**FRAGMENTS OF CHRISTIAN SPIRITUALITY**

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

**Catanzaro 10 September 2018**

**REMEMBERING THE DAY OF THE BEGINNING**

**The children of Israel always remembered the day of their beginning which was the Passover of the Lord. They celebrated the event that for them was not just a memory, but a memorial, an actualization. The event was lived.**

**They are slaves. They are freed from slavery. They cross the Sea, they live in the desert. They also celebrate their stay in the desert on the Feast of Huts. They are living in the desert.**

**For us, all the liturgical festivals are a memorial. Memorial is Christmas, Easter and Pentecost. Today Jesus is born. Today Jesus rises again. The Holy Spirit descends today. Today the Passover of the Lord is lived.**

**Every disciple of Jesus must necessarily have his today. Today the Lord showed me the light. Today he made me his adopted son. Today he has filled me with his Holy Spirit. Today he has consecrated me.**

**Today he called me for a particular mission of salvation. Today he asked me to remind and proclaim the Word of Jesus. Today he told me to fill the House of the Father. Today he has made me an instrument of salvation.**

**By celebrating, rather by living our today, we must thank, bless and praise the Lord for what he has done for us and for the trust he has towards us. But also renew the reasons for our gift to him.**

**To celebrate the today of Christ which is also our today must help us to purify the soul, spirit and body from all the dross that covered the soul, spirit and body during the year. We purify ourselves to start with more momentum.**

**IN DIALOGUE WITH THE MOTHER OF JESUS**

**We remember the day of the beginning renewing our promise. If we said yes to a special mission, desired by the Father of Heaven and made to us through his Mother, it is also right to enter into communion with Her.**

**We must dialogue with the spirit and the mind with her and manifest her our whole heart, our good intentions and our aims, but also reveal her our uncertainties, doubts, difficulties and every trial.**

**Dialoguing with the Mother of God and also with Christ Jesus, makes our mission alive, of today, not of yesterday and of the past. For many, the mission becomes a fact of yesterday. The result is its abandonment. Yesterday is not today.**

**Instead our mission must always be today. Today the Virgin Mary and Christ Jesus entrust us with the mission. Today we welcome it with joy. Today we say our yes. Today we get down to work.**

**If we are able to ensure that through an uninterrupted dialogue with the Mother of God and with Jesus our mission is always today and never yesterday, strength will always be live. Otherwise everything will get cold.**

**When one cools oneself in the things of Jesus and his Mother, little by little he reaches spiritual death. The mission dies because our dialogue with the Mother of God and with Jesus died. Then, everything dies.**

**When there are no fruits, it's a bad sign. It is the sign that we are no longer in dialogue with the Mother of God and with Jesus. It is they who must always instil new strength and zeal for the fulfilment of the mission.**

**But a missionary that never listens to the Mother of God and of Jesus, in the Holy Spirit, in prayer and in dialogue of love and truth, attests that he does not care about the mission. He does not care about Jesus and Mary.**

**If I do not care about Jesus and Mary, if I do not get verified with them, it is a sign that I do not even care about the mission entrusted to me. The lack of fruiting reveals it. No Jesus, no Mary, no fruit.**

**Jesus and his Mother must be not only at the origin of our mission, but also the constant vitality of it. If we separate from them, we are like a river whose source is exhausted. The river is dry.**

**If the mission is dry, we know what the causes are. We separated ourselves from the dialogue of love and verification, of daily delivery and entrustment of the mission. It is urgent to resume the dialogue. It is urgent to go back to the source.**

**MISSION SALVATION**

**Here is the mission of salvation: comforting hearts by attesting to the love of Jesus and of the Mother of God for them; making each one responsible for the ministry entrusted to him; reminding and proclaiming the Word of Jesus.**

**And more: telling the lay faithful to let themselves be guided by holy priests, that they may work in the Parish; inviting the world to conversion in the Gospel. Then Jesus and his Mother are assured that everything will be done with perseverance.**

**Who wants to live the mission with fruit, must know the ministry that has been entrusted to him. If the task consists in the remembrance and proclamation of the Word, the Word must be reminded and proclaimed. You cannot do anything else.**

**The mission is regulated by Christ Jesus and his Mother, not by the missionary. If the mission is that of filling the house of the Father, the Church must be filled. If it is not filled, the mission is not lived.**

**If the mission consists in inviting to conversion and faith in the Gospel, if the Gospel is not preached, not even conversion can be preached. There is no mission of salvation. Obedience must be full.**

**What then is the mission: obedience to a will that Christ Jesus and his Mother manifested us. If we have received a will, we cannot replace it with ours. The mission is eternal obedience.**

**Who must and can change wills are only Jesus and his Mother. If they do not change, we cannot change either. If we change, we do our will, not the will of Jesus and his Mother.**

**UNTIL THE END**

**Jesus made a promise to his missionaries. I will be with you every day until the end of the world. Never will Jesus fail this promise. Jesus is with us to confirm the Word spoken in his name.**

**The mission of salvation was not given for a day, a month, a year and a fixed term. It has been given for all the days of our life. As Jesus was faithful to his mission until death on the Cross, so we are going also.**

**We too are asked to be faithful to the mission until death on a cross. One is faithful if he hands is life over to the mission. Nor must one think of being faithful because he remains with the body in the missionary structure.**

**Fidelity is to obedience. We are obedient until the death on the cross and we are faithful. We come out of obedience and we are not faithful. This is the error of many: confusing belonging with the mission. We are all Christians.**

**We all belong to the Church. But, few are obedient and therefore few are true missionaries. We can also carry out activities of our choice, but not for this we are faithful and we are missionaries.**

**It is in the substitution of will that the Christian is lost. Today, he does many things. But they are things willed by his heart, by his desires and by his thought. They do not come from the will of Christ Jesus or his Mother.**

**Jesus and his mother want only one thing. Obedience to their every request. If they say to go, we go. If they say to stop, we stop. If they say to proclaim the Word, we proclaim the Word. And the other things?**

**The other things are all entrusted to the Providence of the Father. He knows what to do and how to do it. He will be the one to manifest his will to Christ Jesus and through Christ to his Mother, so that they will provide for other things.**

**The command received cannot be changed, neither can it be substituted nor as well altered. Loyalty must be up to death. But fidelity is only in the very pure obedience to every word received.**

**As Satan tempted Christ Jesus so that he made his own missions and detached himself from the Father, from his divine and eternal will, so will we, his disciples, be tempted. We know that with Christ Jesus he did not succeed.**

**He succeeded in tempting a third of the Angels of God, but Jesus has not been overcome by him. Today he tempts his Church. We can say that he is greatly succeeding. We can say of having overcome or that we are overcoming Satan's temptation.**

**The purpose of the temptation of Satan is only one: separating every missionary from obedience to the Word of Christ Jesus, the Word that characterizes his mission. If we separate ourselves from obedience to Lord Jesus, it is over.**

**Either we link our mission to Christ, or we will never see one fruit. The fruits ripen from our obedience. The fruits are from our loyalty. Changing the will of Jesus and his Mother is the death of the mission.**

**GO THROUGHOUT THE WORLD**

**The Christian mission is great. Let us try to list what the Lord and his Mother ask: Going throughout the world. Filling the Father's House. Making Jesus be known. We know Jesus and we know the Father.**

**We do not know Jesus, we do not know the Father and nothing is known. Again: we must be strong in suffering. One is strong if he thinks of the cross of Christ Jesus. One is strong if the cross of Christ becomes his cross.**

**Having made the cross of Christ become our cross, it must be brought with love. We can do all these things if we let ourselves be helped by a prayer without interruption. The prayer pleasing to Heaven is the recitation of the Holy Rosary.**

**If this is the will of Christ Jesus, manifested through the Virgin Mary, it is evident that the mission is true, if obedience is true. If obedience is false, the mission is also false. They are one thing.**

**For the Christian the mission is obedience to every Word that has come out of the mouth of Lord Jesus. If the Christian obeys the Gospel he is always on a mission. Every Word of the Gospel is a manifestation of the Word of Jesus.**

**You are the light of the world. You are on a mission if you are light. The sun rises and sets. It is on a mission of light. You are the salt of the earth. The Christian shows the world the wisdom of Christ Jesus, he is on a mission.**

**If one obeys every Word of the Gospel, he is always a missionary of Jesus, even if he remains in the same place. Instead, if we do not obey the Word of the Gospel, even if we go around the world, we are not missionaries.**

**Jesus says of scribes and Pharisees who travel the land and the sea to make a single proselyte and once they have obtained it, they make him the son of Gehenna twice as much as they are. Not only is it a sterile mission, but one for eternal death.**

**Why do they make of him a child of perdition? Because they do not obey the Word of their God and Lord. Not only do they not obey, they transform, elude and change it in the name of their traditions.**

**MISSIONARY SUCCESSION**

**He who believes in his own mission and knows its great saving value, does not want it to die with him. For this reason he commits himself in an uninterrupted prayer to ask God for continuers of it.**

**Jesus asks his disciples to pray so that the Lord sends workers to his harvest. Jesus ends his earthly mission, in the visibility of his body and leaves his Mission to the Twelve Apostles.**

**The Twelve Apostles are responsible for the entire history of the mission of Christ Jesus, the mission of salvation and redemption. In history, the Twelve Apostles transmit the mission of Jesus with the laying on of hands.**

**Everyone in the Church must feel this responsibility. Everyone must have people who take their place. With Jesus we cannot speak of successors, because He is the Living, he is an invisible presence with us.**

**Men have their successors, because with death, they can only pray from heaven so that the mission of salvation continues. No one is like Christ, because Christ has risen. We die and the body is in the grave.**

**For this reason we are talking about successors. The successor is the one who takes over later in the mission, but does not perform the mission according to our modalities, but according to the modalities dictated to him by the Holy Spirit.**

**The mission is the same, the ways are different, because the charismas are different. But the end is the same. Helping Christ Jesus to redeem and save the world. Jesus is helped by fulfilling his mission, not another one.**

**Since Christ has accomplished the mission by giving his whole heart to the Father, we too can fulfil the mission, giving our heart to Christ, so that Christ may make a gift of it to the Father, day after day.**

**If the heart is not in the mission, it is a sign that it is not in the Gospel. If it is not in the Gospel, it is not even given to Christ Jesus. The heart is given to Christ by giving to the Gospel. having given the heart to the Gospel, it is given to the mission.**

**Until a single Word of the Gospel is not observed by us, our obedience and even mission are imperfect. Perfect Gospel life, perfect obedience and perfect mission. The fruits will be many.**

**Obedience to the Gospel is the perennial vitality of the mission. The Gospel is cooled in our life, even the mission and love for Jesus cool. The mission enters a winter without end and without fruits.**

**This simple rule must be observed. It is right then to ask oneself: is the mission in the long winter of apathy, of indifference, of sloth, of sin, of the transgression of the Gospel, of non-faith and of non-love?**

**Do I desire to give vitality to the mission? Do I want to get out of the long winter in which it is by now buried? Do I know the rules so that the mission that has been entrusted to me can produce fruits of true salvation and redemption?**

**Am I a true model and example of evangelical life, obedience and mission? Do I give scandal to my mission brothers and to the whole world for my little evangelical life and little obedience? An answer is urgent.**

**WITHOUT EVER GETTING TIRED**

**Jesus asks his disciples to persevere without ever getting tired. But by nature man gets tired. He starts and does not complete. He sets off, but then does not arrive. He puts his hand to a work but to leave it unfinished.**

**Why does this happen? Because man's strength is not in man, it is in the Holy Spirit. It is the Holy Spirit. You walk in the Spirit of the Lord, with the Spirit of God, you receive every strength. The mission is brought to completion.**

**As soon as one detaches himself from the Holy Spirit, he breaks even one of the ties that bind us to man, man loses either all his strength or also weakens. The mission is either not fulfilled or done wrong.**

**Whoever does not want to get tired must dwell in the Holy Spirit. He abides in the Spirit of the Lord if he dwells in the Word. He dwells in the Word obeying every Word of the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ.**

**Since today the Gospel has been declared useless to the disciple of Jesus, immediately the mission has also been declared useless. Without faith in the Gospel, without obedience to it, faith in the mission dies.**

**WITH THE MINISTERS OF GRACE AND TRUTH**

**In the Church of Christ the Lord, the mission is never accomplished as single persons, free and untied from each other. It is always performed as the true body of Christ. The body of Christ is composed of many members.**

**In the body of Christ there are apostles, evangelists, doctors, prophets and teachers. Every single person is the bearer of a particular gift or charisma of the Spirit and of one of his particular missions. But the end is only one.**

**The goal of the mission is always the building up of the body of Christ. If the body of Christ is not built, there is no mission. One chases the wind and vain works are carried out. The presbyter is the essence of the body of Christ.**

**BEARERS OF PEACE**

**The missionary of Jesus is a bearer of peace. What is peace? It would be better to ask: Who is peace? Our peace is Christ the Lord. Peace reigns in the world if Christ reigns in the hearts. He is our peace.**

**WITH THE BLESSING OF GOD**

**Can we carry on, until the end, the mission that was entrusted to us? We can if we have faith. Everyone must live the mission and be a model and example for every other. For us, others and everyone.**

**SHORT FINAL CONSIDERATIONS**

**IMMORTAL MISSION. Jesus wants his mission of salvation and redemption to continue on the earth until the day of his Parousia. The Twelve and their successors are responsible for the mission of Christ Jesus. Responsible in hierarchical communion with the Successors of the Apostles are presbyters. In hierarchical communion with the presbyters and with the Successors of the Apostles, is every other lay faithful. Bishops, presbyters and lay faithful are obliged not to have the mission die with them. They must transmit their zeal, their love, their exemplarity and their heart to others, so that the mission may continue producing fruits of salvation according to the expectations of Jesus and his Mother. If the mission dies with us, because we have not transmitted zeal and love for it, we are accountable before God for eternity. For us the Gospel died in the world.**

***He who believes in his own mission and knows its great saving value, does not want it to die with him. For this reason he commits himself in an uninterrupted prayer to ask God for continuers of it. Jesus asks his disciples to pray so that the Lord sends workers to his harvest. Jesus ends his earthly mission, in the visibility of his body. He leaves his Mission to the Twelve Apostles. The Twelve Apostles are responsible for the entire history of the mission of Christ Jesus, the mission of salvation and redemption. In history, the Twelve Apostles transmit the mission of Jesus with the laying on of hands. Everyone in the Church must feel this responsibility. Everyone must have people who take their place. With Jesus we cannot speak of successors, because He is the Living one, he is the invisible presence with us. Men have their successors, because with death, they can only pray from heaven so that the mission of salvation continues. No one is like Christ, because Christ has risen.***

***We die and the body is in the grave. For this reason we are talking about successors. The successor is the one who takes over later in the mission, but he does not perform the mission according to our modalities, but according to the modalities dictated to him by the Holy Spirit. The mission is the same, the ways are different, because the charismas are different. But the end is the same. Helping Christ Jesus to redeem and save the world. Jesus is helped by fulfilling his mission and not another. Since Christ has accomplished the mission by giving his whole heart to the Father, we too can fulfil the mission, giving our heart to Christ, so that Christ may make of it a gift to the Father, day after day. If the heart is not in the mission, it is a sign that it is not in the Gospel. If it is not in the Gospel, it is not even given to Christ Jesus. The heart is given to Christ by giving it to the Gospel. Having given the heart to the Gospel, it is given to the mission. Until a single Word of the Gospel is not observed by us, our obedience is imperfect and even the mission is imperfect.***

***Perfect Gospel life, perfect obedience and perfect mission. The fruits will be many. Obedience to the Gospel is the perennial vitality of the mission. The Gospel is cooled in our life, even the mission is cooled and the love for Jesus is cooled. The mission enters a winter without end and without fruits. This simple rule must be observed. It is right then to ask oneself: is the mission in the long winter of apathy, of indifference, of sloth, of sin, of the transgression of the Gospel, of non-faith and of non-love? Do I desire to give vitality to the mission? Do I want to get out of the long winter in which it is by now buried? Do I know the rules so that the mission that has been entrusted to me can produce fruits of true salvation and redemption? Am I a true model and example of evangelical life, of obedience and of mission? Do I give scandal to my mission brothers and to the whole world for my little evangelical life and little obedience? An answer is urgent.***

**May the Virgin Mary, who wants and asks that the Word of her Son Jesus be reminded to the world, infuse into our hearts her love, her obedience to the Holy Spirit and her faith in the Word of her Son. Without faith in the Gospel, no mission will be possible. May the Angels and Saints intercede. May they obtain for us of the Holy Spirit not only the strength to persevere us to the end, but also to give us those who will continue after us.**