**FRAGMENTS OF CHRISTIAN SPIRITUALITY**

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

***Catanzaro 13 August 2018***

**WHAT THE VIRGIN MARY INVITES TO**

**The Virgin Mary knows that all is grace. Even the smallest good we do is by grace. We can do nothing alone. Even a single soul that enters the Church enters by the grace of the Lord.**

**If we know this, we must ask all to the Lord. But if we ask that he sends us a soul, we must also ask him every grace for us so that we may welcome the soul according to truth and charity.**

**Instead we think that everything is man - man relationship and human relationship. Nothing must be from the earth, but everything must descend from heaven. The Virgin Mary also asked Christ for the grace of wine.**

**The Virgin Mary invites to prayer for otherwise our mission will always be fruitless. We work in vain and for nothing. We consume all our energy in vain. We bring no person to Christ Jesus.**

**The Virgin Mary invites everyone to assume his specific responsibilities that come from the gifts of grace and the mission entrusted to us by the Holy Spirit. The Lord gives because we give him.**

**What must we give to the Lord? The fruits of every gift of grace given to us and of every mission given to us. Whoever is a prophet must bear the fruits of the prophet. Who is baptized of the baptized, who is confirmed of the confirmed person and so on.**

**Those who have received a particular and special mission must bear fruit according to this mission. Everyone who assumes a responsibility must produce fruits in relation to the responsibility assumed. It is an obligation.**

**It is the obligation of eternal life. If the gifts of grace and of ordinary or extraordinary mission, of little or big responsibility are not put to good use, our eternal life is at risk. We are guilty of serious omission.**

**The wicked rich ended up in the flames of hell because he had not lived according to truth the gifts in material goods he received from the Lord. He lived them for himself and not also for others. The same applies to the lazy servant.**

**In the chapter of the judgment according to the Gospel of Matthew, the door of paradise remains closed for those who have not produced fruits of faith, for those who have not put to good use the gifts received, for those who have not lived on charity.**

**The Virgin Mary invites us to prayer and responsibility. She knows that gifts and mission must bear fruit and we need the love of the Father, of all the grace of Christ and of the communion of the Holy Spirit.**

**REMEMBERING THE PERSONAL ORIGINS**

**Why should we remember our origins of salvation, of the mission, of this or that other gift of grace, of every other thing received from the Lord? Only for a reason of gratitude?**

**To always bless, praise, thank and magnify the Lord. But above all to always give new strength to the mission received. Along the way the mission becomes polluted. Debris are added to its purity.**

**The mission is like a river. The more it flows, the more it loses the purity of its source. Going to the source, we plunges into its purity and resumes the journey. Who does not want to be polluted, he must always return.**

**The Christian can study all the theology books of this world. But then he must return to the Gospel. It is the source of always pure water. In the Gospel we must immerse all the books that have spoken of the Gospel.**

**We know that St. Peter laid the transfiguration on the Mount as the foundation and the beginning of his true faith in Christ Jesus. This vision is always before his eyes. The same is for Paul the way to Damascus.**

**Everyone has a particular, personal origin, from which the journey began. This origin must always be remembered. The foundations of truth that were valid then, are valid today too. They must be purified from all pollution.**

**It is the obligation of each to eliminate every subsequent pollution in relation to the truth and grace of the origins. If the origins are not purified by pollution, in the long run the truth, grace and mission die.**

**Today faith in Christ is heavily polluted. A purifying bath in the Gospel is needed. Whoever immerses his faith in the Gospel will live. But whoever does not immerse it, let him know that his faith is at risk of disappearing.**

**In the Old Testament in the dark moments of the history of the Lord's people, the men of God renewed the covenant between the Lord and his people. They felt the urge to go back to basics. Faith was dead.**

**Here is why we go back to the origins. It is more than urgent to renew, revive and reawaken the faith from which everything began. It is a holy thing to rediscover the ancient reasons for our encounter with the Lord and the faith that was born.**

**This return to the source of our faith can be carried out singularly and even communally. It is necessary that it is done. Faith needs new strength, new light and new charge.**

**MISSION OF SALVATION**

**The mission of salvation is lived by observing an essential rule: to say to the other, whoever it may be, the Word of the Lord, from which life, blessing, peace, justice, truth, light and holiness are.**

**It is not a mission of salvation saying words of criticism, murmuring, condemnation and judgment. These things do not belong to the missionary of Jesus. The missionary of Jesus must save himself by saving others.**

**To save himself, the missionary of Jesus must live the whole Word of Jesus and the Word of Jesus forbids any judgment, any condemnation and any murmuring. Who condemns will be condemned and so who judges.**

**The missionary of Jesus is sent to say only the Word of Jesus. Other words do not belong to his mission. He is a missionary of Jesus, not of himself and not of others. He is a missionary to say the Word.**

**The missionary of Jesus will be tempted to say words of men and not to say the Word of Jesus. It is up to him to be vigilant so as not to fall into temptation. If he falls into temptation he is no longer a missionary. He is a man among men.**

**It is useless to be men among men, because we have become so because of the temptation that has conquered the heart. When one falls, it is urgent to immediately return to fidelity to the mission, according to the mandate received.**

**MISSION OF LOVE**

**The Word of Jesus must be lived showing all the love of the Father to every man. The truth is to be announced with all the power of love that is in the heart of the missionary. Word and love must be one thing.**

**The missionary is not sent only to say the Word. He is also sent to bring the love of the Father, all the love of the Father and not a part of it. Just as the Word of Jesus must be in the heart so also love.**

**Christ is our perfect model in this. This is why it is right to immerse ourselves daily in the Gospel. From him one learns how to be truth and full of charity at the same time. Truth and charity together always.**

**Truth is given in charity, charity in truth. Neither charity without the truth. It is not true charity. Neither the truth without charity. It is not true truth. Charity makes truth true and truth makes charity true. One makes the other true.**

**As every day the heart must be transformed into truth, so also every day it must be transformed into charity. This work is of the Holy Spirit. It is He who must fill our hearts with the most pure truth and charity of God.**

**This is why it is necessary that the missionary never separates himself from the Holy Spirit. Without the Holy Spirit the truth could turn into diabolical truth and even charity into diabolical charity. Satan gives to kill.**

**In the Gospel Satan reveals the most pure truth of Christ for his mission to be compromised. But he also tempts men to take the miracle from Jesus, refusing the invitation to true conversion.**

**Today Satan has deprived the Christian mission of every truth in every Word of Christ the Lord. He left love and mercy to men, but his love and mercy, but not those according to God.**

**What good is the love and mercy of Satan? To delude the children of the Church that they are working for the love of men, while they do not realize that Satan has deprived them of the truth of Christ and of the Gospel.**

**When the truth of Christ is lost, it is a sign that our truth as missionaries of Jesus has also been lost. Without Christ's truth, we live without the love of Christ. We are not in his Gospel. we are walking towards hell.**

**Since the soul is personal and not communal, not collective, everyone is obliged to save his soul. He saves it by holding it firmly in the Word of Christ the Lord. You get out of the Word and it's death.**

**MISSION WITH THE PURE HEART**

**Jesus says: "Blessed are the pure at heart because they will see God". And again: "Learn from me that I am meek and humble of heart and you will find rest for your souls". The heart is pure when sin does not enter it.**

**With mortal sin the heart becomes stone. A heart of stone is incapable of seeing God, seeing as God. Seeing the other as God sees him, always in need of salvation, redemption, help, truth, love and light.**

**If there is venial sin in the heart, the vision is not clear, but blurred. One sees and hardly sees. Sometimes one is capable of mercy, other times less. Now he judges and condemns. Another times he is compassionate and charitable.**

**The Christian is asked to see every man as the Lord sees him: in need of salvation. But also of loving him as the Lord loves him: with love that saves, redeems and always works good, all good.**

**Whoever wants a pure heart must engage in a hard struggle against sin, both mortal and venial. With sin, man thinks, speaks, decides and acts from the heart of Satan. With grace he acts and thinks from the heart of God.**

**When one criticizes, murmurs, speaks badly, judges, condemns, says falsehoods and slanders and when he emits bitter and harsh sentences, then it is a clear sign that we are not with the heart of God in us.**

**Every Word that God speaks and says, he says it only for salvation. We will be the ones to say the word of condemnation on earth, if we sin against the Holy Spirit, in eternity when we will condemn ourselves to perdition.**

**Jesus warns us: "You who are bad cannot say good things". Each tree produces according to its nature. When we realize that our mouth says bad things, we must immediately run for cover.**

**The bad, wicked, ruthless and without mercy word, reveals that our sin is speaking in the heart. The Psalm says that in the heart of the impious sin becomes an oracle of evil and a sentence of condemnation or accusation.**

**To know the nature of our heart we do not need any x-rays or spiritual CAT scan and even other introspection tests. It suffices to listen to the word that comes out of our mouth. The word reveals the heart.**

**Jesus wants every one of his disciples to be with the pure heart. The heart is pure when it knows how to excuse, to forgive and to speak only words of salvation. If it says words that do not save the heart is impure. It must be purified.**

**The heart that abandons itself to utterances, showing the four winds the evil that is in it, is also impure. The pure heart knows how to hide every offense in it and makes of it an offering to the Lord for the redemption of the world.**

**The pure heart is the greatest wealth that can conquer a man. It belongs to the righteous man, who fears the Lord, that dwells in his heart, that loves his Word, that lives only to work good for everyone.**

**When we meet a man with a pure heart, without deception and limpid, we meet with an angel of God sent on our way to show us the way of salvation and eternal life. It is a great, indeed very great grace.**

**PRAYER TO HAVE THE HEART PURE**

**The first man who asked God for the creation of a new heart was David. He had committed a sin of adultery. To hide his sin he had the woman's husband and not just him killed.**

**Having wanted that the murder passed as a military incident, other men were sacrificed with him. The prophet Natan, sent by God, reveals him his sin and also foretells him the misfortunes that would have occurred.**

**David repents of his crimes. He asks forgiveness with true repentance. But he knows that, having a concupiscent heart, he would have continued to sin. This is why he asks the Lord for the creation of a pure heart.**

**The Lord listens to his prayer and after a few centuries, with the prophet Ezekiel promises that he would have sent his Holy Spirit to remove the heart of stone from his breast and put a heart of flesh in its place.**

**Jesus came and through the work of his Holy Spirit, the fruit of his passion and death, not only creates in us the pure heart, he sanctifies all our nature, making us partakers of the divine nature. The spiritual man is born.**

**As long as we are on earth, the flesh is always going to conquer what has been taken from it: the power on heart, on will, on mind and on desires. The fight never ends. Even at the point of death, the flesh wants what belongs to it.**

**For this reason we must pray without interruption so that it is always the Holy Spirit the one that governs our life and not the flesh. Prayer must be without interruption. Either the Spirit or the flesh governs us.**

**It is right that everyone knows it. There are no middle ways and neutral zones. Either we are governed by the Spirit or by the flesh. Saint Paul tells us to observe the works. The works of the flesh are very different than the fruits of the Spirit.**

**OUR MODEL: JESUS ​​CRUCIFIED**

**Whoever wants to be able to live like a true Christian, leading his life in forgiveness, mercy, charity, love, truth and justice according to God, must never turn his eyes away from Jesus Crucified.**

**Who contemplates Jesus Crucified will always get a new strength by him to walk according to his Gospel and in his Gospel. Looking and contemplating Him it is possible to forgive and it is possible to love in truth.**

**The world is afraid to contemplate Christ Crucified, for this reason it wants to remove him from its sight. Instead, the Christian must be a seeker of Christ Crucified, because he knows that true salvation springs from the cross for him.**

**REAL CONVERSION**

**Conversion is true, when it is adherence to the Gospel, to the truth of the Word, in a perennial obedience to every command of the Lord. If there is no obedience to the Word, there might never be true conversion.**

**Preaching the Gospel, conversion, faith in the Gospel and obedience to the Gospel must be one. If one of these things is missing, one might never speak of conversion. You come out of darkness, you enter light.**

**Today there is little conversion, because there is little preaching of the Word. The flesh created fear for the preaching of the Word. One is afraid of the God of the Word. We want a God without the Word, a word without God.**

**If the Christian is afraid of the Word of God and of the God of the Word, he attests that sin reigns in the heart. If sin reigns, Satan rules in it. Only Satan is afraid of the Word of God and of the God of the Word.**

**WITH HOLY INTENTIONS**

**Here are what our good intentions must be: loving the mission, loving Jesus Crucified, loving conversion, loving the Gospel, desiring a pure heart, being freed from all sin, both mortal and venial.**

**Since the realization of these good intentions is the grace of the Lord, we must always ask the Holy Spirit to live in us and realize in us and for us every desire and will for good in every moment.**

**Not only must these intentions be accomplished in us, but in every other member of the body of Christ and in every cell of the human family. But we have the task of preaching the Word, announcing and reminding it.**

**SHORT FINAL CONSIDERATIONS**

**Remembering one's origins is always keeping in mind the moment from which it all began. The first solemn remembrance commanded by God to his people is the celebration of the night of Easter. By celebrating Easter the children of Israel should have remembered that they were a people of slaves and that the Lord had come down with a powerful arm in Egypt and had freed them. They were free people by the work of the Lord. Recalling this moment, they would have had to eternally bless their Liberator.**

**Everything in the Lord's people was by the work of their God. The very people was by God's work. If this truth is forgotten, there is no future, because the people must always be from God. Nothing might it do by itself. When the people have forgotten the truth of their origins, they have forgotten their God, made themselves a people of idolaters, fell into the most profound immorality, lost their freedom and the earth, they became slaves again. It is also valid for us. We forget our origin, we return to the slavery of before.**

***Why should we remember our origins of salvation, of the mission, of this or that other gift of grace and of every other thing received from the Lord? Only for a reason of gratitude? To always bless, praise, thank and magnify the Lord. But above all to always give new strength to the mission received. Along the way the mission becomes polluted. Debris are added to its purity. The mission is like a river. The more it flows and the more it loses the purity of its source. Going us to the source, we plunge into its purity and resume the journey. Who does not want to be polluted, he must always return. The Christian can study all the theology books of this world. But then he must return to the Gospel. It is the source of always pure water. In the Gospel we must immerse all the books that have spoken of the Gospel.***

***We know that St. Peter laid the transfiguration on the Mount as the foundation and the beginning of his true faith in Christ Jesus. This vision is always before his eyes. The same is the way to Damascus for Paul. Everyone has a particular, personal origin, from which the journey began. This origin must always be remembered. The foundations of truth that were valid then, are valid today too. They must be purified from all pollution. It is the obligation of each to eliminate any subsequent pollution in relation to the truth and grace of the origins. If the origins are not purified from pollution, in the long run the truth, grace and mission die. Today faith in Christ is heavily polluted. A purifying bath in the Gospel is needed. Whoever immerses his faith in the Gospel will live. But whoever does not immerse it, let him know that his faith is at risk of disappearing.***

***In the Old Testament in the dark moments of the history of the Lord's people, the men of God renewed the covenant between the Lord and his people. They felt the urge to go back to basics. Faith was dead. That's why you go back to the origins. It is more than urgent to renew, revive and reawaken the faith from which everything began. It is a holy thing to rediscover the ancient reasons of our encounter with the Lord and the faith that was born. This return to the source of our faith can be carried out singularly and even communally. It is necessary that it is done. Faith needs new strength, new light and a new charge.***

**Today we celebrate the divine mysteries, as pure rituality. Our heart, our mind and our life are often lacking in them. It is as if they were two separate and distinct things. It is urgent to make every mystery that we celebrate the point of origin of our life, a point of ever-new, ever-present and ever-more-alive origin. Today the Lord liberates us, today he saves us, today he redeems us and today he abolishes hard slavery for us. Today the Lord dies, today the Lord rises again, today he pours the Holy Spirit, today he gives his grace and today we are freed from the enslavement of death and sin. Today is the day of God, of Christ Jesus and of the Holy Spirit. Today is the day the Lord has made to create us in an even more wonderful way. Mother of God, woman entirely beautiful, immaculate and most holy, make us true life of the sacrament that we celebrate. Angels and Saints do not allow the divine mysteries to be celebrated only as a historical memory of an event that has been. The event is today.**