**FRAGMENTS OF CHRISTIAN SPIRITUALITY**

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

***Catanzaro 31 December 2018***

**TOGETHER IN HIS NAME**

**Jesus says: Every kingdom divided in itself falls into ruins and no city or family divided into itself might remain standing. It applies to every reality. A divided community goes to ruin. A divided ecclesial movement goes to ruin.**

**We are all called to work in the vineyard of the Lord. If one plants the vines and the other one uproots them, never might the vineyard be born and never might it produce a single bunch. The vineyard will not even exist. It's vain work.**

**If one picks the ripe grapes and the other throws them away or tramples them on the ground, good wine will never be made. How do we work together in the vineyard of the Lord? We work together pursuing the same goal.**

**If one has a human end and another one a supernatural end, they are divided. They do not work in unity. If one walks with the Word of the Lord and the other with the thoughts of his heart, there is no unity, there is not the same end. They are divided.**

**If one walks by listening to man and the other by listening to God, there is no unity. There is division. No end might be achieved. If one sows wheat and the other sets it on fire at harvest time, it is really the end.**

**To work together, one must have the same goal in one's heart and the use of the means necessary to achieve the end. If the goal is to remind the Word of the Lord and the Word is not known, the end is not reached.**

**If the House of the Father is to be filled and the house is always empty, it is a sign that the means are not appropriate. They are not those indicated by Christ Jesus. In the Church, ends, means and ways come from the Holy Spirit.**

**It is the Holy Spirit the one who saves and converts. But it is the man who, obeying the Spirit of the Lord, gives the Word to the hearts and indicates means and ways for conversion and salvation. Why then do we not listen to the Holy Spirit?**

**What prevents a heart from listening to the Spirit of the Lord? Every disobedience to the Word of Christ Jesus creates spiritual deafness. The Spirit of God can also speak, but the spirit of man is deaf to his voice.**

**When only a single capital vice is cultivated - pride, avarice, lust, anger, gluttony, envy, sloth - hearing for the things of God is lost and hearing for the things of evil is acquired. Never might the Spirit be heard.**

**The works of the flesh create spiritual deafness: fornication, impurity, debauchery, idolatry, witchcraft, enmity, discord, jealousy, dissension, divisions, factions, envy, drunkenness, orgies and things of the kind.**

**Whoever wants to listen to the Spirit of the Lord must cultivate the holy theological virtues - faith, hope, charity - and the cardinal ones: prudence, justice, fortitude and temperance. These virtues must be the style of the Christian.**

**Never might one work together when the Holy Spirit working through the brothers is saddened. Arrogance, overbearingness and imposition of the personal thought must never be "virtue" of whoever works in God's vineyard.**

**Working together in the name of Jesus means working with his Holy Spirit, his obedience to the Father, his light and truth, his justice and holiness, his discernment, his sacrifice and his cross.**

**Ubi peccata sunt, ibi est multitudo, ibi schismata, ibi haereses, ibi discussiones. Ubi autem virtus, ibi singularitas, ibi unio, ex quo omnium credentium erat cor unum et anima una (see CCC, 917).**

**Where there is sin, there we find the multiplicity, there the schisms, there the heresies and there the controversies. Instead, where virtue reigns, there is unity, there is communion, thanks to which all believers were one heart and one soul.**

**When there is division among the workers of the same vineyard, then it is right that everyone finds his sin and eliminates it. Sin is also the presumption that one's own thought is the purest truth of the Spirit.**

**The saints and the men and women of God, always submitted their inspirations to their confessor. The confessor indicated ways, forms and methods for the implementation or even non-implementation of the inspiration.**

**This divine style, of true obedience to the Church, today is considered an old way, a form not suitable for modern times. Today "god" is one's own thought and "law" one's will. Divisions are inevitable.**

**No one has to do the "witch hunt" considering himself innocent of broken communion and broken unity. Everyone is obliged to remove sin from his heart, which is the sole cause of every division.**

**An horrendous and abominable sin is committed when superior authorities are influenced for the achievement of personal ends and goals. The Book of Esther was not written yesterday. It is written every day. Today more than yesterday.**

**Every sin is a cause of division, separation, spiritual and material disorder. From the sin of men Jesus was accused of blasphemy and for the same sin he was nailed to the cross. History of yesterday, today and always.**

**It is always urgent to ask: do I do this thing, say this word, in the name of Christ Jesus or in my name? But to act in the name of Christ one must always be filled with the Holy Spirit. Full of the love of the Father and of grace.**

**FAITH ALWAYS FAITH**

**We are called to ensure that faith governs our lives. But what is faith exactly? What is meant by faith? An example will help us. You take a tree. It is planted in the ground. Faith for the tree is the soil.**

**A well rooted tree in good soil produces much fruit. If the ground is a road or a stone or a hedge, the wheat might never produce. It cannot take root in it. It is a soil that must be cleared, prepared and made suitable.**

**The earth of man is the Word of the Lord, Old and New Testament, given to the heart according to the purest truth placed in it by the Spirit of the Lord and lived according to the holy modalities offered us by Christ Jesus.**

**If our life is perennial obedience to the Word, if we are rooted in faith, we produce much fruit. If we are not rooted in the Word, no fruit of eternal life can ever produce. The ground is missing.**

**No tree and no plant can bear fruit if it is not properly planted in the earth. No heart might ever produce fruits of eternal life unless it is well rooted in the Word of the Lord. All obedience is due to the Word.**

**What then does having faith mean? Planting yourself and remaining in the Word of God and of Jesus, according to the truth of the Holy Spirit, lending to it every obedience. One obeys knowing that the Word produces what it says.**

**LOVE ALWAYS LOVE**

**We are called to transform our lives into love, into very pure love. How is life transformed into love? Doing the will of Christ Jesus, according to obedience to every motion of the Holy Spirit.**

**Be careful! Word of Christ Jesus and motion of the Holy Spirit are one, inseparable forever. When the Word is set aside, never might one speak of motion of the Holy Spirit, never of inspiration.**

**The motion of the Holy Spirit is aimed at living the whole Word of God and of Jesus in fullness of truth, love, justice and holiness. Never does the Spirit of the Lord inspire against the Word, outside the Word and without the Word.**

**Those who feel inspired by the Spirit of the Lord must always ask themselves: what Word of God and Jesus does the Spirit of God want me to live today? According to what holier ways? What fruits does he want me to produce?**

**When motion and inspiration of the Spirit are to involve other people in love, then it is right, indeed necessary, to compare oneself with one's confessor. This is demanded by the Holy Spirit.**

**The Spirit and the Church always walk together. The Church and I have decided, my confessor and I, the Holy Spirit in me and in the Church. The testimony must be carried out by two witnesses, never by yourself.**

**The confessor is not the friend, the confidant and the companion. The confessor is the one who takes charge of a responsibility of eternal damnation if he gives a different indication than the one desired by the Holy Spirit.**

**Then, if the inspiration is handed over to the Church, so that she assumes it as a form and modality of her life, not as the form or the modality, but as a form and a modality, then the indications of the Church are Law.**

**We know that every inspiration entrusted to the Church so that she declares it her form of life - religious orders, religious congregations, institutes of consecrated life, associations, movements - is governed by a "rule".**

**Ecclesial associations and movements are governed by Statutes. The Statutes are the Law of the Church and oblige to obedience of every rule, from the simplest to the most complex. A truth urges..**

**With the approval of the Statute we leave the will of the individual and embrace the will of the Church. Associations and Movements are obliged to walk according to the Statute, their Law of life.**

**With the approved Statute, the inspiration of the Holy Spirit also owes obedience to the Statute. The Statute is Word of the Church, Word of the Holy Spirit and Word of God, to whom all obedience must be given.**

**An adhering member of an association or ecclesial movement that does not give obedience to his Statute, Law given to him by the Church to live according to the inspiration of origin, does not love and might never love.**

**He does not love because he does not observe the Word of the Church, which is an obliging law, just as obliging law is every other law of the Church. Word and law, Word and truth, word and sound doctrine are inseparable.**

**When there is separation between Gospel and Law, Inspiration and Law, Word and sound doctrine, Inspiration and morality, one is not in the true inspiration of the Spirit of the Lord. Not even inspiration and confessor must be separated.**

**It is a difficult reasoning to be accepted and recognized. Today man wants to live without ties, without links and without obedience to what is not his thought, his will, his desire, his heart and his spirit.**

**So far we are in the rules of man. Everyone can choose the Word of God or his heart. We are out of the rules of God, when we want to impose our will on others and use falsehoods and calumnies.**

**This is unworthy of man, because irreparable, eternal damages could be cause to the souls. Falsehood and slander can forever divert a heart from the truth of its eternal salvation and mission.**

**It is not simple to love and it is not easy either. One loves if he becomes convinced that love is the purest obedience to the Law of God and also to the Law of the Church, both to the universal Law and to every particular Law.**

**For every obedience it is always right to remember the rule given by Paul the Apostle. The letter kills, the Spirit vivifies. Word and law must be transformed into life according to the truth set in them by the Holy Spirit.**

**DOING THE WILL OF THE LORD**

**When, by inspiration of the Holy Spirit and by a particular law, approved by the Church, the Lord asks a heart to follow a particular obedience, this obedience always obliges.**

**Only the Lord and only the Church that has approved the Inspiration by transforming it into Law, can change the contents of obedience. The law obliges until it remains law. The law must be obeyed.**

**If the Inspiration and the Law ask that work be done in the vineyard of the Lord, certainly it will not be possible to work in other vineyards. If they ask that the House of the Father be filled, it is the House of the Father that must be filled. No other houses.**

**If the Inspiration and the Law say that we must work in collaboration with the Parish Priests and with the Hierarchy of the Church, it is right that we know that collaboration takes place by hierarchical communion, that is, by obedience.**

**The First obedience to be given to the Church is obedience to the Law given by the Church in order to live collaboration in an ecclesial manner. If these provisions are not observed, the will of the Lord is not done.**

**When inspiration becomes the Law of the Church, even if a particular Law, the Law urges and inspiration is obliged to obedience. It has passed from a particular inspiration to an ecclesial law.**

**Then, it is right that everyone knows that the will of the Lord is done by obeying the particular law given by the Church. From obedience to the particular Law the ends of personal inspiration must be achieved.**

**Thinking that we can achieve particular ends without obedience to the particular Law is a true chimera. You can also plough the sea, you can sow wheat in it, but no fruit will ever be born from this work.**

**PUTTING JESUS ​​IN THE FIRST PLACE**

**Jesus must be put in the first place. But what does putting Jesus in the first place mean? It means putting his Word as our one and only Law to which all obedience is given. He loves Jesus who loves the Word of Jesus.**

**He obeys Jesus who obeys his Word. He puts Jesus in the first place who puts his Word in first place. If Jesus asks to fill the House of the Father and we leave it empty, we certainly do not love Jesus.**

**If Jesus asks us to go, save, convert and we are unconcerned about souls, because we are curators of human forms and prescriptions, then we do not love Jesus. He is not in the first in our hearts.**

**ASKING FOR A GREAT LOVE**

**Can you love with a great love? Only by the grace of the Lord. This grace must be asked every day, as Jesus asked it in the Garden of Olives, when temptation wanted him to withdraw from the cross.**

**But who can ask for this grace? Who is already in obedience to the Word of Jesus. Who is outside the Word, first must be converted to the Will of God. As an abiding person in the Word he can ask for a great, a greater love.**

**One must always grow in love. Growing is the obligation of the one who wants to love Jesus according to truth. If we do not grow - Jesus grew in wisdom and grace - our love will always be imperfect and very little.**

**UNIVERSAL PRAYER**

**The disciple of Jesus must pray. Prayer is first of everything: praise and blessing. We contemplate God and we bless him, we give him for his eternal truth. He is the Lord, the Creator and the source of everything.**

**But this prayer cannot be raised to Him, if one is in mortal sin. He is an enemy of God and the heart is turned towards the earth and not towards heaven. The first prayer must always be request for forgiveness.**

**Then comes the prayer of request of every grace. Every good comes to us from our God, through Christ, in the Holy Spirit. Every gift must be asked of the Father, for Christ, in the Holy Spirit. It must be asked for us and for everyone else.**

**SHORT FINAL CONSIDERATIONS**

**It is a good thing to offer some essential rules, necessary for love according to justice.**

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***An adherent of an association or ecclesial movement that does not give obedience to his statute, the law given to him by the Church in order to live according to truth the inspiration of origin; he does not love and might never love. He does not love because he does not observe the Word of the Church, which is the obligatory law, just as every other law of the Church the obligatory law. Word and law, word and truth, word and sound doctrine are inseparable. When there is separation between the Gospel and the Law, Inspiration and Law, Word and sound doctrine, Inspiration and morality, one is not in the true inspiration of the Spirit of the Lord. Not even inspiration and confessor must be separated. It is difficult speech to be recognized and accepted. Today man wants to live without ties, without links, without obedience to what is not his thought, his will, his desire, his heart and his spirit.***

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**Mother of the Redemption, Angels and Saints, arrange so that our love is pure obedience.**