**FRAGMENTS OF CHRISTIAN SPIRITUALITY**

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

**Catanzaro 02 July 2018**

**THE CERNTAINTIES OF THE MISSIONARY**

**When the Lord calls a person and entrusts him with a mission, he always offers him certainties. What certainties did Jesus offer his disciples? One certainty is that He will always be with the missionaries of the Gospel.**

**A second certainty is the assistance of the Holy Spirit, with the task of suggesting the right words, so that Christ is witnessed according to very pure truth. The certainty of the decision on the future of life or martyrdom.**

**It is the Holy Spirit who, through the words He puts on the mouth, chooses who must testify Christ the Lord with martyrdom and who must continue the testimony with the mission of the proclamation of the Gospel.**

**The missionary knows that his life has been delivered to his God and Lord. In every moment his God and Lord will always be the one to decide everything for him. Only a complete and immediate obedience is left to the missionary.**

**The Lord can give particular, personal certainties to everyone. If he says to someone, "They will move war against you, but they will not beat you", he must be sure that it will be so. He can be attacked by an army, but without victory.**

**If he says to another one: "A light will surround you and no one can destroy it", hell can also revolt, but that is how it will be. The war can be without exclusion of blows, but the light will not be extinguished.**

**But if he says: "They will give you to the pagans, they will crucify you, but on the third day you will rise again", the sun and the moon may disappear, as death by crucifixion has been accomplished, so will the resurrection also be sure.**

**When a missionary has received a certainty, he must build his life on it. If Jesus says: "I will triumph if you have faith", there is no other way for his victory, but our very pure faith.**

**But what is faith for who received this word? Faith is obedience to the mission of the announcement, of the remembrance of the Word. The Word, the Gospel according to the rules of the Word and of the Gospel are reminded, He triumphs.**

**The Word is not remembered, the Gospel is not announced, according to the rules of the Gospel, of the Word, never will He be able to triumph. We can also create, invent, build everything else, He will never be able to triumph through us.**

**The Word of Jesus is the only certainty on which the missionary must base his mission. This is the faith requested: obeying every command received. Faith is obedience. Without obedience there is no faith.**

**On what certainty given to you by the Lord, you, missionary fund your mission? On what word of Christ Jesus do you build your daily work? Find the Word of God and you will know whether you are working for Him or for you.**

**However, be careful, missionary! If you want the announcement of the Word to bring fruit for you, you must always live according to the style of Christ Jesus. You cannot have a Word of Jesus on the mouth and ten, a hundred, a thousand of the devil.**

**You cannot be a witness of Jesus and a witness of the world. You cannot proclaim the Word of our Saviour by day and perform the works of the world by night. You cannot follow the Spirit in Church and the flesh out.**

**Coherence obliges to follow the one to whom we have given our lives. Who gave life to Christ, must follow Christ, walk behind him, learn his style and let himself be moved and led by the Holy Spirit in his truth.**

**MEDIATION AND SUFFERING**

**The missionary of Jesus walks with great certainty in his heart: They have persecuted me, they will persecute you too. There will come a time when those who kill you will believe in giving glory to God". This certainty is forever.**

**Another certainty. Persecution, hatred because you are Christ's missionary, comes from neighbours, far people, strangers, family members, brothers, sisters, father and mother. The enemy of man is that of his house. Certainty never to be forgotten.**

**Here is further certainty: "Whoever perseveres until the end will be saved". Persevering in what? In the Gospel life according to the truth of the Gospel, but also in the mission of proclamation of the Word, of the Gospel.**

**Perseverance is also in a harmonious spiritual growth. If one does not progress, he immediately falls into that sloth of spirit and sinks into the ephemeral without hope of resurrection. One is spiritually dead.**

**To those who want to know the certainties of suffering, persecution, tribunals, hatred and martyrdom, it is enough for him to read Chapter XXIV and also Chapter X of the Gospel according to Matthew. Jesus has never deceived anyone.**

**Missionary mediation and suffering are one, just as the Croce and Crucifix are one. Thinking of an evangelising mission without suffering is a pure human imagination.**

**If Jesus' mission is shrouded in suffering from the first moment of his birth to the last, when he was on the cross, can we think of a mode without any suffering? The mission is suffering.**

**The hatred of the world will always fall on the disciples of Jesus to prevent them from remembering the Gospel. If the missionary falls into temptation and adapts to the thought of the world, then hatred immediately ends.**

**CHRISTIAN MISSION**

**The Christian mission is not of the individual, but of the body of Christ. The body of Christ is made up of many members. Every disciple of Jesus lives of his particular ministry, office, charisma, sacrament and responsibility.**

**Pope, bishop, presbyter, deacon, confirmed and baptized, there is a particular ministry for each one. But the end is only one: forming the Body of Christ, building the Church of God on earth and constructing his Kingdom.**

**If the Church does not build, the Body of Christ is not formed, the Kingdom is not built, the Christian mission is vain and useless, because without its true fruit. We are trees to be cut and thrown into the fire. The fruit is the truth.**

**St. Paul warns us. If we produce the works of the flesh, we do not walk according to the Spirit. If we produce the works of the Spirit, we do not follow the flesh. Flesh and Spirit cannot be together.**

**Destroying the Body of Christ, making the Church not credible in her truth, light and grace, creating cracks and breaches in the Kingdom of God certainly are not fruits of the Spirit. Instead they are works of the flesh and of sin in us.**

**THE RULES OF THE MISSION**

***Who announces and who reminds the Gospel must lead a sober, serious, honest and pure life filled with the Holy Spirit. If you put Jesus and Our Lady in your heart, nothing will be difficult, not even illnesses, sufferings and humiliation*.**

**The rules of the mission are many and concern every part of our person: soul, spirit and body. The body is interested in every part: sight, hearing, speech, touch, taste, hands, feet, face and clothing.**

**To be true missionaries: the soul must always be in the grace of God. A dead soul might never be a source of life. Not only must it be in grace, it must grow in grace day by day.**

**The spirit must grow in wisdom, knowledge, science and in the things of God. This is why it must lead to fructification of all the gifts of the Spirit: wisdom, intellect, counsel, knowledge, science, piety and fear of God.**

**If the spirit does not grow in the acquisition of the true science of God, if darkness dominates it instead of light, falsehood instead of truth, moral approximation or truthful management, there is no mission.**

**The body must be removed from every vice. It must not know pride, avarice, lust, anger, gluttony, envy and sloth. It must not even know a single transgression of the commandments.**

**The body must be brought into the virtues of faith, hope, charity, justice, fortitude, temperance and sobriety. It cannot grant itself everything. It must be trained in every good work according to the charisma of the Holy Spirit.**

**The missionary of Jesus needs sight to see man in his historical reality and bring to him the comfort that comes from the Gospel, but always according to the Gospel. The evangelical rules must never be transgressed.**

**The difference between the Christian is just this: the Christian sees man with the eyes of holiness, truth, justice, forgiveness, peace and desire for salvation. The non-Christian sees him with the eyes of the flesh.**

**The sight is also needed to see the great things that day by day the Lord performs in favour of our salvation. Seeing the Lord in our lives and in the lives of our brothers is a gift of the Holy Spirit.**

**Many Christians are blind. They do not see God in history, but they do not even see Satan raging in the hearts. Spiritual blindness is a sign that the soul is dead. It is not in grace. It does not grow from grace to grace.**

**Hearing is needed to listen to the Lord. If the Lord is not heard, his will cannot even be done. If you listen to the world, you cannot listen to the Lord. If you listen to the Lord, you do not listen to the world.**

**Today the Christian is all intent on listening to the world. Not listening to the Lord, he cannot give the world the salvation that comes from God. He gives the world salvation according to the world. He does not give eternal salvation.**

**The Word of the Christian must always be the Word of God, never the word of man. He cannot say human words and words of God at the same time. He first uses the words according to the flesh and then those according to the Spirit.**

**The Word of the Christian must be conform to the Word of God and of Christ Jesus. True Word, full of light, truth, salvation, meek and merciful, full of peace and forgiveness, firm and resolute in the witness to Christ.**

**The Word of the Christian must never be dirty, filthy, soiled, grimy, full of anger, quarrelsome and haughty. Never a Word of judgment, condemnation, murmuring and complaints. Never a Word of slander or false testimony.**

**Never a Word of injury, contempt, insult and derision. Never a Word of temptation or invitation to transgression. One must be accountable to God of every vain word. Never must it be called the Word of God if it is the word of man.**

**Touch serves to console, comfort, help and support those in suffering, loneliness, persecution and martyrdom. The closeness full of charity and kindness can save a person. Jesus healed with touch.**

**Taste is used to know how to serve the brothers well. What is good for us must also be good for others. If something is not good for us, then it will not be good for others. One measure.**

**Taste in this sense is not just about the throat, foods and drinks. It concerns the whole world external to man. You enjoy beauty, goodness, harmony, the infinitely large and the infinitely small.**

**The Holy Scripture invites us to taste and see how good the Lord is. Our life must give the taste of beauty and goodness of our God to every man. Even our Word must be tasty, beautiful and holy.**

**The hands of the disciple of Jesus must be hands of Christ, hands of the Father and hands of the Holy Spirit. Hands that only work good. Hands that must never know evil. Hands of charity, almsgiving and mercy.**

**The Christian's feet must walk to bring the good news of reconciliation and peace. How beautiful are the feet of the messenger of peace on the mountains, of those who say to Zion: Your God reigns.**

**The glory of God must always shine on the face of the Christian. It must be a luminous face like that of Moses. A natural and not artificial face. The face of the Christian is often so artificial as to show the artificial soul.**

**Even clothing must show our being disciples of Jesus. Unfortunately, this often does not happen. There is a scandalous fashion that does not attract Christ, but leads to sin. The Christian must never allow it.**

**If a dress is a cause for scandal, provokes bad, lustful, impure, licentious thoughts, then that dress must not be used. The scandal is not measured by our conscience, but by that of the still small brother.**

**We can say that for every Commandment, every Virtue, every Beatitude there is a completely Christian behaviour. The mission must be made by our being true disciples of Jesus. Our life reveals the truth.**

**All those who think that the truth is drawn from the Gospel are in great error. It is drawn from the Gospel and from the Holy Spirit for us. For others we must draw it from our body, our soul and our spirit.**

**IN THE WORLD NOT OF THE WORLD**

**The Christian is in the world, but does not belong to the world. He does not live according to the rules of the world, but according to the rules of the Gospel. The Christian must remain in the world to be the light of the world.**

**It must be divine light, light of Word, light of truth and justice, light of peace and love, light of holiness and mercy, light that indicates to man the true way so that who wants can return to the sources of his true life.**

**If the Christian does not show through his body the true life, created in him by the Holy Spirit, after having believed in the Word of the Gospel, no one might ever believe in Christ Jesus. The visibility of new life is lacking.**

**If you are world with the world, what difference do we show? If there is no difference, there is no distinction. If there is no distinction, what is the use of getting converted? If all religions are equal, what is the use of getting converted?**

**MEDIATION AND DIVINE PROTECTION**

**The missionary of Jesus must always be seen close to Christ the Lord. As Jesus says: "I am not alone. the Father is with me ". Thus the missionary must always be able to say: "I am not alone. Jesus is with me ".**

**Jesus said it: "I will be with you until the end of time". He will be with us as the Father is with him, as the Father was with Moses and with all human instruments to accomplish a mission of salvation.**

**If Jesus is not with us - and He is with us with the whole host of his Angels - no mission might be carried out by us. The world is stronger than us. With Jesus and his Angels we are stronger than the world and Satan.**

**But when is Jesus with us? When we are with Jesus. When we are with Jesus? When we are in his Gospel. If we are outside the Gospel, we are outside of Jesus. Jesus is not with us and the world dominates us.**

**When we are in the Gospel, we are in grace, in truth and in light. We are in God the Father and in the Holy Spirit. We are in the Angels and Saints. We are kept in the Body of Christ. We are with the whole Church.**

**MISSION AND STRUGGLE**

**It is narrated in Genesis that Jacob was a shy person and also afraid of his brother. He prayed to the Lord to free him from his brother's wrath and save his life. The Lord came and taught him how to fight.**

**He had him fight a whole night with him. Only at daybreak did he let him go. Life is a struggle. The mission is a struggle. Our struggle is against the powers of darkness who do not want Christ to reign.**

**To struggle we need the strength of the Holy Spirit. You cannot win alone. If with us, in us, for us the Holy Spirit works, we will certainly win. If we are without the Spirit of God, there is no possibility of victory.**

**Only the Holy Spirit might overcome the Spirit of evil. He wants to overcome it through us. We bring him, he brings us, guides us and directs us, telling us what to do and victory over the powers of evil will be his.**

**But when is the Spirit with us? When we are in Him. When we are in Him. When we are in the grace of God and live in the purest obedience to the Gospel. Grace, Gospel, Obedience and Spirit: one thing.**

**NO TO GOD**

**From the first moment of creation God revealed to man that life and death, blessing and curse, light and darkness, water and fire are before him. He will have what he will choose. The choice is his.**

**This condition is universal. It is valid for everyone and never fails. As long as man is on earth, until the moment the soul leaves the body, life and death are before him. He can stretch and grasp one or the other.**

**This is our great tremendous responsibility. We are damned by choice, we are saved by choice. By choice we are in the blessing, by choice we are in the curse. By choice we live or die.**

**By choice we welcome the Word that introduces us into the Kingdom, by choosing we ignore it and remain excluded, by choice we fight the Word so that others do not welcome it or so that it is not even announced.**

**The missionary of the Gospel must never retreat from his mission. If it retreats, not only does he not give the Word, he prevents many people from choosing the Kingdom of God. The mission must be made at the price of life.**

**SALVATION IS FROM YES**

**Whoever wants to bring to fulfilment the mission entrusted to him must be full of love for Jesus. Jesus wants to love every man for him. He can love every man only if he loves Jesus. The will of salvation is of Jesus.**

**If he loves Jesus, he will make his own the will of salvation of Jesus and bring it to fulfilment in the same way as Jesus. Jesus loves the Father, makes his own the will of salvation the Father. He consecrates his life on the cross to the Father.**

**When the missionary falls from love for Jesus, he also falls from love for the mission. He lacks the sole motivation of perseverance which is love for Jesus in his heart. Jesus loved the Father up to the Cross.**

**Whoever wants to give his mission perseverance to the end must grow day by day in love for Jesus. The stronger the love for the Lord is, the greater will his strength be in overcoming every obstacle.**

**DEFENDING CHRIST JESUS**

**The missionary of Jesus must defend Christ the Lord not only by announcing, but also by attesting with his life that every Word of Jesus is true, is fulfiled. Heaven and earth pass. His Word is fulfilled.**

**In Jesus there are Words that are fulfiled today, Words that are fulfilled in time and Words that are fulfilled in eternity. The fulfilment of the Word in the missionary must attest to the truth of every other Word.**

**If the missionary does not manifest himself with the Word accomplished in his soul, in his body and in his spirit, how can one believe that his Word is true? The fulfilment is missing. In Jesus every Word of the Father was fulfiled.**

**PRAYER AND SACRAMENTS**

**What is prayer? It is a promise made by God to every man. The promise consists in this Word: "If you ask with faith, humility, perseverance and purity of heart and mind, I will listen to you."**

**Conditions must be observed. Many prayers are not answered because the conditions are not observed by us. We pray in sin, far from the Gospel, as enemies of God, without humility and without any perseverance.**

**PRAYER FOR**

**Prayer is not just for us, it is also for others. Prayer for others is the greatest work of charity that can be done. For this prayer we can ask God all for our brothers. All.**

**But first of all we must ask for them to have in their hearts the desire to seek the kingdom of God and its justice, grace and truth. The desire of Christ and of the Holy Spirit.**

**SHORT FINAL CONSIDERATIONS**

**Jesus is the Person who has never deceived and will never deceive one of his disciples. The relationship of discipleship is based on one certainty: "You give me life today, living it according to my Word, I will give you the eternal Kingdom of my Father". Giving life to the Word means giving it to persecution and martyrdom. Also in this case Jesus gives his disciple a certainty: "I will be with you until the end of your days". You have given life to my Word, it is I who choose, in the Holy Spirit, how your life must become a sacrifice and a holocaust of love with the end of the salvation and redemption of the world.**

***When the Lord calls a person and entrusts him with a mission, he always offers him certainties. What certainties did Jesus offer his disciples? One certainty is that He will always be with the missionaries of the Gospel. A second certainty is the assistance of the Holy Spirit, with the task of suggesting the right words, so that Christ is witnessed according to very pure truth. The certainty of the decision on the future of life or martyrdom. It is the Holy Spirit who, through the words that He puts on the mouth, is the one that chooses who should testify Christ the Lord with martyrdom and who must continue the testimony with the mission of the proclamation of the Gospel. The missionary knows that his life has been delivered to his God and Lord. In every moment his God and Lord will always be the one to decide everything for him. Only complete and immediate obedience is left to the missionary.***

***The Lord can give particular, personal certainties to each one. If he says one, "They will fight you, but they will not beat you", he must be sure that it will be so. He can be attacked by an army, but without victory. If he says to another: "A light will surround you and no one can destroy it anymore", hell can also revolt, but that is how it will be. War can be without exclusion of blows, but the light will not be extinguished. But if he says: "They will give you to the pagans, they will crucify you, but on the third day you will rise again", the sun and the moon may disappear, as death by crucifixion has been accomplished, so will also be about resurrection. When a missionary has received a certainty, he must build his life on it. If Jesus says: "I will triumph if you have faith", there is no other way for his victory, but our very pure faith.***

***But what is faith for who received this word? Faith is obedience to the mission of the announcement, of the remembrance of the Word. One reminds the Word, the Gospel according to the rules of the Word, of the Gospel, He triumphs. The Word is not reminded, the Gospel is not announced, according to the rules of the Gospel, of the Word, never might He triumph. We can also create, invent and build everything else, He might never triumph through us. The Word of Jesus is the only certainty on which the missionary must base his mission. This is the faith requested: obeying every command received. Faith is obedience. Without obedience there is no faith. On what certainty given to you by the Lord, you missionary base your mission? On what word of Christ Jesus do you build your daily work? Find the Word of God and you will know if you are working for Him or for you.***

***But be careful missionary! If you want the announcement of the Word to bring fruit for you, you must always live according to the style of Christ Jesus. You cannot have a Word of Jesus on the mouth and ten, a hundred, a thousand of the devil. You cannot be a witness to Jesus and a witness to the world. You cannot proclaim the Word of our Saviour by day and perform the works of the world at night. You cannot follow the Spirit in the Church and the flesh out. Coherence obliges to follow the one to whom we have given our lives. Who gave life to Christ, must follow Christ, walk behind him, learn his style, let himself be moved and led by the Holy Spirit in his truth.***

**Mother of God, help the missionaries of the Gospel of your Divine Son so that they convince themselves that the rules of following and of the mission must be observed. As Jesus guaranteed for them, so they must guarantee for Jesus. What must they guarantee? The gift of their life, without taking possession of the gift even in a thought, in an act of will and in a desire. May the Angels and Saints support us so that Christ Jesus may be certain of us.**