**FRAGMENTS OF CHRISTIAN SPIRITUALITY**

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

***Catanzaro 07 January 2019***

**LOYALTY TO THE CHARISMA**

**The charisma is a particular gift of the Holy Spirit. Being a gift of the Spirit, it does not mean that we can live without the Spirit. The gift is lived in the measure of the growth of the Spirit in the heart of the one who receives it.**

**If the growth of the Spirit in us is little, even the life of the charisma is little and even the fruits are little. Instead, if the growth of the Spirit in us is in continuous development, the path of the charisma is also in continuous development.**

**Then, if the Spirit of the Lord is suffocated, the charisma is also suffocated. A suffocated charisma is without any fruit. Either the possessor of a charisma grows in the Holy Spirit or there is no fruit through his gift.**

**How does the Holy Spirit grow in the heart, in the soul and in the spirit of a person? The Spirit grows in proportion to our growth in obedience to the Word of Jesus. The first Word of Jesus is the Gospel.**

**This means that never might the Spirit of God grow in us if the Gospel does not become our life. We dwell in the Word of Jesus, the Spirit dwells in us and for us matures its fruits in relation to the charisma.**

**Without obedience to the Gospel, no other obedience to Christ might be given. The Gospel is the foundation of everything. One received the charisma of reminding the Word of Jesus. How do you remind the Word of Jesus?**

**Certainly not only with the voice, repeating what the Gospel says. The Word is reminded transforming it into life of our soul, our spirit, our body and our heart. By becoming ourselves the living Word of Jesus.**

**As Jesus was the living Word of the Father, so whoever received the charisma of remembrance of the Word of Jesus, must become the living Word of Jesus. Having become the living Word of Jesus, his whole life reminds the Word.**

**This is why it is important to start from obedience to the Gospel. We become the living Gospel of Christ Jesus. We remind the Word of Jesus not only with the voice, but also with the works, with the gestures and with our whole life.**

**When obedience to the Gospel fails, fidelity to the charisma will also fail. If obedience to the Gospel decreases, fidelity to the charisma also decreases. Obedience and fidelity are like the tree and the fruit.**

**If the fruit dries, the fruit might never come out of a dry tree. But even if the tree remains uncultivated, the fruits will not be good. They do not reach good maturation. They suffer from man's neglect.**

**We grow in obedience to the Gospel, we grow in the Holy Spirit, we grow in production of excellent fruits of the charisma. Never must obedience to the Gospel, growth in the Holy Spirit and life of the charisma be separated.**

**Never must we think that we can live the charisma as a gift in itself and separated from the Holy Spirit. Never must we think that we can grow in the Holy Spirit without a precise daily obedience to the Gospel.**

**Obedience to the Gospel, growth in the Spirit and life of the charisma are one as one thing are: earth, tree and fruit. Without a tree there is no fruit. Without land there is no tree. Earth, tree and fruit: one thing.**

**LOYALTY TO THE RECEIVED MISSION**

**If the Lord sends Jonah to Nineveh to preach the conversion, he will have to go to Nineveh. If Amos is sent to Bethel. He will have to preach in Bethel. If Nathan is sent by David, he will have to announce David the Word of God.**

**If Moses is sent to Egypt to free his people, he will have to go to Egypt. If Noah is commanded to build an ark for the salvation of life on earth, Noah will have to build the ark. Other things are useless.**

**If the Lord gives a charisma and then indicates the mission linked to it, we must follow the indications of God. If He says to work in collaboration with the Priests and the Parish Priests. We will have to work together with them.**

**If he says to be obedient and submissive for the faith to the Church Hierarchy, we must be submissive and obedient to it. If Jesus asks to go, to save and to convert. This obedience must also be done.**

**Then, if he adds that to fill the House of the Father, his Church, it is a sign that he wants a well done, well lived job through which the Church is revitalized in every community, both parish and diocesan.**

**If Jesus did not ask for anything else, he wants nothing else. If He wants something, he asks for it. If this is the mission, must be faithful to the mission. Fidelity to the mission is most pure obedience and listening.**

**Everything else that is done must be considered as a means, never as an end. As for the means, there are some necessary, indispensable ones, which always oblige to their use. They can never be left out.**

**These means are the same as those announced in the Acts: Persevering listening to the Word of the Apostles. The constant prayer. The Eucharist and sharing. Having one heart and one soul.**

**These are essential means. Each of these means is then specified in many others. For example: every other sacrament, catechesis, spiritual guide, holy rosary, Eucharistic adoration, spiritual reading and meditation.**

**Instead other means are historical. Today they can help and we can use them. Tomorrow they no longer help and must be abandoned, left behind. But for every means to be used, the wisdom of the Holy Spirit is always needed.**

**Loyalty is to the mission. In the Holy Spirit every single person will always have to know which means is most urgent for him so that he can respond to the expectations of the one who called and sent him. The means are indispensable.**

**The earth can be worked with the hands, with the hoe, with the wooden plow pulled by a donkey, with the iron plow pulled by oxen, with super modern plows pulled by powerful tractors and also with a motor hoe.**

**The results are not the same. The Holy Spirit will always have to indicate Him what means to use in every historical moment. This is why the missionary must always be one with the Spirit of God.**

**FIDELITY IN PERSEVERANCE**

**Perseverance is everything for the Christian. Perseverance is before everything in the Gospel. He perseveres by walking from truth to truth, from faith to faith and from obedience to obedience. Every Word of the Gospel must be lived.**

**Persevering means remaining nailed to obedience just as Christ Jesus is nailed to the cross. As Jesus did not come down from the cross, so the Christian must not descend from his cross of obedience to the Word.**

**Perseverance is in listening to the Holy Spirit. Jesus always listened to the Spirit, he always let himself be led by him. The Christian also produces salvation to the extent that he perseveres in the Spirit.**

**Perseverance must be to the mission received. If it was asked to fill the House of the Father, the Father's House must be filled. If it was asked, it is a sign that it can be lived. It is the Word of the Holy Spirit.**

**Perseverance is also in the use of the necessary means. If the means are not used, the mission is exposed to failure. Without knowledge of the Gospel, what evangelical life might we live? What fruits produce?**

**Everyone is obliged to know what his mission is, what ends are assigned to it, what means have been indicated by the Holy Spirit or by Christ the Lord and persevering in this manifested will with great zeal.**

**Being perseverance the daughter of fortitude and being fortitude a gift of the Holy Spirit, if one does not grow in the Spirit, he will not even grow in fortitude and here immediately appears tiredness that becomes sloth.**

**FAITHFULNESS TO THE WORD**

**Which Word must you be faithful to? The first Word to which we must be faithful is the Gospel. Fidelity to the Gospel is the Mother of every other fidelity. One falls from fidelity to the Gospel and he falls into every other fidelity.**

**But being faithful to the Gospel is not enough. This is the first fidelity, but it does not exhaust the other fidelities. The second fidelity is to the Word made directly known by the Holy Spirit to the single person.**

**Never might this fidelity fail. It must be lived for all the days of our life. When other people are associated with the same Word of the Holy Spirit, the failure of one does not dispense the other.**

**One can also fail in fidelity to the Word of the Holy Spirit. This failing does not justify any other person. Loyalty is personal, not communitarian. The community helps and does not dispense.**

**No one is justified in his infidelity because of the infidelity of others. Obedience to the Spirit is very personal. Each must remain anchored to what has been asked of him. The world can fail. The single person no.**

**FIDELITY TO THE ANNOUNCEMENT**

**Loyalty to the announcement must also be well understood. When the Lord gives some rules so that his Word is announced and some ends are to be achieved, fidelity to the rules and to the ends is essential and it is prior.**

**No one might be faithful to the announcement, if the ends are neglected and the ways ignored. A finalized announcement with well-defined methods must be carried out in compliance with each delivery received.**

**The earth is not hoed so much for hoeing. It is not planted just for planting. One does not collect so much for collecting. One collects to put in barns. One gathers in order to live. The intermediate ends are for the ultimate purpose.**

**If the ultimate goal is to fill the house of the Lord, all intermediate ends must produce this fruit. If this fruit is not harvested, it is a sign that the intermediate ends are misused or even not used.**

**Let us return to our growth in the Holy Spirit. Whoever grows in the Spirit of the Lord, will always be enlightened by him so that every intermediate end can produce the ultimate goal. The Spirit is the life of every end.**

**This is why it is always necessary to grow in the Spirit of God. We grow in the Spirit growing in obedience. We grow in obedience growing in the use of the necessary ends given for a harmonious growth.**

**LOYALTY TO LOVE**

**Loyalty to love needs to be clarified and specified. The love of God the Father. He alone is the eternal source of all love. Whoever wants to love must draw his love from the heart of the Father. But he will never be able to do it by himself.**

**He needs all the grace of Christ and the communion of the Holy Spirit. In the grace of Christ we grow by obeying his Word. In the communion of the Holy Spirit we grow by letting ourselves be led by Him.**

**The Holy Spirit leads us from truth to truth, leads us to the whole truth. By obeying the truth, we fill ourselves with the grace of Christ. Full of grace we can have access to the Father to be filled with his love.**

**If the way of the Spirit is not followed, never might we reach Christ. If the way of Christ is not followed, never might we reach the Father. If the Father is not reached, the heart is empty and no love might be given.**

**Fidelity to the love of the Father is from fidelity to the grace of Christ Jesus. Fidelity to the grace of Christ Jesus is fidelity to the communion of the Holy Spirit. Fidelity to love is fidelity to the Blessed Trinity.**

**Loving is not giving us or our things to others. Loving is giving ourselves to others but to give them the love of the Father, through the grace of Christ Jesus and through the communion of the Holy Spirit. Loving is giving God in his mystery.**

**FAITHFULNESS TO THE MOTHER OF GOD**

**What is the reason why one must be faithful to the Mother of God? There is only one reason: she is the gift that Jesus left to us from the cross, before rising from this world to the Father. It is a special gift.**

**The Virgin Mary must do for us all she has done for Christ Jesus. She must conceive us in faith as true children of God and as true children of God she must make us be born and as true children of God must make us grow.**

**As true children of God and his true children lead us to the eternal kingdom. It is She who day by day must make us stay on the right path. Without Her, the straight path is easily lost. Fidelity must never be missing.**

**Fidelity to the Virgin Mary is fidelity to her love, to her faith, to her hope, to her wisdom, to the gift of life, to full consecration to the Lord our God. Through this fidelity we will grow in wisdom and grace.**

**FAITHFULNESS TO THE PERSONAL VOCATION**

**This is a point that must be well specified and clarified. When we give our yes to the Father and to the Son and to the Spirit and also to the Virgin and the Church, the yes is taken as an eternal yes and not as a momentary yes.**

**On this yes the priestly consecration is given, which constitutes the person a priest forever, in the manner of Melchizedek and in the manner of Christ Jesus. Then, it is sadness in heaven and the church when the yes is denied.**

**Why is the yes denied? Because all the necessary means and the obligatory methods so that we can remain faithful to what was said before God and the Church, are omitted. God never withdraws his gift of grace.**

**FAITHFULNESS TO PRAYER**

**Why is faithfulness to prayer necessary? For every gift of grace, truth, love, justice, holiness and light the Holy Spirit, we must ask it to the Father, for Christ and in the Holy Spirit, without any interruption. Prayer is life.**

**As man lives if he draws oxygen without interruption, so the soul and the spirit live if they draw every element for their supernatural life from the Lord. drawing is praying. One draws and he lives.**

**As sometimes we go to healthy places to receive pure air, so not all places are good for prayer. Before Jesus Eucharist pure air is breathed. Before the Mother of God, breathing is also excellent.**

**We pray in a community prayer as one body that gathers together, but also we pray in the silence of our own home, in order to have a personal conversation with our God. The soul needs secrecy.**

**SHORT FINAL CONSIDERATIONS**

**Let us ask ourselves: is it possible to be faithful, without deviating either to the right or to the left to one's own charisma? Faithfulness is always possible, on condition that rules and methods that are not thought or imagined or invented by us, but are given to us by the Holy Spirit and which are contained in the prophetic Scriptures, are observed. These rules must be observed. A single rule or law neglected slows fidelity to the charisma or even suffocates it. A stifled charisma, never might produce fruits of eternal life. Fidelity is everything.**

***A charisma is a particular gift of the Holy Spirit. Being a gift of the Spirit, it does not mean that we can live without the Spirit. The gift is lived in the measure of the growth of the Spirit in the heart of the one who receives it. If the growth of the Spirit in us is little, even the life of the charisma is little and even the fruits are few. Instead, if the growth of the Spirit in us is in continuous development, the life of the charisma is also in continuous development. Then, iIf the Spirit of the Lord is suffocated, the charisma is also suffocated. A suffocated charisma is without any fruit. Either the possessor of a charisma grows in the Holy Spirit or no fruit through his gift. How does the Holy Spirit grow in the heart, in the soul and in the spirit of a person? The Spirit grows in proportion to our growth in obedience to the Word of Jesus. The first Word of Jesus is the Gospel.***

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**The Mother of the Redemption, your fidelity to the Word of the Lord has always been perfect, holy, and most pure. Not only has it never failed. It has grown day by day, reaching the cross at the summit of its perfection. Help us too, your children, to grow day by day to bring so many fruits of eternal life in the fulfillment of our mission. Angels and Saints, come to our rescue. May your constant intercession obtain for us all the grace so that we may live the charisma according to the will of the Holy Spirit, in the fullness of the grace of Christ, in order to manifest to every man the wonderful riches of the love of the Father. Don't allow us to falter in our yes.**