**FRAGMENTS OF CHRISTIAN SPIRITUALITY**

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

***Catanzaro 21 January 2019***

**LIPS WITHOUT HEART AND HEART WITHOUT LIPS**

**When are the lips without heart and the heart without lips? Lips are without the heart, when the heart is not in the will of God, it is not in the Commandments, not in his Law and it is not in his Word.**

**Every man speaks from the abundance of the heart. The house of the heart is the Will of God, his Commandments, his Law and his Word. When the heart lives in the house of truth, even the mouth will speak from the truth.**

**If the heart lives in a house of sin, disobedience and transgression, even the lips will speak from sin, from disobedience and from transgression. The prayer becomes recitation, but not true invocation.**

**The Christian is called to make his every word, word of truth, justice, holiness, mercy, piety, conversion, forgiveness, light, justice, love and hope. He might do this if the heart lives in the Word.**

**The heart is without lips when Christ remains hidden in it like the lamp that is lit and placed under the bushel. The Christian must never be a lighted lamp, which is placed under the bushel, but on the candelabrum.**

**He is called to shed light on all those who are in the house of the world. How will he make light? Showing in every moment of his life how the Word is lived and also giving reason for the hope that moves him.**

**If Christ Jesus is in the heart, he will also be on the lips. If Christ Jesus is false in the heart he is also false on the lips. If he is true in the heart, he is also true on the lips. But when is Jesus true in the heart and on the lips?**

**When one lives in his will, in his Gospel, in his Law, in his truth, in his forgiveness, in his justice and in his obedience. A truth must be said immediately. If Jesus is in the heart he will always be on the lips.**

**If he is not in the heart, it can never be on the lips. When Jesus is not on the lips, no one might say he has him in his heart. If he is in the heart according to truth, by the law of nature he will necessarily be on the lips.**

**Therefore, everyone can verify the truth of his faith, of his love, of his hope, of his piety. It is enough to examine the words that come from his lips. If Jesus is not on the lips, neither is he in the heart.**

**The greater and stronger the power of grace and truth is in the heart, to the extent of our obedience and the greater and stronger is the word that resounds on our lips so that He may be manifested and revealed.**

**They are not in the truth those who say they love Christ, that they have him in their hearts, and then they do not spend even one word so that He is made known to the world. They are lamps placed under the bushel and not on the candelabrum.**

**Now it is right that everyone asks: am I light placed under the bushel or light placed on the candelabrum? The others see and listen to my light. They are attracted to Christ by it. The light attracts. If I don't attract, I'm not light.**

**LAW AND BEATITUDES**

**How do we know if our being disciples of Jesus is true or false, right and wrong, of light and darkness, of falsehood or truth? Jesus left us an infallible yardstick: his Sermon on the Mount.**

**Whoever observes the Sermon on the Mount according to purity of truth and justice, truth of listening and obedience, is a true disciple of Jesus. Instead, who stands outside and does not observe it, he is not a true disciple of Jesus.**

**The true disciple of Jesus makes true disciples of Jesus. The false disciple of Jesus makes false disciples of Jesus. The true light makes true children of light. The false light makes false children of light. Each one generates according to his nature.**

**Whoever wants to generate according to purity of light and truth must transform his nature into pure light and full truth. If his nature is pure, the generation will be pure. If his nature is impure, generation will be impure.**

**Since it is a true generation of new children to the truth of the Gospel, evangelization cannot be accomplished with an impure, sinful, vitiated, imperfect and dark nature. It must be done with a nature of light.**

**Here is the great commitment of the Christian: engaging in a fight against darkness, evil, sin and vice so that they may be wiped out from his body, his spirit, soul, his mind and his heart.**

**The Christian who wants to evangelize the world must commit all of himself to a perfect evangelization of himself. From his nature of light he will give light. From his nature configured to Christ he will give Christ Jesus.**

**If nature is out of the Gospel, the Word, the Law, every word of the evangelizer might never contain the Gospel, the Word and the Law. It will be a word that comes from nature and never might it attract to Christ Jesus.**

**Only the Word of Christ attracts to Christ. But the Word that attracts is not the word drawn from paper. Instead it will be the one drawn from the heart, all imbued with the Word of Christ and also configured to Lord Jesus.**

**Jesus is the essence of our heart and our soul. If he is not the essence of our heart and soul, never might he be for us the essence of another man's heart and soul. It is not in us, it will not be in others.**

**If he is essence in us, he will also be essence for others. The Father was the essence of Christ Jesus in Christ Jesus and for him he became essence for many others. This applies to the whole body of Christ, which is his Church.**

**CONVENIENCE AND TRUTH**

**When in apostolic, missionary and pastoral work, do we pass from convenience to truth? When from non-obedience to Christ and his will we pass to a perfect obedience to Christ and his Will.**

**The will of Jesus is not what we imagine, but it is the one He revealed to us and was written for us. If we go out of the script we always pass into convenience. We move the axis from Him to us.**

**If Jesus asks to remind his Word, he does not ask to remember ours. His Word is contained in his Gospel, in his Scripture, understood and lived by Tradition and offered with actuality by the Magisterium.**

**If the Christian is not trained in the knowledge of the Word, he will always work for sentiment, convenience and opportunity that come from the flesh and never from the Holy Spirit. The truth of the Spirit is lacking.**

**If the Christian must make Christ be known to others, in purity of truth and knowledge, contact with Scripture, Tradition and the Magisterium is necessary, indispensable. You need the intermediary or the mediator.**

**Who is the intermediary, the mediator, the one who brings into contact of truth and grace, light and wisdom, justice and eternal life? In the Parish it is the parish priest. In the Diocese it is the Bishop. In the universal Church the Pope.**

**The Pope puts in communion with Christ through the Bishops. Bishops put in communion with Christ, with the true Christ through the parish priests. It is they who give real contact with the truth and grace of Jesus.**

**But Pope, Bishops, Parish Priests, Presbyters must also be in communion of light with those in the Church who are Prophets. Masters and Doctors. These are also the essence of the body of Christ, of the Church.**

**The Word of faith comes to us from Scripture, from Tradition, from the Magisterium and from the Prophets. The science of faith comes from the Masters and Doctors. Teaching is a true science of the Holy Spirit and his true wisdom.**

**The communication of faith and of the science of faith come from the evangelists or evangelizers. Faith and the science of faith are shown completely by the whole body of Christ, each member for its part.**

**Each member must work according to its charisma, mission and particular consecration to Christ Jesus. Communion is life. Isolation is death. The body lives of perfect and exemplary uninterrupted obedience.**

**Each member must obey its own charisma, its own mission, its own configuration to Christ in the sacrament it receives. It must be a tree with many fruits. It obeys its being by letting itself be helped.**

**How will it let itself be helped? Obeying every gift of grace and truth that comes from it from the charisma, from the mission, from the particular configuration to Christ of every other member of the body of Christ.**

**Knowing this, the temptation works to make divisions and contrasts. When there is separation, one always acts from the flesh and never from the Holy Spirit. The Spirit ripens fruits of communion, obedience, unity and union.**

**IN THE WORLD BUT NOT OF THE WORLD**

**Jesus asks his disciples for an exemplary life in everything. When is our life exemplary? When it is obedience to his every Word. When one leaves the Word he is no longer exemplary. We are not disciples.**

**Disciple is the one who walks behind the Master. Where the Master cannot go, neither the disciple can go. If a place is unbecoming for the Master it is also unbecoming for the disciple. Today we do not think this way.**

**The Word of Jesus is the most pure truth to the Father. They are in the world, but they are not of the world. They are in the world to enlighten it with the divine truth. They are not of the world because they will never let themselves be enveloped by darkness.**

**If the disciple follows the fashions of the world - and today there are many fashions, very many - he certainly does not follow the fashions of Jesus and the Holy Spirit. Everyone is obliged to choose: either Christ or the world.**

**If you are not of Christ you are always of the world. One is Christ's when he obeys his Word. If night is darkness, the disciple of Jesus does not follow the fashions of the night. He must follow the fashions of Jesus.**

**Jesus spent the night in prayer and in communion with his father. If the disciple follows the fashions of vice and surrenders to the vice, he cannot follow the fashions of Jesus, which are fashions of virtue and obedience to the word.**

**Elias used to say that one cannot limp with both feet. Everyone must choose. You choose Christ, you cannot follow the world. You choose the world you can't follow Christ. Nor can you follow at alternate moments.**

**In the Church I follow Christ, outside the Church I follow the world. By day I follow Christ, at night I follow the world. In some moments I follow virtue, in other moments vice. Nature is one. No one lives in separate natures.**

**The failure of every Christian mission fails precisely in this: in our not true following of Christ. Apparently we are of Christ. we are really of the world, because we let ourselves be seduced by its fashions.**

**THOUGHTS OF GOD AND THOUGHTS OF MAN**

**The voice of the prophet Isaiah rises imperiously: My thoughts - the Lord says - are not your thoughts. There is an eternal difference. My ways are not your ways. Here too there is a divine and eternal difference.**

**As the sky surpasses the earth so my thoughts surpass your thoughts. As the east is distant from the west, so my ways are far from yours. God's ways are of obedience to his Law.**

**Our ways are of disobedience and transgression. God's ways are a journey from faith to faith, truth to truth, virtue to virtue and listening to listening. Our ways are of disobedience, vice and transgression.**

**It is right that every disciple of Jesus asks: Are my thoughts the thought of Christ the Lord? Are my ways the ways of Christ Jesus? What are the ways and thoughts of Christ Jesus? Those entrusted to his Gospel.**

**Where is the temptation for us? In saying, what's wrong following the ways of the world? I don't do anything wrong. The following of Jesus does not consist in doing nothing wrong. This is not following. The following is something else.**

**Following is a vocation to obey his every desire. Not to not do evil. There is an abyss between not doing evil and obeying his desires. Since I don't do evil, I can do what I want. It's temptation.**

**This thought is diabolical for two reasons: first of all because it is non-listening to the desires of Christ. Secondly, because he who does not believe in Christ feels justified by his non-faith. You do what I do.**

**Why must I be converted to Christ? It makes no sense. We both do the same thing. Your faith does nothing different than my non-faith. Christ is not your life. He is just a useless moment of it.**

**THE HOPE OF ETERNAL LIFE**

**Why must we be true disciples of Jesus? Why must we walk according to his ways? Why must we obey his every thought? Because he promised eternal life to those who obey him.**

**Without the blessed hope of eternal life, we easily separate ourselves from obedience and build a discipleship according to our heart. The three theological virtues must be one for the Christian.**

**Today we have lost the hope of eternal life. It is no longer the fruit of our faith transformed into charity, love, justice, holiness obedience and truth. It is said that it is a gift that God will give to everyone.**

**What good is it then living with true faith and very pure love, which is the fruit of our obedience to the Word of Jesus? If the fruits come without either planting trees or growing them, what is the use of planting and cultivating them?**

**Today hope has been lost not only in the eternal future, but also in the future of time. The future is no longer built on a present of faith and charity and of justice and obedience. It will not be a future according to God.**

**Never might from vice, from the transgression of the Commandments and from disobedience to the Word, a future be born according to God. No one is realizing that we are building a future of death and not of life.**

**A future of death might never be born from vice. Vice is death. Today young people are bred in vices. What future of life might they ever wait for? From virtue there is life. From vice there is death.**

**What future of life can be built from the transformation of secondary ends into essential ends and from the death of every primary, essential, supernatural and eternal end? From vanity and futility there is no future of life.**

**Here is why the three theological virtues must always be lived together. Today, having faith died in many hearts, true love and also true hope, which are the fruit of obedience to faith, have also died.**

**What is true hope? It is the fruit of true love, consequently a fruit of true faith. True faith, true love and true hope. False faith, false love and false hope. An immutable, immortal, universal and eternal law.**

**FAITH AND INCREDULITY**

**Faith starts from listening to the Word of Jesus. The true Word of Jesus is announced, true faith in Him is born. A false word is proclaimed attributing it to Jesus, a false faith in Jesus will also be born.**

**Faith starts from the acceptance of the Word according to purity of truth. The Word calls for conversion to the truth and perseverance in truth of the announced Word for all the days of our lives.**

**When we do not believe in the Word, we sometimes refuse with indifference. Other times we turn against who announces the Word with hatred that could also drive one to kill the one that brings the Word. Jesus was crucified.**

**Whoever brings the Word knows of the hatred of the world, of persecutions and of martyrdom due to the Word, but he perseveres to the end. He perseveres because he knows that the eternal life of men is born of fidelity to the mission.**

**He also perseveres because he knows that even his eternal life is born of fidelity to his mission. The Word also asks for faith in the mission that has been entrusted to us. The disbelief of others must never make us give up.**

**Martyrs are those who have persevered in the mission of the proclamation and witness to the Word until bloody death. The confessors of the faith also persevered in the martyrdom of their spirit.**

**THE SHEPHERD AND HIS SHEEP**

**The flock of the Lord was entrusted to his pastors by Jesus. In his name, with his authority and full of the Holy Spirit and wisdom, these are called to nourish every sheep entrusted to them with grace and Word.**

**Today, but also yesterday, both the flock and the shepherds are under attack from very heavy temptations. One of these temptations is the separation of the shepherd from the sheep and the sheep from the shepherd. People want them two separate bodies.**

**Since some "services" can only be done by the pastor, then he is used only for them. For the rest one can walk separately, each following his ways, his thoughts, his paths, his will and his desires.**

**Thus, the sheep are no longer the concern and occupation of the shepherd. The shepherd is no longer the concern and occupation of the sheep. Shepherds and sheep are in two different and distant hemispheres.**

**Both the shepherds and the sheep are called to win each one his particular and personal temptation. But everything depends on the pastors. It is they who must not fall into temptation. If they fall, the flock dies.**

**Remaining they stable and anchored in the mission that the Lord has entrusted to them, little by little the flock, comforted by the firmness of the pastor, will understand the will of God and if it is of good will it will obey it.**

**DENIAL AND SEQUEL**

**It is the Word of Jesus: Who wants to come after me, let him deny himself every day, take up his cross and follow me. What does daily denial consist in? In walking with the thoughts of Lord Jesus and his Gospel.**

**If the Word of the Lord does not become the truth of our being and our action, there is no denial. Our cross is the Word of Jesus to which we owe obedience for all the days of our lives.**

**FAMILY AND FAITH**

**The family of Nazareth was born from faith. It lived in faith. It walked in the light of the Lord, according to the written Word and also the Word or the command that the Lord made it hear from time to time.**

**Our families must first of all learn from the holy family to constitute themselves according to the faith. Instead today between faith and family there is a true divorce, a separation. Faith is faith. The family is the family.**

**For this we must work hard to make mature and responsible Christians. If men and women – by now no longer young because they get married before they are forty years - are of faith, the family will be of faith.**

**If they are not of faith, the rite is according to the faith, the subjects that celebrate the rite are not according to the faith. Never might this family be built on the foundation of the family of Nazareth, whose heart is faith and obedience.**

**EUCHARIST AND LIFE OF HOLINESS**

**When Jesus announces the mystery of the gift of his body and his blood, that is what he says: As the Father, who has life, sent me and I live for the Father, so also he who eats me will live for me.**

**This is the bread descended from heaven; it is not like the one the fathers ate and died. Whoever eats this bread will live forever" (Jn 6,57-58). The Eucharist is the sacrament of the sanctification of the Christian.**

**Why then, even though receiving this sacrament of eternal life and holiness, we do not sanctify ourselves? Because it is received not according to its truth. It is often received either unworthily or without any real preparation.**

**At one time it was taught that one had to approach the Eucharist by abstaining from food for an hour, with the dress of grace in the soul, knowing and thinking of whom one is going to receive. Distraction is a sin.**

**UNIVERSAL PRAYER**

**The prayer of the Christian is particular, if done for himself or for some, and is universal, if done for everyone. The prayers of the Church are all universal. She always prays for every man and for all men.**

**Universality does not deprive the heart of entrusting some particular people to the Lord for special graces. Christian prayer takes care of both truths. It asks for everyone and also asks for individuals.**

**SHORT FINAL CONSIDERATIONS**

**WHAT'S WRONG WITH IT? Today we follow the fashions of the world and to justify our adaptation to them we say: What is wrong with it. Our following is not meant to avoid evil. It is all aimed at listening to the heart of Christ Jesus and walking according to his thoughts, his heart and his will manifested to us. Here is why all our problems are with Christ Jesus. If we remove Christ, there are no problems. What's wrong with it?**

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**Virgin Mary, Mother of the Redemption, do not allow us to fall into this abyss of thought according to which we legitimize everything we do, hiding behind this phrase: What harm is there? Angels and Saints of Heaven, ensure that we never fall into this temptation. It would be for us the end of the true discipleship behind Jesus the Lord.**