**FRAGMENTS OF CHRISTIAN SPIRITUALITY**

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

**Catanzaro 16 July 2018**

**LOVE OF PERSEVERANCE**

**If a peasant planted a vineyard, then provided the grafting, then did other work of primary necessity and then abandoned it to itself, we would say that it was useless to have begun his work.**

**The Lord has entrusted to us the land, his Church, on which to cultivate his vineyard with work that begins, but which might never be said to be concluded, because the vineyard needs countless and endless treatments.**

**If we start work and after a short time, we get tired, abandon, do not work with great zeal and perseverance, what we have done is of no use. A few days of non-work and everything is lost.**

**Suffices one day of absence of the farmer from the vineyard and it could also suffer irreparable damage. On the other hand, the farmer with constancy and perseverance, puts his care and the work produces its fruits.**

**But how do you work in the vineyard? First of all, reminding us that branches to be treated are us. We must grow daily in grace, truth and wisdom, this so that our obedience may be perfect.**

**As we grow in the virtues of faith, hope and charity, also being clothed with the cardinal virtues of prudence, justice, fortitude and temperance, work in the vineyard becomes effective.**

**Instead, if we do not grow in virtues, or rather from them we retreat, then we are completely ineffective. Never for us a single fruit might be produced. Vices consume us. Disobedience to the Word devours us. We are lifeless.**

**Loving Jesus and the Virgin Mary is very pure, immediate and perfect obedience to their Word. Without obedience to the Word there is no love, because love is uninterrupted obedience. You obey you love.**

**You do not obey you do not love. You obey little, you love little. You obey a lot, you love a lot. But nothing serves to love very little or much, if you do not persevere until the end, day after day and year after year.**

**The vineyard is not built going to work in it for a single day, even if with great commitment. Every day the vineyard needs new work. That of yesterday is enough for yesterday. Today we need a new work.**

**An ever new way of working, even if it alone is not enough, is our perfect obedience to the Law of God in all of His Word. For us obedience is not enough. It is necessary to remind the Word with the word.**

**The remembrance of the Word requires true knowledge of the Word, so that it does not happen that instead of the Word of God we give our word to the world. The Word of God and of Christ Jesus saves, ours does not save, it will never save.**

**Only the love of perseverance brings fruit: in the mission, in the knowledge, in the growth in every virtue, in the abandonment of every vice, in the following of Christ without ever withdrawing or failing.**

**LOVE OF PRAYER**

**Why must love also be of prayer? Because we can do one thing. The Lord must do ninety-nine of them. But we cannot ask Him to do his own if we do not do ours.**

**In all things, in charity, faith, hope, mission and in every other work entrusted to us, we must ask the Lord for all assistance, grace, wisdom and intelligence in the Holy Spirit to do us what is ours.**

**If we do not do what is ours, we cannot ask God, so that He may be the one do what is his. If I do not work, I cannot ask for the daily bread and if I do not forgive I cannot ask for forgiveness.**

**If I do not announce the Word, I cannot ask the Lord to convert hearts. I am in disobedience to his command and I cannot ask Him except to help me so that he converts me and I begin to obey.**

**From obedience to his Word everything must be asked of God. But never without doing what has been commanded us. We do and He does for us. We do not do and He does not do for us. It is the most holy eternal law.**

**Instead we do not do and we want him to do. We do not forgive and we want him to forgive. We do not sow his Word and we want to reap the fruits of his grace, truth, blessing and eternal life.**

**The law of the Lord is immutable forever. We cannot change the eternal Statutes and the immortal Norms of our God. Today we want everything by will. Instead, God works by nature. God's way is nature.**

**Grace elevates nature, does not eliminate it, does not replace it and does not put it aside. A nature of grace generates grace, a nature of sin produces sin. A nature of vice spreads vices around itself.**

**If our nature, soul, spirit and body is not in the Word, God might never work through it. Even if we pray, our prayer has no value with the Lord. Only your mouth prays.**

**God has always refused the worship of the mouth alone. The cult that He wants is that of an obedient, devoted and faithful nature to his Holy Law. Never will he listen to a prayer that does not walk in the Word by will.**

**Prayer, Nature, Obedience, Word, Gospel, Mission, Annunciation and Remembrance must be one. This unity must be clearly visible in every disciple of Jesus. The unity breaks and the mission fails.**

**EMPTY LOVE**

**When is our love for the Lord empty, that is, it does not produce any fruit of eternal life? When we start the mission and then abandon it. It is an empty love because it is without any fruit of redemption and salvation.**

**Who starts must persevere until the end. You can even work for fifty years. If you then abandon everything, the work is in vain. We are not sufficiently grown to not abandon. We are of empty love.**

**Our love is empty for us because if we leave the Word of God, we immediately enter into the word of the world, which is a word contrary to that of our Lord Jesus Christ. The word of man does not lead to life.**

**All our missionary errors are born of an empty love, a love that is not in the Word. If the Word is not heard by us, we do not lend it any obedience, we cannot do anything. We cannot even pray.**

**The missionary for others must be a missionary for himself. If he is not a missionary for himself, he might never become for others. He misses the missionary nature and without nature there is no mission. Will is not enough.**

**The will is governed by nature. If nature is sinful, the will follows the law of sin. if nature is spiritual, it follows the Law of the Holy Spirit. A nature of sin cannot produce fruits of salvation.**

**But not even a spiritual nature can produce fruits of eternal perdition. But spiritual nature can return to the nature of sin. For this it is necessary that the missionary grows in nature according to the Spirit.**

**If the missionary does not grow in nature according to the Spirit, little by little he recedes from it and again becomes the nature of sin, vice, transgression, death. This nature will never produce redemption.**

**It is easy to know in which nature one lives, whether in the nature of sin, ignorance, falsehood, lie, idolatry and immorality or in the nature of truth, justice, peace, reconciliation, forgiveness, mercy and sanctity.**

**Let everyone observe the fruits that he produces and will know what his nature is. It is right for everyone to know that a sinful nature will never bear fruit according to the Holy Spirit. His love is empty, that is, without any fruit of true life.**

**Who wants fruits of salvation and redemption, who wants his love not to be empty, vain, sterile, ineffective and sinful, must put every care to be a good missionary and an evangelizer of himself.**

**This applies to the whole body of Christ and to the Church. A Church that does not evangelizes herself is a Church of vain love. A Church that is not missionary towards herself is incapable of any salvation.**

**Therefore, let everyone ask: is my love rich with fruits of redemption, salvation, conversion, eternal life, justice and holiness or is it an empty love, without any fruit of good, because it only produces evil?**

**LOVE OF CONVERSION**

**Conversion does not happen in an instant. It is an uninterrupted work. It consists in abandoning the path made so far and putting us on the way that the Holy Spirit indicates to us moment by moment. The before is not the after.**

**Not even from the before follows the after. Between the before and after there can be a definitive break. Before we walked on a path, then the Spirit of the Lord indicates another. And then another again and so without interruption.**

**Abraham must walk always listening to the last word of his God. First the Lord gives him a son. Then he asks him. Abraham first asks him to the Lord and then gives him to him. He listens to the last word.**

**Even Moses must walk listening to the last word. If he does not listen, the people is lost in the desert. The desert is crossed only by listening to the Word of the Lord that indicates the way at every moment.**

**Even Jesus must always walk with the last Word of the Father. Yesterday he healed. Today he has to go to the villages to preach the Gospel. Everyone has the right to listen to the Word. People listen, they obey and we go elsewhere.**

**Conversion is not only from sin to grace, from the transgression of the Commandments to their observance. Conversion is listening to every Word that comes out of the mouth of the Lord. Conversion is a daily work.**

**Every day Paul must also change his path. He is heading for a place and the Lord calls him to go elsewhere. He listens and sets off on the path indicated to him by his God. He always listens.**

**What is it necessary to be converted to today? One must convert oneself to true faith, charity, hope, justice, fortitude, temperance and prudence. One must convert oneself to the truth and holiness of every sacrament and gift of the Spirit received.**

**We must get converted to the mission received. But above all we must be converted to the voice of the Spirit of the Lord that moment by moment sees the man in need of salvation and indicates the right and effective ways.**

**Since conversion is to every grace of the Lord, everyone must know what graces he has received from God and must consecrate his life to them. We must also convert to the personal mission. Life is from it.**

**We must always be converted to the purity of the truth of the Father, of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, of the Mother of God, of the Church, of the sacraments, of the Gospel. Even to the beauty of virtues we must be converted.**

**The true mission is the fruit of true conversion. One is converted little, he is a little missionary. One is converted a lot, he is a lot missionary. There is no conversion at all, there is no true mission. There are false missions.**

**ORDERLY LOVE**

**Our love is disordered or it is not love at all when it is lived out of full observance of the Laws of true love. Orderly love is respect for every means and every end, but also for the ways desired by God.**

**If a consecrated priest, bishop and deacon does not love from the sacrament received and the mission connected to it, his love will always be disorderly. He comes out of the order desired and established by the Lord God.**

**Today, all love is disorderly, because God's will on creation, on nature, on the family, on the Church, on her sacraments, on her ministers, on every reality desired by the Lord is not respected.**

**Today disorderly love is often also allowed by human law. There is no love for oneself if love for every other is not respected. If only one being in creation is not respected, our love is disorderly.**

**Abortion is an un-orderly love. A human person is killed for freedom. Divorce a disorderly non love. A pact is broken on an irrevocable and irreversible word. Adultery is not an orderly love.**

**Every transgression of the Commandments and of the virtues is not orderly love. Every vice is un-orderly love. Disorderly love is the creator of infinite immorality. Today immorality is rampant because love is not orderly.**

**Whoever wants to love with orderly love must respect every Word of the Lord, every gift of grace and truth of the other, every sacrament, every virtue and every mission. In non-respect, love is always un-orderly.**

**It is the responsibility of everyone before God and men to live of only orderly love. All the laws of the world could legalize disorderly love. No one will ever be justified for his messy love.**

**The law of men might never repeal the Law of the Creator and Lord of man. Every law of man that is against the Law of God introduces a serious disorder into true love in humanity. It is the creator of non love.**

**LOVE OF HOLY SPIRIT**

**The love of the Holy Spirit is lived when our every word, thought, action is made for his motion and inspiration. Christ Jesus has always lived of love of the Holy Spirit and so also the Virgin Mary.**

**We always have to grow in this love. The more we move away from sin and vices, the closer we get to the Holy Spirit. The more we cultivate vices and sins, the more we distance ourselves from the Holy Spirit.**

**Far from the Holy Spirit our love is always disorderly, because lived outside or against the Law of the Lord and also without any motion or inspiration of the Spirit of the Lord. Ours is a sinful love.**

**LOVE OF THANKSGIVING**

**Love is of thanksgiving because we must always thank the Lord first of all, that makes us partakers in his love, so that ours may always be the love of truth, justice, charity, mercy, piety and forgiveness.**

**We must also thank our brothers, because the love of God comes to us in an indirect and not a direct way. They are the channels through which all the power of grace of God is poured out on us. Others must be thanked.**

**Seeing the brothers as channels of truth, light, charity, justice and holiness of our God, in Christ, by the Holy Spirit we can on condition that our heart is pure. Pure heart, pure eyes, pure vision and true thanksgiving.**

**Thanksgiving love is often absent from the heart and mind. It is the sign that the heart is impure and the eyes do not see the grace of God that comes to us through others. The indirect way is the essence of true love.**

**SHORT FINAL CONSIDERATIONS**

**Love to be true needs a perennial, uninterrupted purification. This purification has only one name: conversion, exit, surfacing. Conversion is leaving the road of yesterday and set out on today's road. You come out of a Word of yesterday and you follow the Word of today. We emerge from the will of God of yesterday, we are immersed in the will of God today. Getting converted, going out, emerging are not a day's work, but of a lifetime. Conversion is the opposite of habit and also of sloth.**

**The Christian is not seated on the Word of the Lord. He is always standing, ready to listen to every voice that comes from his Lord. Jesus has always been fought by sloth, laziness and habit, that are non-willingness to set on the way in the presence of the Lord. But then the people of God were led by people who did not trust other prophets either. Moses was the only true prophet for them. While Moses is a voice of God, he is not the voice of God. Christ is not a voice of God. He is the voice of God.**

***Conversion does not happen in an instant. It is an uninterrupted work. It consists in abandoning the path made so far and putting us on the way that the Holy Spirit indicates to us moment by moment. The before is not the after. Not even from the before the after follows. Between the before and after there can be a definitive break. Before we walked on a path, after the Spirit of the Lord indicates us another. And then another again and so without interruption.***

***Abraham must always walk listening to the last word of his God. First the Lord gives him a son. Then he asks him. Abraham first asks him to the Lord and then he gives him to him. He listens to the last word. Moses must also walk listening to the last word. If he does not listen, the people is lost in the desert. The desert is crossed only by listening to the Word of the Lord that indicates the way at every moment. Jesus also must always walk with the last Word of the Father. Yesterday he healed. Today he has to go to the villages to preach the Gospel. Everyone has the right to listen to the Word.***

***He listens, obeys and goes elsewhere. Conversion is not only from sin to grace, from the transgression of the Commandments to their observance. Conversion is listening to every Word that comes out of the mouth of the Lord. Conversion is daily. Even Paul must change the path every day. He is heading for a place and the Lord calls him to go elsewhere.***

***He listens and sets off on the path indicated to him by his God. He always listens. What must he get converted to today? One must convert oneself to true faith, charity, hope, justice, fortitude, temperance and prudence. One must convert oneself to the truth and holiness of every sacrament and gift of the Spirit received. We must get converted to the mission received. But above all we must get converted to the voice of the Spirit of the Lord that moment by moment sees the man in need of salvation and he indicates the right and effective ways.***

***Since conversion is to every grace of the Lord, everyone must know what graces he has received from God and must consecrate his life to them. We must also be converted to the personal mission. Life is from it. We must always be converted to the purity of the truth of the Father, of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, of the Mother of God, of the Church, of the sacraments and of the Gospel. Even to the beauty of virtues we must be converted. The true mission is the fruit of true conversion. One is converted little, he is a little missionary. One is converted a lot, he is a lot missionary. There is no conversion at all, there is no true mission. There are false missions.***

**Conversion is the daily renewal of our heart, all aligned on the current thoughts of our God and Lord, in Christ, through the work of the Holy Spirit, in the mediation of the one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church. Who can help us so that our conversion is without any interruption is She, the Mother of God, She who kept everything in her heart, meditating on it, for an ever more perfect knowledge of the Father's will. To the Angels and Saints so that they never get tired of us and always come to our rescue. We need their help to bring our light to completion.**