by creation. But man must want that the Lord is the Lord of his life.**

**If the Lord is the Lord of the personal life, then it is He the one who establishes and decides everything. If we decide, we are ourselves lords of ourselves. On the contrary, if He is the one to establish, He is the Lord of every moment of our history.**

**If He has established that a person carries out the evangelizing mission in the Parish, it must be carried out according to the forms and methods indicated by Him in the Parish. If he wants everything to be done on the street, you must do it on the street.**

**Instead, if He establishes that everything must take place in a university classroom, one must work in a university classroom. However, to the will of the Lord one must be yoked. You cannot work not yoked, free and as you please.**

**Being yoked means growing old only carrying out the will of the Lord, avoiding every temptation that makes us think that we are doing the divine will, whereas in reality we are prisoners of our instincts and our aspirations.**

**He who yokes is the Lord, and he who unties must be the Lord. Instead we yoke and untie ourselves as we please. God does not work except in fidelity to Him. If we are faithful and unfaithful, He does not work.**

**Could ever a farmer work with an ox that every minute unties itself from his yoke and goes for walks through the fields? Never. But the ox then returns. But it returns for a minute and then he unties again to walk.**

**When we are yoked to a particular, manifested, revealed and made known will of the Lord to us, then fidelity is everything. If we remain yoked, we are with the Lord, otherwise we are with our instincts.**

**The first good work that the world must see is our faithful yoking to the revealed will of the Lord. If this fidelity is not seen, no one will believe in what we say. God is not with us.**

**VOCATION TO PRIESTHOOD**

**Jesus received from the Father the mission of illuminating him, the Father, with the most perfect, holy and divine light. He received from the Father the mission of redeeming the world with the offering of his life and the gift of his whole self.**

**Jesus received the mission of building up the kingdom of God on earth, bringing every man into it, with the preaching of the Gospel, conversion to it and the new birth from water and the Holy Spirit.**

**He received the mission of sanctifying every heart with the gift of his Holy Spirit. The Spirit to be given is that which is the fruit of his love and his obedience to the Father until death. It is the fruit of his blood.**

**He received all power in heaven and on earth: power of grace, truth, mercy, forgiveness, light, eternal life and resurrection. The Father and the Holy Spirit have handed themselves over into his hands. This is the power of Jesus.**

**As the Father and the Holy Spirit have put themselves in the hands of Jesus, so Jesus has placed himself in the hands of his Apostles. As the Father sent Him. So He sent them. His mission is their mission.**

**They must aggregate and lead the flock of Christ Jesus. They must nourish it with truth and grace. They must lead it to the highest holiness. They have to teach the Gospel and how the Gospel is lived in every Word of it.**

**They must forgive sins and make the Body and Blood of Christ to nourish with it the flock of God. In Christ Jesus and in his Eucharist they too must become nourishment of the flock. They are life of Jesus.**

**In order to carry out their ministry to every man, the Apostles constituted the presbyters. These in hierarchical communion with them must cooperate in the good, indeed excellent, formation of God's flock.**

**Their work is vital for the flock. Without them, the flock would be without pastoral care, the community without those who lead it and guide it to the eternal kingdom. Without them the flock would be without real nourishment.**

**The Pastor, even if he does not enjoy the fullness of Christ's powers - he cannot give the Holy Spirit the full and perfect way in some of the sacraments - is the true presence of Christ, Shepherd and Head of his flock, within the community.**

**If he is true presence of Christ, he must be the presence of Christ the Light, Christ Truth, Christ the Word, Christ Forgiveness, Christ Reconciliation, Christ Eucharist, Christ full of the Holy Spirit and Christ the true Master.**

**For him to be Christ's Presence, his home must be the heart of Christ, from which one can enter the heart of the Father and of the Holy Spirit. Even the heart of the virgin Mary must be his permanent home.**

**If he lives in this house, he will be the presence of the heart of Christ in the midst of the flock entrusted to him. If he comes out of the heart of Christ, the world grabs him and drags him into its heart, which is the heart of darkness and sin.**

**When Jesus calls someone to be himself in the midst of his flock, it is the highest gift he can give him. There are no more sublime vocations. He is called to be Christ the Head, Christ the Shepherd and Christ Life.**

**If he wants to be Christ, he must conform to Christ in obedience. As Christ was obedient to the Father in everything, so the one called to the ordained priesthood must be obedient to Christ in everything.**

**Just as Christ Jesus was and is always from the Father, so the priest must always be from Christ, from his will, from his heart, from his thoughts and desires. He must be visibly the presence of Christ.**

**The presbyter is obliged to let himself be made by Christ every day "his visible presence", a visible presence in obedience, in fidelity, in love, in justice, in peace, in forgiveness and in reconciliation.**

**DISSATISFACTION OF THE SPIRIT**

**When the heart is dissatisfied, when the spirit feels lifeless, it is a sign that there is the absence of the Father, of Christ Jesus, of the Holy Spirit, of the Virgin Mary and of Heaven in it. It is a sign that it is empty.**

**Only God can fill his heart. When we empty it of God to fill it with earthly and worldly things, it groans and suffers. It misses its food of eternal life which is the Lord in all his mysteries. It is urgent to repair.**

**How do you fix it? Resuming the path of listening to the Word, prayer, the sacrament, obedience to Christ Jesus and the mission. For those who gave their lives to Christ, without a mission the heart is empty.**

**If the mission is the end of life given to Jesus Christ and to his Mother, might the heart ever be in joy, if joy is the fruit of the mission? When the heart is empty, it is always filled with falsehoods.**

**But falsehood does not fill the heart. Not even the world fills the heart. Only Christ fills the heart and obedience to what has been asked of us. The heart is in joy when it has done what it has been commanded to do.**

**Seeing men and women that consume their lives in dissatisfaction, in pain of making up for the lack of God, filling it with the things of the earth, is a vain thought. Things always leave the heart empty.**

**One can also fill the heart with all the riches and beauties, vices and sins of the world, it always remains empty. The only one to fill the heart is Christ. But not a Christ thought of by us, but only the Christ of God.**

**Between our Christ and the Christ of God the difference is greater than the whole extension of the heavens. The Christ of God is mercy, forgiveness, silence, governance of ourselves and of every instinct. The Christ of God is patience.**

**As long as the true Christ is not placed in the heart in a stable way, our dissatisfaction is great and can result in every sin, even in the sin of the tongue that never stops and as a volcano erupts all evil.**

**Whoever wants to fill his heart, let him begin with true repentance, make a holy confession, hate the evil done so far, return to the purity of the Word and commit himself to the government of all his instincts.**

**Either God is put in its place, or there is no peace for the heart. When the heart is not at peace, it is the sign that God is not in it. You put God, putting Christ back, you put Christ, putting the Holy Spirit back. Peace returns.**

**LOVING HEAVEN OF REAL LOVE**

**Heaven, all Heaven, God the Father, Christ Jesus, the Holy Spirit, the Mother of God and our Mother, the Angels and the Saints want to stay with us and walk with us. They cannot stay if we do not want to be with them.**

**When do we want to be with them? When we want to be in the Gospel, in truth, in light, in grace, in life and in the obedience of Christ Jesus. Heaven is in the Gospel, we enter the Gospel, we enter Heaven.**

**We enter the Gospel and we enter Heaven. If we want to live outside the Gospel, we also want to live outside of Heaven. Even if we say a prayer, we say it from outside the Gospel. We are not with Heaven.**

**How then do you love Heaven of true love? Entering us and dwelling in the Gospel. Entering us and dwelling in the heart of Christ and in the heart of the Mother of God. In these two hearts all of Heaven dwells. There is no Heaven outside.**

**WITNESSES OF CHRIST JESUS**

**How do we work as true missionaries and witnesses of Jesus? Obeying his every command. What is the command of Jesus? That we are his true disciples, that we work to call and to form true disciples.**

**True disciples are formed if they are formed as the true body of Christ, his true Church. If you do not work for the Church, with the Church, in the Church, in his body, for his body, with his body, you are not true witnesses.**

**Since the Church in the territory lives in the Parish, working in the Parish, to form the Parish, with each member of the Parish, makes us true missionaries and witnesses of Jesus. The flock must be formed and cared for.**

**In the flock, led by the parish priest, who is its true shepherd, everyone must bring his collaboration. However, all in obedience for the faith to the parish priest. Everyone brings his gift and puts it to good use for the good of all.**

**If the flock does not form or is formed but is not led by the Shepherd, our work is in vain. Without a shepherd there is no flock. Flock and Shepherd are one, just as Christ and his Body are one.**

**Today this is the greatest temptation: forming flocks without Shepherds. Since the Pastor is Christ, forming a flock without a Shepherd, it is forming it without Christ. Without the visible Christ there is no invisible Christ.**

**The invisible Christ and the visible Christ must be one Christ. It is always necessary that the Pastor conforms to Christ, He must be visible Christ in the midst of his flock. Visible Christ and visible flock are one thing.**

**GOOD CONFESSION**

**Confession is good when one recognizes his own sins, he repents of them, he asks forgiveness from Christ Jesus asking the minister of forgiveness and he proposes to walk in the light in obedience to the truth.**

**Confession is not good when others' sins are accused, one finds a thousand excuses to belittle his own, he does not repent, he does not change his life and goes on as he lived before approaching it.**

**Confession is never good when one does not have the will to walk towards eternal life, removing all sin that hinders the path. You cannot confess and then continue with your own vices.**

**Without true repentance and without the will to walk from light to light and from obedience to obedience, Confession is either null or it is sacrilegious. A good Confession is that which increases in us the desire for holiness.**

**Confession is good when our sin is seen before God, as a serious offense to his divine Majesty. Every sin that is committed is always against the Lord and it is always the Lord the one who is offended.**

**If there is no reference to God, never will Confession be good. The supernatural dimension of sin is lacking in it. It makes of it a relationship between man and man, while the relationship is between man and God.**

**HOW TO OVERCOME TEMPTATION**

**Temptation is overcome first of all by knowing it. It is known if one knows all the Law of the Lord, all the Gospel of Christ Jesus, all the sound moral doctrine. The Law is of God, never of man or of his conscience.**

**Temptation is known, if the will of God is known on our person. We overcome if we draw every grace and strength in the Holy Spirit. Prayer, sacraments and works of charity help us to overcome temptation.**

**PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND REQUEST**

**The prayer is of thanksgiving when for everything and for every moment it thanks the Lord, recognizing that every grace is his gift. Everything in our life is a gift from the Lord. Nothing is from us.**

**It is a prayer of request, if we ask everything from God, because every good comes only from Him. He is the source of all good. Who does not live the prayer of thanksgiving, almost always does not live the prayer of request.**

**SHORT FINAL CONSIDERATIONS**

**Every tree is recognized by its fruits. Even the Christian is recognized by his works. What are the works of the Christian? Those that are produced by the new nature received for each sacrament that is received. Baptism must make us produce true fruits of the tree that has become true son of God. Confirmation true of the fruit of the tree that has become true witness of Christ. The same is true for deacons, presbyters and bishops. Change nature in the sacrament, the fruits change. But also the Holy Spirit gives a charisma and a particular mission in this case the fruits also change. The truth of origin remains: every disciple of Jesus must produce according to his nature. Sacraments, particular mission, particular charismas, particular ministries, are the tree that must produce the fruits. As the fruits are visible, so too the works are visible. Let them see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.**

***It is a right thing to ask oneself: what are the good works that those who love Jesus must produce in order to be recognized as his true disciples? What must these works have in particular and who can do them? These good works are neither particular, nor special and nor reserved for some people. The good works that Jesus asks is the transformation into their lives of every Beatitude, none excluded, but all realized. But the Beatitudes must not be lived according to our particular interpretations, but according to the official interpretation that Jesus himself gave in his Sermon on the Mount. He has placed all their truth in it. The Beatitudes are like the good soil on which then every tree must be planted to produce according to its own nature. If a tree is planted by the Spirit so that it produces in the Parish, it must produce in the Parish. If it is planted so that it produces in other places, it must produce in other places. Let everyone question himself and pray with will and desire of very pure obedience. The Holy Spirit will always reveal where He wants to plant us.***

***The first principle on which everything must always be built wants the Lord to always be the Lord of our life. He is the Lord by creation. But man must want the Lord to be the Lord of his life. If the Lord is the Lord of his own life, then it is He the one who establishes and decides everything. If we decide, we are the lords of ourselves. On the contrary, if He establishes, He is the Lord of every moment of our history. If He has established that a person carries out the evangelizing mission in the Parish, it must be carried out in the Parish according to the forms and methods indicated by Him. If he wants everything to be done on the street, it must be done on the street. Instead, if He establishes that everything must take place in a university classroom, one must work in a university classroom. However, we must be yoked to the will of the Lord. We cannot work not yoked, free and as we please. Being yoked means growing old carrying out only the will of the Lord, avoiding every temptation that makes us think that we are doing the divine will, whereas in reality we are prisoners of our instincts and our aspirations.***

***He who yokes is the Lord and he who unties must be the Lord. Instead we yoke and untie ourselves as we please. God does not work except in fidelity to Him. If one is faithful and unfaithful, He does not work. Could a farmer ever work with an ox that every minute unties itself from its yoke and goes to walk through the fields? Never. But the ox then returns. But it returns for a minute and then untied again to walk. When we are yoked to a particular will of the Lord manifested, revealed and made known to us, then fidelity is everything. If we remain yoked, we are with the Lord, otherwise we are with our instincts. The first good work that the world must see is our faithful yoking to the revealed will of the Lord. If this fidelity is not seen, no one will believe in what we say. God is not with us.***

**May the Virgin who has produced the blessed fruit, Jesus Christ our Lord, through her obedience and the total gift of herself to God, a gift of the body, the spirit and the soul, help us so that we too may bear our fruit in faith and in the total gift of ourselves to God, in Christ, through the Holy Spirit. May the Angels and Saints keep us in the mission received.**