**FRAGMENTS OF CHRISTIAN SPIRITUALITY**

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

***Catanzaro 03 September 2018***

**THE MISSION IS FROM THE HOLY SPIRIT**

***Every mission of salvation and redemption, in view of eternal life can be accomplished only by motion and by the assistance of the Holy Spirit. In the Church of Jesus it cannot be except by the work of the Spirit of God.***

***No man, no woman can say a single Word of conversion or invitation to choose Christ as the one and only source of eternal life, if not by means of the Holy Spirit. Nothing is possible without the Spirit.***

***Saint Paul reminds us that even the true confession of Christ Jesus and his divine, human, redemptive, saving, sanctifying truth can only take place if we are in the Spirit of God. Who confesses Christ is in the Spirit.***

***Whoever does not confess Christ, certainly is not in the Spirit. The Spirit is the truth of God, of Christ Jesus, of the Church. If we separate ourselves from the Spirit, we fall back into falsehood, idolatry, immorality, and concupiscence.***

***The same applies to all those Christians who come together to live a particular ecclesial mission for the conversion and salvation of their brothers. Nothing is without the Spirit.***

***Saying that the mission is by motion of the Holy Spirit is not a falsehood. The problem is not the origin of the mission, but its development. As the mission begins with the Spirit, so it continues in the Spirit.***

***If one separates from the Holy Spirit - sin and vice are elements of separation - the origin of the mission always remains from the Holy Spirit. Its fulfilment is no longer from the Spirit and it is failure.***

***This is why what begins from the Spirit and for Him, for Him also must be brought to completion. Since in the associated forms, people are many, one could be in the Spirit and twenty no.***

***The mission lives only for that person who is in the Spirit of the Lord. All the others are not only out of the mission, they are also creators of serious damage because of the scandal that they enter into history.***

***This truth is valid for the whole body of Christ. While the members who are in the Holy Spirit perform the mission of salvation, those who are outside work instead for the ruin and destruction of the body of the Lord.***

***St. Paul says that many are enemies of the cross of Jesus, because of their scandals. A single scandal of just one Christian is enough to make Christ and his work of salvation not credible. Just one scandal is enough.***

***THE END OF THE MISSION***

***All that is born from the Holy Spirit, from the Spirit also receives his. There are missions with charitable purposes for corporal works of mercy. But there are infinite other ends. Each mission has its goals.***

***What does each of us have to pay close attention to? So that never the purpose given by the Holy Spirit either in much or in little, is changed, altered, transformed and modified. Holy Spirit and end walk together.***

***If the purpose of the mission is altered, the Spirit cannot work with us. We operate alone. Since it is the Spirit the one that must transform all our works into eternal life, conversion and sanctification, nothing happens.***

***This is the reason why even if you work a lot, you get very few fruits. The end has been changed. For example: if the Holy Spirit wants us to remind and announce his Word, this is the end.***

***A mission that comes from the Holy Spirit must always respect the end assigned to it by the Holy Spirit. We cannot substitute ourselves to the Spirit of God. We cannot replace his end with our personal ends.***

***If a mission consists in the remembrance and proclamation of the Gospel to the whole world, the proclamation and remembrance of the Gospel are its goal. Other ends do not belong to it. You change the end, you change mission.***

***However, we do not have the mission desired by the Holy Spirit. If then a perfectly evangelical life, of true exemplarity are as means of the mission without the means the end can never be achieved.***

***We can also change the means, but it is not the one indicated by the Spirit of the Lord. We can also change the means, but we do not get the end. The Word is given by living the Word, the Gospel is given by living the Gospel.***

***Every member of every associated form of mission must make every effort to respect the end and the means indicated by the Holy Spirit. Obedience to the Spirit of the Lord always produces good fruit.***

***We are always tempted to change both end and means. We can modify them. But fruits do not ripen for us. What comes from the Holy Spirit, only the Holy Spirit can modify it. No man has power.***

***This truth is valid for the whole body of Christ, that is, for the Church. It is valid for the Apostles. It applies to presbyters. It is valid for every Christian. It applies to every association. It applies to every Order or Congregation. It is always valid.***

***No one is above the Holy Spirit. But Satan always tempts us so that we do everything from our heart, our will, our feeling, our instinct and our thoughts and desires.***

***CHARISMA OF THE MISSION AND END***

***The supernatural end of the Church is the same for every member of the body of Christ: the proclamation of the Gospel to every creature. What changes from Christian to Christian and from Association to Association, Movement and Group.***

***The particular mission that is marked by the particular charisma, or special gift of grace changes. If to a Movement or Association or Group the Holy Spirit has given the charisma of remembrance, it means something.***

***What does it mean exactly? That if I keep the mission in its truth, I use the end given by Him according to truth, if I announce the Word, if I remember the Word, this Word always enters people's hearts.***

***The charisma is a gift that always produces fruit, provided that the rules linked necessarily to the gift are respected. If the rules are not respected, the gift or charisma cannot produce. The celestial rules are not observed.***

***If the farmer sows the wheat and respects the rules of sowing, he will certainly harvest a good harvest. If instead of sowing wheat, sows flour. Never will he harvest a single stem. The same is if he sows it out of time.***

***DIVINE MISSION AND GUARANTEE***

***When one receives a mission from the Holy Spirit and obeys it, respecting means, ends and gifts or charismas, the Holy Spirit takes up his mission and leads it according to his value. He knows what to do and how to operate.***

***There will always be contrasts, persecutions, oppositions, murmuring, slander and false testimony, but all these things serve to prove the missionary's faith and strengthen his gift made to the Lord.***

***When the missionary obeys the Holy Spirit, the missionary ends the mission when the Spirit of the Lord wants, not when men want. No man has power over the missionary of the Spirit of God.***

***Christ Jesus was also crucified. Apparently it seems that He was defeated. But then he rose again, overcoming death and being clothed with immortality. Today his mission continues. It will continue forever.***

***WITH JESUS ​​AND WITH HIS MOTHER***

***The missionary who obeys the Holy Spirit is never alone in the ways of this world. There is the Spirit of the Lord that moves him, Christ Jesus that attracts him and the Mother of Jesus in prayer to obtain every grace for him.***

***There are delicate, difficult and hard moments to be lived, but they are only proof of fidelity and love. The Lord always proves our heart. Knowing that we are proved, we get charged with celestial strength and persevere.***

***The missionary must always be filled with heavenly grace. This is why he must always celebrate the divine mystery with great fervour and devotion. He must pay close attention to prayer. The missionary is a prayerful person.***

***PRIESTLY MISSION AND PRAYER***

***Why must the Priest be a saint? Because He must be the bringer of the Spirit of conversion into the bosom of his community. If He is not holy, he might always celebrate the sacraments, but few will be the ones to get converted.***

***Few will be those who are converted by hearing the Word of Jesus. His word must be grasped by the Holy Spirit and transformed into the word of God, the Word of salvation and the Word of conversion and eternal life.***

***If the priest is not a saint, his prayer will never reach the throne of the Most High. Thus an essential part of his ministry fails. He must bring heaven onto the earth and the earth into heaven.***

***He brings heaven with the celebration of the sacraments, he brings the earth into heaven with his prayer, with the fruit of a holy heart. If the heart is not holy, his prayer does not rise to God and the earth will never be brought into heaven.***

***The Priest must be like the Mother of Jesus at the wedding of Cana. Her prayer obtains grace. But he must also be like Jesus: he must transform water into wine. If he is not holy, he might never be like Mary.***

***SHORT FINAL CONSIDERATIONS***

***THE END OF THE MISSION. Every missionary of Jesus must pay close attention so that he never betrays, modifies, changes, transforms, alters, adds or removes to the end that it is necessarily linked to his mission. If the end is changed, the mission is changed. If the mission is modified, it is no longer that given to us by the Holy Spirit. If the Church has been sent to preach the Gospel to every creature, make disciples, baptize and teach how to live the Gospel, it is clear that if she does not baptize, it is useless to proclaim the Gospel and it is useless to teach how to live it. The new creature that will have to live the Word of Christ Jesus is missing. The end is the essence of the mission. We do not respect the end there is no mission. Mission and end are not given by the individual, but only by the Holy Spirit. What is given by the Holy Spirit, in the Holy Spirit and according to the Holy Spirit must be lived. Fidelity to the Spirit of the Lord is a guarantee of the success of the mission.***

***All that is born from the Holy Spirit, from the Spirit also receives his. There are missions with charitable ends for corporal works of mercy. But there are infinite other ends. Each mission has its ends. What does each of us have to pay close attention to? So that the purpose given by the Holy Spirit is never changed, altered, transformed and modified, in much or little. Holy Spirit and end walk together. If the end of the mission is altered, the Spirit cannot work with us. We operate alone. Since it is the Spirit the one who must transform all our works into eternal life, conversion and sanctification, nothing happens. This is the reason why even if you work a lot, you get very few fruits. The end has been changed. For example: if the Holy Spirit wants us to remind and announce his Word, this is the end.***

***A mission that comes from the Holy Spirit must always respect the end assigned to it by the Holy Spirit. We cannot substitute ourselves to the Spirit of God. We cannot replace his end with our personal ends. If a mission consists in the remembrance and proclamation of the Gospel to the whole world, the proclamation and remembrance of the Gospel are its end. Other ends do not belong to it. You change the end, you change mission. However, we do not have the mission desired by the Holy Spirit. If then a perfectly evangelical life, of true exemplarity, are the means of the mission, without the means the end might never be achieved. We can also change the means, but it is not the one indicated by the Spirit of the Lord. We can also change the means, but we do not get the end. The Word is given by living the Word, the Gospel is given by living the Gospel.***

***Every member of every associated form of mission must make every effort to respect the end and the means indicated by the Holy Spirit. Obedience to the Spirit of the Lord always produces good fruit. We are always tempted to change both end and means. We can modify them. But fruits do not ripen for us. What comes from the Holy Spirit, only the Holy Spirit might modify it. No man has power. This truth is valid for the whole body of Christ, that is, for the Church. It is valid for the Apostles. It applies to presbyters. It is valid for every Christian. It applies to every association. It applies to every Order or Congregation. It is always valid. No one is above the Holy Spirit. But Satan always tempts us so that we do everything from our heart, our will, our feeling, our instinct and our thoughts and desires.***

***Every once in a while it is right that we make a careful examination of conscience. Do I know the purpose of my mission? Do I observe all the ways indicated to me by the Spirit of the Lord? Do I live in perfect obedience to his every motion? Do I know what the charisma of my mission is? Do I ask the Lord an ever more intense light so that I can see, understand and live everything from his will and never from my mind and my heart? How long have I not been living my mission? How long have I forgotten its end? Do I take care of the means indicated to me by the Holy Spirit for the success of the mission? Do I ask the Mother of Jesus, the Angels and Saints to obtain for me daily the grace of an ever truer conversion to my mission? Am I aware that so far I have done truly little? Do I want to resume work in the Lord's vineyard more zealously?***