**FRAGMENTS OF CHRISTIAN SPIRITUALITY**

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

***Catanzaro 04 March 2019***

**FRIEND, THAT'S WHY YOU'RE HERE!**

**Adhuc ipso loquente, ecce Iudas, unus de duodecim, venit et cum eo turba multa cum gladiis et fustibus, a principibus sacerdotum et senioribus populi. Qui autem tradidit eum dedit illis signum dicens: quemcumque osculatus fuero, ipse est; tenete eum.**

**Et confestim accedens ad Iesum dixit: Have rabbi. Et osculatus est eum. Dixitque illi Iesus: Amice, ad quod venisti! Tunc accesserunt et manus iniecerunt in Iesum et tenuerunt eum.**

**While he was still speaking, here comes Judas, one of the Twelve, and with him a great crowd with swords and sticks, sent by the chief priests and the elders of the people. The traitor had given them a sign, saying: "The one I will kiss, it is he; seize Him."**

**Immediately he approached Jesus and said, "Hi, Rabbi!" And kissed him. And Jesus said to him, "Friend, that's why you're here!" Then they came forward, laid hands on Jesus and arrested him (Mt 26.47-50).**

**The purpose for which one acts must always be supernatural. Why do we go to church? Here is a supernatural end: To pray and to feed on the Body and Blood of Christ. Thus we will be satisfied for eternal life. Without the supernatural end there will never be supernatural growth.**

**A truth always to be remembered. Never must the supernatural end for our spiritual growth and the supernatural end for the growth of other people be separated. If the end is transcendent for us, it will also be transcendent for others. If it is not transcendent for us, it will not be for anyone else.**

**It is easy to transform the supernatural end into an earthly end. But it is also easy to transform a holy end into a sinful end. Judas turned a gesture of love into a sign of betrayal or recognition. None of us is immune from this danger.**

**If this happens, we waste a whole life, believing we will work for our spiritual growth. In reality, not only do we not progress, we retreat and the Word of Jesus is also fulfilled for us. Our spiritual condition becomes worse than what it was before.**

**When the impure spirit goes out of man, it wanders through deserted places seeking relief, but finds none. Then he says: "I will return to my house, from which I came out". And coming, he finds it empty, swept and adorned.**

**Then he goes, takes with him seven other spirits worse than he, they enter and take up residence there; and the latter condition of that man becomes worse than the former. This will also happen to this wicked generation" (Mt 12: 43-45). If this happens, it is the end of our supernatural journey.**

**Why do I go to church? Why do I attend the Parish? Why do I attend a catechesis or spirituality meeting? Why do I approach the Eucharist? Why do I recite the Holy Rosary? Why do I invite to follow my path? If I don't progress, nobody will progress for me.**

**Jesus will also say to me: Friend, that is why you are here! Just for a song? Just for a guitar play? Just to please those who invited you? Just because forced and obliged? You did not come for your spiritual growth or even for the progress of your soul and your spirit in grace.**

**Slipping from the supernatural to a human, earthly and even sinful end is easy. Who wants to bring others to a higher supernatural end, must bring himself into a very high supernatural end. From the hell of sin and spiritual death no divine ends are built.**

**Supernatural ends cannot be built from the death of slander, falsehood, lies, injustice, hypocrisy, envy, jealousy, foolishness, ignorance and sloth. When the supernatural end is lost there is no longer any path of true spirituality.**

**THE MISSIONARY END**

**The missionary goal is only one: looking for the warm, indifferent, apathetic and indolent sheep, helping to awaken in it love for Christ Jesus. If we exclude Christ, his love, his light, his truth, his justice and his Word from the missionary end, we work for the earth.**

**We must remind the Word of Jesus, his Gospel to this indolent, lukewarm and slothful sheep. But not the Gospel written on paper. The Gospel to be reminded is the one that is written in our heart and that is our very life. We, Jesus and the Gospel must be one.**

**We must always help this lukewarm and slothful sheep so that it grows from love to love for Jesus and from truth to truth, always in the truth of Jesus. We can do this if we ourselves grow in love and become every day more full and perfect truth in Christ the Lord.**

**Instead, the sheep, who got lost and vanished, who surrendered to the world or who never knew Christ Jesus, this one instead must be sought and convinced to enter the fold of the Church, in order to access the sources of grace, of truth and of life. This search work never ends.**

**It is evident that if we ourselves are lukewarm and slothful, indolent and apathetic sheep, indifferent and with earthly ends, never might we lead a sheep to the sources of salvation that are in Christ Jesus. We do not quench our thirst for Christ the Lord, we cannot hope to make others be quenched.**

**The missionary end lived by us in favour of others produces fruit to the extent that the same end is lived for us. If we are not in Christ, we will never feel like Christ, we will never love like Christ and we will never live the mission like Christ. The mission of Christ is obedience to the Father.**

**Are there signs that attest to our fall from the missionary end for us? From what do we realize that we are no longer missionaries for ourselves? The first sign is the detachment from the sacramental source of grace and truth which is the Priest. The Church is born and lives by sacrament.**

**The second sign is the love for things or people placed before the love of Christ Jesus. Whoever loves father and mother more than me is not worthy of me. The third sign is given by the very loss of the end of the mission. One creates personal folds, from which he does not go out and in which one does not enter.**

**The fourth sign is the confusion between friendship and mission. Before the mission of salvation, friendship must also die, if it is a hindrance to the mission. The fifth sign is the loss of purpose for which things are done. Human and earthly ends replace the supernatural end.**

**By examining each one his own life, letting one be helped also by his spiritual guide, he might always know the reasons why his life does not grow spiritually. If you are not a missionary to yourself, you might never be one for others. Who is sanctified, sanctifies. Who has risen, elevates.**

**Spiritual life has rules that no one might ever break. Only divine and not human rules. Being divine rules, they are immutable. Heaven and earth will pass away, divine rules will never pass away. The first rule of the spirit is our constant, uninterrupted conversion to the Word.**

**THE SPIRITUAL END**

**The spiritual goal is personal and it is reached by living in the Holy Spirit according to the new nature that each sacrament gives us. Baptism makes us true children of God, it makes us sharers in divine nature. It is our duty to produce fruits of the new nature. The fruits of the flesh must be forgotten.**

**Confirmation makes us true witnesses of Christ, adults in faith, in hope and in charity, it gives us the Holy Spirit without measure, in the fullness of his gifts. With the Word and with life the confirmed person makes the difference with every other man. In the world he is the true light of Christ and true evangelical wisdom.**

**Penance reassembles in us every fracture caused by sin, it resurrects us to new, eternal and spiritual life. After having received the forgiveness of Jesus, through the ministry of the Church, it is an obligation not to sin anymore. The mercy of the Lord cannot be abused. Go and do not sin anymore.**

**The Eucharist transforms us into the love of Christ. It makes us a gift of salvation and redemption for the world. As the Father gave Christ for our salvation, that is how whoever feeds on the body of Christ and becomes charity of Christ, for the redemption of humanity, wants to give. We give ourselves to Christ to be given.**

**The Holy Order conforms to Christ the Head and Shepherd of his flock. As Christ is the way, the truth and the life for the sheep, so the Pastor must be the way, the truth and the life for the flock entrusted to Him. Christ Jesus is the way, truth and life in the Shepherd. For the Shepherd the flock is led to the sources of life.**

**Marriage makes two people one flesh. One can live on flesh alone, if one lives as true children of God, true witnesses of Christ Jesus, if we live the new life in Christ and like Christ we consign ourselves to the Father as a sacrifice of salvation for the world. In sin the flesh alone dies.**

**The anointing of the sick gives us the grace to offer all suffering to the Father, in Christ, through the Holy Spirit, so that souls may let themselves be attracted by the Word and be converted to the Gospel of salvation. The Christian must not waste any suffering. All must be offered to the Father.**

**The mission is personal, particular and unique. It can only be lived if day by day, indeed moment by moment we let ourselves be led by the Holy Spirit. Jesus was always led by the Spirit. The Spirit always moves according to the will of salvation and redemption of the Father.**

**The vocation is the end for which the Lord has created us. God has called us to life to know Him, love Him, serve Him in this life and then enjoy him in the other, in Heaven. How is this goal achieved? Completing the mission in fullness of grace and truth**

**The charisma is that particular gift of the Holy Spirit that makes us unique in the kingdom of God. Mission, vocation and transformation occurred in the sacraments, must be lived making our particular gift bear fruit. The gift is given to build up the body of Christ in truth and in light.**

**No spiritual end might be achieved without a life intensely formed on grace and on the truth received in the sacraments. A single sacrament frustrated and lived badly, compromises the attainment of the end for which the Lord has created us.**

**THE ETERNAL END**

**The eternal end is reached on the day when we will be welcomed into the kingdom of God in his holy skies. This end is achieved in only one way: by confessing and recognizing Jesus as the only Lord, the only Saviour and the only Redeemer of our life. How might this happen?**

**Making of his Gospel our only Law, the way on which we always walk and the rock on which to build our spiritual home. If we separate ourselves from the Word, we will no longer recognize Christ Jesus before men and He might not recognize us before his Father in heaven.**

**Today there is much confusion among the disciples of Jesus. Many of them have abandoned the Gospel as the only way to reach eternal life. Not only that. Teaching also that eternal life can be reached through many other paths and many other ways. We are in the total loss of the true faith.**

**The Christian's faith is faith in the Word, in every Word of Jesus. What the Word says, the Christian says. What the Word does not say the Christian does not say. If the Word says: "I am the way, the truth and the life", the Christian cannot say that there are other ways, other truths and other lives. If he says it, he doesn't believe.**

**PERFECT EXAMPLARITY**

**When a person is invited to observe the Commandments and live the Beatitudes according to the Sermon on the Mount (Mt cc. V, VI, VII), he can also be panicked. He might think that it is a law impossible to be observed by human nature.**

**What does the disciple of Jesus do to convince that it is possible to observe the Commandments and that the beatitudes can be lived? He shows it to him with his life perfectly kept in the Holy Law of the Lord. You can live, because I live. You can observe, because I observe.**

**This attestation of possibility is necessary. If the Christian does not live the Gospel, with his life he certifies the non-Christian and the non-believer that it is not necessary to observe the Gospel to be disciples of Jesus. One can be a disciple without the Gospel and a Christian without any moral obligation.**

**FORGIVEN NOT TO SIN ANYMORE**

**Forgiveness is given to no longer sin. It is not given to continue to transgress the Holy Law of our God. But can we not sin anymore? We can, but on one condition: that we let ourselves be helped by all the means of grace and truth given to us by the Lord in his Church.**

**In the Church, grace and truth must be given, but also accepted. If they are not given, they might not even be accepted. First comes the obligation to give. To the obligation of giving follows the obligation of receiving. If you disobey the obligation of giving, you might not obey the obligation of receiving.**

**Today it is the obligation of giving that is falling strongly in crisis. That the other accepts or does not accept grace and truth, the obligation to give grace and truth remains eternally stable. God sends to offer, to give. Whoever welcomes, is saved. Whoever does not accept remains in his sin and in his death.**

**BY ATTRACTION**

**The Church grows by attracting many new children to her. How will she attract them, growing in her children, in every member, in grace and truth, in light and in holiness, in justice and charity. As the body conforms to Christ the Lord, her spiritual beauty attracts many other hearts to Jesus.**

**This same law also applies to every Movement and Association that live in the Church, with the Church and for the Church. They will attract new children only if they all grow in grace, truth, justice, charity, love and true conformation to Christ the Lord. Whoever grows in Christ attracts to Christ.**

**THE LAW OF PRAYER**

**Prayer is the fruit of three virtues: of faith, of charity and of hope. With faith we listen to God. God always listens to those who listen to Him. He asks us and we listen. We ask Him and He listens to us. Instead, with charity, we love God and we love according to his Law.**

**When a person loves his God, according to his Word, the Lord always loves those who love him and listens to his every Word of invocation and help. With hope we wait for every Word of the Lord to be fulfilled for us. The promise to be heard is the true Word of the Lord.**

**If we believe and love our God, we know that his Word infallibly will be fulfilled in due time and we hope in its fulfillment without ever doubting. If the tree of prayer is not planted in the soil of faith, charity and hope, it is a dead tree.**

**SHORT FINAL CONSIDERATIONS**

**AMICE, AD QUID VENISTI! It is the duty of every conscience to know, according to truth and justice, the end for which a thing is made or even not made. It is the duty of every conscience to work for the purpose desired by Christ Jesus on our life. Only if the single person is preserved and realizes the supernatural end, might he help the brothers to achieve their goal. If the person himself loses the supernatural end, no one might achieve his goal for him, that which God has assigned to him. We are all from all. One fails and many will fail.**

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**May the Mother of God help us so that no disciple of Jesus fails the supernatural end of his vocation and mission. If we fail, many will fail for us. Angels and Saints do not allow this to happen. We would be responsible for the failure of many.**