**FRAGMENTS OF CHRISTIAN SPIRITUALITY**

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

***Catanzaro 09 July 2018***

**AT THE SUPPER OF THE LORD**

**Gathering around the table of the Lord is a resolute and strong will to become one life with Christ, in an obedience full to his will. Never without obedience might one become one life with Him.**

**Becoming one life with Christ necessarily one must also want to be one life with every other member of the body of Christ. Christ is one. His body is one. If the body is one, life is one too.**

**If life is one, everyone is called to love every other member of his body, just as Christ loves his body. Christ loves his body nourishing it with his body and his blood, illuminating it with the Word.**

**Everyone is called to give his life so that the other can live according to the will of Christ Jesus, which is the will of the Father. Communion must be spiritual and material, in heavenly goods but also in the goods of the earth.**

**How do we love the body of Christ? Not transgressing any commandment of the Law according to the fulfilment that Christ Jesus gave it. But also keeping our body away from every vice. With sin one hates and does not love.**

**The body of Christ is loved by avoiding every word of judgment, condemnation, murmuring, grievance, insult, vain, reckless, insolent, bitter, gruff and sour word, word of envy, jealousy and temptation.**

**The body of Christ is loved, showing our highest holiness in thoughts, desires, heart, mind, spirit, soul and body. Also in the way of dressing we manifest our love to love the body of Christ.**

**Whatever we say, do, think, wish, desire, imagine and fantasize, everything manifests whether we love the body of Christ or we do not love it, whether we respect it or do not respect it.**

**One cannot eat the body of Christ in the Church and then treat it sinfully out of the sacred place, or even while he is still in the sacred place. In the Eucharist the other person has been made my body in a true way.**

**Whoever receives the Eucharist must know that it obliges to the same holiness of Christ the Lord. He is the eternal love that has been made a gift of salvation, grace, blessing for us and we must imitate him in this gift of his.**

**Who receives the Eucharist according to truth becomes true as the Eucharist is true. Who receives it badly, remains in his old humanity. Never might he become new humanity in the image of the true humanity of Christ.**

**PERSEVERING TO THE END**

**"I have loved you", "I love you with an eternal love": this is the cry of Christ Jesus to man. But he cannot force us to love him. It must be an act of our will. We must want to love him. The will is everything.**

**If He loves with an eternal love and in the sacraments he gives himself with an eternal love and for an eternal love, can we love him part time, at hours and at minutes? He loves with an eternal love and asks to be loved with an eternal love.**

**This is perseverance: loving Jesus with an eternal love. But how do you love with an eternal love? We love according to the sacrament received. Eternally as true sons of the Father: baptism. As his true witnesses: confirmation.**

**Eternally as his ministers of the Word and of grace. Eternally according to the mission we took on our shoulders. Eternally according to the gift of grace and truth of the Holy Spirit. Eternally.**

**Who has made the commitment to remind the world of his Word, cannot go back. Eternally he has been constituted a messenger of the Word, until his death he must be faithful to this task given and assumed.**

**Jesus has been of divine clarity with us: he will have the eternal reward in his kingdom of glory, peace, joy and love, only who has kept faith to the word given. Our word has an eternal value. It is said and that is it.**

**Unfortunately, today, we do not even respect anymore the word given in the sacraments that mark us or seal us to him forever. After we can withdraw our gift. He will never withdraw it. But he cannot give us eternal glory.**

**Eternal glory is given to those who love Him with an eternal love, as He loves us with an eternal love. Eternal love for eternal love. But today this truth has been erased by Christian truths. It no longer exists.**

**Today many are those who teach that Jesus will give his eternal heaven to every man after our death, regardless of his faithfulness, perseverance, obedience and habitation or abode in his Word.**

**The truth that Paradise is for the faithful to his Word, is something of other times. That is what we sustain. Today we must adapt to the times. Everyone lives on earth as it seems best to him. Tomorrow we will all be welcomed in Paradise.**

**It is useless to say that these statements do not have the comfort of any Word of revelation. The Holy Scripture teaches that by going along the path of the Word one enters Paradise. In disobedience he goes to hell.**

**Let those who believe in these unhealthy and false rumours, know that the thought of God and of Christ Jesus is totally different. The kingdom of heaven is for those who will have persevered in obedience to the end.**

**EXEMPLARY LOVE**

**How do you love in an exemplary way? One loves through perfect obedience to the Word of Christ Jesus, to all his Word. But also letting yourself be moved and led always by the Holy Spirit.**

**All of us must dwell in the Word of Jesus and in the Holy Spirit. It is the Spirit of the Lord who must suggest to our heart and to our spirit how every Word of Jesus must be observed. How it is essential.**

**It is not enough to say: "I observe the Word". You could observe it from your heart, from your desires, from your will and from the motions of your heart. If we love from us, we do not love according to the Spirit. We are not exemplary in love.**

**Jesus is from the Holy Spirit even in the ways of living every second of his life. His every Word is from the Holy Spirit, just as his every desire, will, work and step. He does nothing from his heart. Never.**

**All of Jesus works from the will of his father and the ways that the Spirit of the Lord suggests to him. This also in teaching, in dialogues and in answers. Nothing is from Him. Everything instead is from the Spirit of God.**

**We are not exemplary because we obey the Word, but if we obey the Word and the Holy Spirit. It is the Spirit of the Lord the one who must dictate the measure and quantity of love. Even time must be dictated by him.**

**A thing done before and a thing done after are not the same thing. Before it has a value, after it has another. Before it has an effect, after which it has another effect. The waste of time for us is very serious sin.**

**But to be moved, guided and sustained by the Holy Spirit, one must always dwell in the Word of the Gospel and in the state of sanctifying grace. Never might the Spirit lead a soul that is in sin.**

**To be moved by him, we must always revive him. How is he revived? Invoking him without interruption, obeying the Commandments, offering and putting our life in his hands every day.**

**If we separate from the Gospel, if we fall into grave sin, He cannot guide us. If we live in venial sins, his strength on us will always be weak. Venial sins are like a dark tent for the light.**

**With the dark tent little light enters the soul and the Spirit. This is the reason why the Christian is asked to avoid serious sin and to take a serious path of ascetics till eradicating venial sins.**

**Let everyone know that we do not love of an exemplary love, if we love from our heart, our spirit and our soul. Exemplarity is in the full, perfect, daily, uninterrupted motion of the Spirit of the Lord.**

**LOVING FROM THE PERSONAL CHARISMA**

**Loving from the personal charisma means loving according to the gift given to us by the Holy Spirit. Since everyone has received a particular gift for the common utility, everyone must love from the charisma bestowed on him.**

**An example might help us. In a garden there are many plants. Each plant produces according to its nature. There are many members in the body of Christ. Everyone must produce fruits according to his spiritual nature.**

**The spiritual nature of every member of the body of Christ is given by the sanctifying grace that gives us a special conformation to Christ the Lord and by the charisma of the Holy Spirit or his gift. Is this enough?**

**This is not yet enough. We need to love everyone also and above all from the nature created in us by the received sacraments. Baptism, confirmation, diaconate, presbyterate and episcopate confer a special nature.**

**For each sacrament that is received, we also receive a special conformation to Christ Jesus. This special conformation changes the nature of the soul, of the spirit and of the body. One must love from this nature.**

**This reveals to us that love is substantially different from person to person, as substantially different are the fruits from species of tree to species of tree. The Word heard and obeyed is the ground of love.**

**On this ground, charisma and sacramental nature received are to be sown. Is it enough? No. Charisma and nature must be put to good use according to the will of the Holy Spirit and not ours, according to the wishes of God.**

**Even if the sacramental nature is the same for every equal sacrament that is received, the difference in love is given by the received charisma and our growth in grace, necessary so that the Holy Spirit can act.**

**A baptized who grows in grace and a baptized who does not grow in grace cannot produce the same fruit, even if different by nature. The first is a tree that grows. The second is a tree that dies.**

**A tree with roots in water and one with roots on stone cannot produce the same fruit. The former is fed and can expand. The latter is undernourished and can barely survive. It does not give fruit.**

**Loving from the personal charisma one can and he must. It is the only possible way to produce fruits of salvation and eternal life. But one loves observing all the spiritual rules that are obligatory and necessary and never optional.**

**LOVING FROM HUMILITY**

**Jesus says to walk behind him: "Learn from me that I am meek and humble at heart and you will find peace for your souls". What is humility and what does loving from humility mean? Which is the true humility and which is the false one?**

**Humility is recognizing God as our Lord and us as his creatures. But it is not a theological, scientific, sapiential and anthropological knowledge. Instead it is knowledge of obedience.**

**Humble is he who confesses that he draws love to be able to love from God. From Christ Jesus every grace to be able to save the brothers. From the Holy Spirit the communion with whom he might see the other just as God sees him.**

**It is not even a question of a momentary obedience and not even of obedience to the Commandments, but of obedience to every gift, every charisma, every ministry and every vocation. The humble is always from God.**

**When one takes life and places it in the personal will, desires, aspirations and motions of the own heart, he falls from humility and enters pride. We make ourselves alone and we no longer let ourselves be made by God and by Christ Jesus.**

**Who then is the true humble and who is the fake humble. The true humble is who always walks led by the love of God, by the grace of Christ and by the communion of the Holy Spirit, in a moment by moment obedience.**

**The false humble is the one who declares himself such and also the one who refuses to obey, looking only at his own scantiness or his spiritual nothingness. It is not the man who makes himself. It is God who makes man moment by moment.**

**The true humble is he who always lets himself be made by God. The false humble is he who makes himself. False humility is the most devastating form of pride. We take away all power from God, we assume every power.**

**LOVE OF WITNESS**

**To testify to Christ is not to cry out his truth to the whole world. Saying who he is and what he did. Revealing his salvation and his redemption. It is not even preaching the Gospel to others. This is not a true testimony.**

**The true testimony is when before every man we confesses that we have no other Word to which to obey than that of Jesus. No other word is Law for us. To no other our obedience must be given.**

**If we separate knowledge and obedience, Christ is not recognized before men, because we walk with the word of men and not with that of Lord Jesus. We are men, not of Christ Jesus.**

**LOVE OF DEFENCE**

**When is ours defence for Christ Jesus? When before every man we confess that Christ the Lord is the only redeemer and saviour, the only one whose Word is of eternal life, the only Mediator between God and us.**

**We not only proclaim but also defend this truth for our lives. The greatest defence of Jesus happens with martyrdom. Did not Jesus defend the Father when he revealed the Father's will on him in the Sanhedrin?**

**The Father constituted me his Messiah, his Saviour and Redeemer. Jesus saved, redeemed, justified and sanctified me. Jesus took me out of darkness and led me into his light. Jesus made me his body and his life.**

**The defence of Christ is not an action outside of us, but within us. I defend Christ as my only Saviour and Lord. I defend him by putting myself under his grace. If I separate myself from Him vitally, every defence of Him is false.**

**LOVE OF PRAYER**

**How can we love others? How does Jesus love us? Donating all of himself to us. But is He enough for our salvation. No. He gives us the Father and the Holy Spirit. He also gives us his mother as our mother.**

**Even if we gave all our lives to our brothers, our love would be a nothing. He loves who gives to every other man the Father, the Son, the Holy Spirit, the Mother of God, the Angels, the Saints and every one of his brothers.**

**With only our gift, there is no true love. True love is in the gift of the whole body of Christ. The body of Christ is given through prayer.**

**SHORT FINAL CONSIDERATIONS**

**Jesus asks each of his disciples that his love is exemplary in everything, in every moment and before every man. This is why not only it is necessary that we always remain in his Word, but also in his grace and in the Holy Spirit. We love with an exemplary love first of all, eliminating from our life every transgression both in serious and light matter of the Law of the Lord, of his Gospel.**

**We begin with perfect exemplariness when we rise in every virtue, we free ourselves from every vice. Vice always makes us imperfect in love. Virtue always perfect. In addition perfection must grow in us and for this it is necessary that we grow in truth, in faith, in obedience and in all the virtues. If we do not grow in virtues, we decrease and love becomes no longer exemplary. An imperfect virtue makes us imperfect.**

***How do you love in an exemplary way? One loves through a perfect obedience to the Word of Christ Jesus and to all of his Word. But also letting yourself be moved and led always by the Holy Spirit. All of us must dwell in the Word of Jesus and in the Holy Spirit. It is the Spirit of the Lord the one who must suggest to our heart and to our spirit how every Word of Jesus must be observed. The how is essential.***

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***He does nothing from his heart. Never. Jesus works all from the will of his father and the ways that the Spirit of the Lord suggests to him. This also applies to his teaching, dialogues and answers. Nothing is from Him. Everything instead is from the Spirit of God. We are not exemplary because we obey the Word, but if we obey the Word and the Holy Spirit. It is the Spirit of the Lord the one who must dictate the measure and quantity of love.***

***Even time must be dictated by Him. A thing done before and a thing done after are not the same thing. Before it has a value, after it has another. Before it has an effect, after it has another effect. The waste of time for us is a very serious sin. But to be moved, guided and sustained by the Holy Spirit, one must always dwell in the Word of the Gospel and in the state of sanctifying grace.***

***Never the Spirit might lead a soul that is in sin. To be moved by him, we must always revive him. How is he revived? Invoking him without interruption, obeying the Commandments, offering and putting our life in his hands every day. If we separate from the Gospel, if we fall into grave sin, He cannot guide us. If we live in venial sins, his strength on us will always be weak.***

***Venial sins are like a dark tent for the light. Little light enters the soul and the Spirit with the dark tent. This is the reason why the Christian is asked to avoid serious sin and to take a serious path of ascetics till the eradication of venial sins. Let everyone know that we do not love of an exemplary love, if we love from our heart, our spirit and our soul. Exemplarity is in the full, perfect, daily and uninterrupted motion of the Spirit of the Lord.***

**The Mother of God is a mirror of every virtue for us. Imitating her and growing taken by her hand, little by little even our love might become perfect. If we separate from her, our love is imperfect, because we lack in obedience to Christ Jesus. He was the one to give her to us as our true Mother. As John took her with him, we too must take her with us, for all the days of our life because she teaches us how to love.**

**May the Angels and Saints, who today are immersed in the light of the Lord, sustain us so that we may walk from faith to faith, truth to truth, love to love, so as to reach perfection in all obedience to the Word, grace and the Holy Spirit.**