**FRAGMENTS OF CHRISTIAN SPIRITUALITY**

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

***Catanzaro 15 October 2018***

**HOW JESUS IS RECEIVED**

**How is Jesus received? As Jesus accepted his Father. How did Jesus accept the Father? Welcoming his Word in the Holy Spirit and in the Holy Spirit living it with full and perfect obedience up to the cross.**

**The Word of the Father governs the whole life of Jesus in every moment, place and in front of every person. There are no moments in life that are not governed by the Word of the Father. It rules soul, spirit and body.**

**The Word of the Father governs faith, charity, hope, prudence, fortitude, justice and temperance. It governs time and eternity. It governs the family and society. It governs people and the earth. It governs everything.**

**It would be already enough to observe the Ten Commandments to give humanity a face of justice, great holiness, perfect love of justice, respect for the fundamental and essential rights of every man.**

**Then, if to the Commandments also the "Code of Holiness" contained in the chapters XVIII, XIX, XX of Leviticus is added, then from the Law of perfect justice we pass to the Law of perfect love for all.**

**What if we begin to observe the Word of God, uttered by Christ Jesus, in the Sermon on the Mount? The earth would not be recognized anymore. It would already be a portion of paradise. The garden of Eden would go pale.**

**Finally, if our acceptance of the Word was transformed into a sacrifice to God, as the Lord Jesus did, offered for the conversion and salvation of the world, then many people would find the way of faith in Christ.**

**The Father wants every man to come to the perfect knowledge of the truth - the truth of God and of man, of Christ and of the Holy Spirit, of time and eternity and of the end of everything - and lends it full and total obedience.**

**A Christian that does not accept this truth, that omits to give it every obedience, that does not reveal it to every other man by word and example, that does not invite to conversion to it, has not accepted Christ.**

**Why did not he accept Christ Jesus? Because he did not accept the mission of Christ Jesus, which consists in showing the world how to live the Word of the Father and how it is announced to every man for his salvation.**

**A single Word of God and of Jesus not received in the Spirit and not lived in the Church, with the Church and for the Church, attests that we have not yet fully accepted Christ. Word and Christ are one.**

**So for us it becomes the right thing to ask ourselves: What Word of God and of Christ Jesus still I do not live? What Word I lived before and now I do not live it anymore? What commandment do I transgress? What kind of bliss do I not live?**

**What command of Jesus do I despise, because I think it is not necessary? Even a single Word of God and of Christ not accepted, because it is considered not good, is an insult to the Lord. It is pride. It is idolatry.**

**Why is it pride and idolatry? Because our mind is placed above the mind of God and our heart more wise in loving than the heart of God and of Christ Jesus. Today pride and idolatry are our bed.**

**The seven corporal works of mercy and the seven of spiritual mercy are only the tip of the great mountain which is the Word of the Lord. It is urgent that the whole mountain be welcomed as the will of God and of Jesus.**

**THE EXAMPLE THAT CONVERTS**

**Jesus showed the truth of the Father that is his charity without limits. But that of the Father is a charity given so that those who receive it may become his charity in the world. Christ the Lord was full of the charity of the Father and showed it.**

**By showing it, with the Word he teaches every man how to become charity of the Father: obeying his every Word. Living to observe his Gospel. The charity of conversion is given to everyone by Christ Jesus.**

**For his given, manifested and taught charity everyone can be converted. The charity of transformation of nature by the participation of the divine nature can only be given to those who get converted to the Word.**

**What does getting converted to the Word mean? Accepting it as the one and only Law of your life. Whoever is converted to the Gospel knows no other Law of life except the Gospel. What is contrary to it must be abandoned.**

**A Christian should not care if something is good, not good, less good, just, unjust, holy and not holy. Today everything is declared to be holy, good and right. The Christian must be interested if he is against the Gospel.**

**The Christian must never know and justify abortion, euthanasia, divorce, concubinage, impure desire and a thousand other things that for the man of today are just, right, dignity; because they are things contrary to the Gospel.**

**He will never have to approve them. He is obliged to confess Christ and to recognize him before every man, confessing what is contrary to the Gospel and it is not lawful for him to do it. Approving who does these things is denying Christ Jesus.**

**This is the example that converts. A Christian consistent with the Gospel cannot justify the evil works of the flesh. If he justifies them, approves them and minimizes them, it is a sign that he has fallen from faith and from the truth.**

**His word will never convert. Never might he convert because the Holy Spirit does not govern his mind and does not illuminate his thoughts. When the Spirit is in the mind it is also on the lips. He is not on the lips and is not in the mind.**

**The man of God always says the Word of God. Man according to the world thinks according to the world. The man of God must never speak according to the world. He must always speak as a man of God, according to his Gospel.**

**Christ Jesus, Holy Spirit, Gospel and Word are one. If Christ is not in the heart and the Holy Spirit is not in the mind, not even the Word and the Gospel will be on the lips. One speak from the world, the world remains world.**

**It would be enough for the Christian to speak from the Gospel, from the Word of God and this would be such a great example as to convert many hearts. Our exemplarity must begin with the word uttered and said.**

**REPENTANCE AND CONVERSION**

**At the Father's house one goes back repented. How do you go back repented? Acknowledging having offended our God and Lord. With sin we have insulted his divine Majesty. We have deprived him of his glory and his honour.**

**Thus says the son to his father: "I have sinned against heaven and against you. I offended God and you. I was a rebel to God and to you. I am not worthy of being welcomed as a child. Treat me as one of your paid hands and your servants".**

**If we do not recognize having offended, insulted and plundered the Lord of his glory, ours is not a true repentance. If it is not true repentance, it is not true conversion either. Without repentance there is no forgiveness.**

**Not only must one acknowledge that he has offended the Lord, he must experience great pain in the heart. "My God I regret and I grieve with all my heart because I have insulted, denied and offended you. I failed toward you."**

**If there is no reference to the Law of the Lord and to the Lord of the Law there is no true repentance either. Without true repentance, one is not truly converted. Without true conversion one returns to sin and to transgress.**

**Sin is transgression only because it is disobedience and not listening. Not listen to whom? To the Lord our God. To the Lord who is the only true God of man. Sin is disobedience to his law of very pure love.**

**Sin is not only a departure from God and a rapprochement with creatures. It is a removal against the truth of God and therefore it is also against the truth of man. It is a rapprochement with creatures through falsehood and lie.**

**The supreme good of man God is abandoned for a futile, passing good, which is also lethal, of death. While God is the only true good of eternal life for man. This is the gravity of sin and its folly.**

**We know that the damned of hell do not suffer so much for the pain of sense, that is, the fire that envelops them without ever consuming them. They are damned for the pain of damage. They have denied God for a futile pleasure.**

**The nothing of death was preferred to the All of eternal life. For this folly they are in an unspeakable pain. They are accusers of themselves and they corrode their souls for eternity. This is the worm that does not die.**

**CONVERSION AND PROMISE**

**Repentance and conversion are true if they are accompanied by a true promise. When is the promise true? When it is maintained for life. That promise that lasts only a moment is not true.**

**When one confesses himself, he says: "I promise not to offend you any more for the future and to flee the next occasions of sin". Why do the next occasions of sin have to be escaped or kept away?**

**Why must these occasions be avoided? Because we are not impeccable. We could easily fall. No one must consider himself so strong as to challenge sin, temptation and evil. He will miserably fall. He will not win.**

**This is what is happening in our day. Everyone thinks he can challenge evil, in the name of his freedom. I'm free to do what I want. I can live as I please. I want to go everywhere.**

**None of us thinks that freedom must also be experienced in the armour of four cardinal virtues: prudence, justice, fortitude and temperance. I can go wherever I want. I must know that evil awaits me there.**

**I can move as I want. I must know that evil is on my way. I am obliged to prudence, but also to temperance. I do not want virtues, I do not want life. I challenge evil, evil kills the soul and the body.**

**The thousand daily deaths could all be avoided, if there were in the hearts and minds the virtue of prudence and temperance. Instead we start from our own freedom and it is a freedom that leads to certain death.**

**We do not want to justify killers. We simply want to affirm that the life of both the soul, the spirit and the body is the highest good for man and this highest good must be treated with care.**

**One cannot lose one's life by foolishness, by insipidity, because he does not flee from the near occasions of sin, because he wants to live without virtue. The Christian is the man of virtues. Life is preserved in virtue.**

**FRAGILITY AND PRAYER**

**Sin has made man fragile. The more you sin and the more you become fragile. But what is fragility? Fragility is the natural amalgam that shatters at the slightest bump. A terracotta vase is fragile. It falls and shatters.**

**A metal vase is not fragile. It falls but does not shatter. The man is a clay vase. It shatters easily. It falls easily and cannot stand up in grace and in truth. It is our condition inherited from Adam.**

**What to do not be fragile? One must amalgamate in Christ and in the Holy Spirit. One is amalgamated in Christ and in the Spirit, he becomes strong and resistant. But how do we blend in Christ and in the Spirit of the Lord?**

**Amalgamating in the church of the living God. Becoming true community of the Lord. A sheep in the midst of the other sheep, guarded by the shepherd, will not be easily eaten by the wolf. A single sheep is an easy prey.**

**In the flock it is not fragile. It participates in the strength of the whole flock and of the shepherd. Outside the flock and without the shepherd it has no resistance before evil. It succumbs. It becomes food of the wolf and other animals.**

**So it is said of the Christian. If he becomes the true flock of Christ, he joins the community, lets himself be led, protected, guarded and nourished by the Shepherd of Christ and the Holy Spirit, of graces and truth, he will never be fragile.**

**Instead, if he abandons the community, he lives without a shepherd, without true grace and true truth, then he has no chance to resist. Woe to him who is alone, says the Scripture. Communion is the law of the Christian.**

**Prayer is not enough to be not fragile. Prayer must be done amalgamated in Christ and in the Holy Spirit, amalgamated in the community of believers in Christ, amalgamated with the Shepherd who must guard us.**

**But today everyone decides to live as he pleases. Christianity is facing a very serious risk: that of passing from communion to individualism, to selfishness, to solitude and to imagined faith.**

**Acting this way we cannot even speak of fragility anymore. We are out of the very Christian essence. We lack the essential principles that allow a man to still be called a Christian. We are only Christians by baptism.**

**But even in hell one is a Christian and the difference is made between the suffering of those who are baptized and those who are not baptized. But you are damned Christians. We remain Christians on earth, but behave like enemies of the cross of Christ.**

**When this happens, we run the risk of going beyond the same limits of evil, sinning against the Holy Spirit and making our state no longer reversible. We are on earth, but as if we were down in hell.**

**WALKING IN LIGHT**

**How do you surpass and how do you overcome natural fragility? Walking in the light of the Lord and in his grace, moved and guided by the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit gives light and truth through the Church of Christ Jesus.**

**Membership in the Church is invisible and visible together. If visible belonging is absent, the invisible one is also absent. Those who are separated from the visible Church are separated from the invisible Church.**

**He is not vitally inserted into Christ Jesus and is not led by the Holy Spirit who is not led by the shepherd who is placed to govern the Church of God, in the territory, which is the Diocese and the Parish in the Diocese.**

**Whoever wants to walk from light to light, from truth to truth and from grace to grace, must necessarily be a living member inserted into the community of believers. The only one does not exist, because the only one exists as the body of Christ.**

**Today, this is the great heresy that envelops the Church of Christ Jesus: the separation from the visible Church. One professes he is a believer in Christ, but without the Church. A believer in God, but without Christ. It is belief and not faith.**

**LIGHT AND MYSTERY**

**Who walks in the light show the world a mystery that does not belong to this world. It is pure supernaturality, because it is the fruit of Christ and of the Holy Spirit. Man sees the mystery, but does not understand.**

**Not only does he not understand, he could not. To understand the Christian mystery we must let ourselves be conquered by the Word of Jesus and by his grace. We are immersed in the Holy Spirit. The mystery is known.**

**If the mystery is not accepted, who is responsible? The bearer of the mystery is responsible if he does not bring it and does not announce it in its full truth. He shows and carries according to truth, who refuses it, becomes responsible.**

**St. Paul says that He is not responsible concerning those who are lost, because he has not escaped anything in announcing the Gospel of Salvation, according to the rules that the Gospel demands are respected.**

**MISSION OF SALVATION**

**The mission is of salvation when a soul is taken away from the kingdom of darkness and is introduced into the realm of light. It is also when every effort is made so that those who are of the kingdom of light remain in it.**

**Jesus says that of those the Father has given him no one was lost except the son of perdition. Jesus did everything to keep him in the realm of light. He could not. Judas preferred to betray his Master.**

**THANKSGIVING PRAYER**

**The Lord must be thanked because all that is done for his kingdom is only the fruit of his grace and his omnipotence. He is always a useless servant. It means that only the Lord can make it and makes it useful.**

**Think of a scythe, a plough. They are useless tools for themselves. When do they become useful? When the farmer takes and uses them according to his will. The tools cannot do anything by themselves.**

**EVERYTHING FROM PRAYING**

**But we are not inanimate but animate instruments. We are endowed with will, heart, mind, soul, spirit and body. We must want to give ourselves to the Lord. Praying is necessary for this: ​​asking the Lord for the gift of giving ourselves.**

**When is the Lord asked for the gift of giving us to Him? Always, for every action and for every moment. If we are in his hands, He will make us useful servants, He, not us. If we are not in his hands, we are useless servants.**

**SHORT FINAL CONSIDERATIONS**

**The Christian is asked to be exemplary in everything. The proclamation of the Gospel is not enough for the conversion of hearts. Whoever gives the Word of Christ Jesus must also attest that he believes in the Word. How is faith in the Word attested? Turning it into our life, into our Law of life, obeying its truth, fulfilling it into our history. If the Word says that whoever looks at a woman and desires her in his heart, has already committed adultery with her in his heart, the Christian cannot have lustful and licentious eyes. His eyes must be chaste and pure. But not in an invisible but a visible way. Everyone must see the purity of his eyes. This purity makes the difference. This purity shows that one can be pure. This purity converts. However, if the Christian is impure with his eyes, he will live as an impure man and nobody will be converted for him.**

***Jesus showed the truth of the Father which is his charity without limits. But that of the Father is a charity given so that those who receive it may become his charity in the world. Christ the Lord was full of the charity of the Father and showed it. By showing it, with the Word he teaches every man how one can become charity of the Father: obeying his every Word. Living by observing his Gospel. The love of conversion from Christ Jesus is given to everyone.***

***For his given, manifested, taught charity everyone can be converted. The charity of transformation of nature by the participation of the divine nature can only be given to those who get converted to the Word. What does getting converted to the Word mean? Accepting it as the one and only Law of your life. Whoever gets converted to the Gospel knows no other Law of life except the Gospel. What is contrary to it must be abandoned.***

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**The Christian is exemplary in all, when no Word of the Gospel is neglected by him. To all he lends his prompt and immediate obedience, according to the truth written in it by the Holy Spirit, following the modalities that Christ has left to us. I have given you an example, because as I have done you do too. Mother of God, Angels and Saints, obtain for us from Christ Jesus so much grace and the Holy Spirit without measure so that we can be in his perfect image. From our example they will recognize us as his disciples. May the world see us and confess that we are disciples of the Crucified God and Lord.**