**FRAGMENTS OF CHRISTIAN SPIRITUALITY**

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

***Catanzaro 25 March 2019***

**PROOF OF LOYALTY AND LOVE**

**Lucifer was tried by the Lord through his light which was beyond all created light. He saw himself so bright that he declared himself God, in all things similar to God, putting himself on a par with God. A third of Angels, seduced by him, fell into the same lie and falsehood. They were thrown into the sulphur and fire pond.**

**Eve also let herself be seduced by Satan with his deception and falsehood. She too decided to take her life into her hands, make herself equal to God. She, seduced and fallen into disobedience, seduced and made Adam fall into disobedience. They were driven out of the garden of life.**

**Job was put to a very severe test of faithfulness from Satan. First by losing everything he had: lands, animals, sons and daughters. Then losing the health of his body, which became a plague. But he did not fall. He remained faithful to his God. He did not rebel. He did not curse the Lord.**

**Jesus was tempted by Satan to free himself from the Father's will. If he had fallen into this temptation, he would not have been able to save humanity. Instead, he remained faithful and obedient to the Father until his death on the cross. For his obedience and faithfulness the Lord redeemed the world.**

**Paul was tempted to be proud due to his great gifts of grace and truth. In order not to fall into this sin, the Lord put a thorn, a prod of Satan in his flesh so that it always slapped him. For this thorn he always remained humble and small.**

**Every man must know that he will always be tried. For this reason he must pray to the Holy Spirit to give him all wisdom and intelligence to recognize each trial and the strength to overcome it. Whoever trusts in himself, not only does he not see, he cannot overcome the test.**

**Abraham was proved in his fidelity and love with the request for the sacrifice of his son, of his only-begotten. Abraham promptly obeyed. He went to the mountain. When he was about to immolate his son, the Angel of the Lord stopped his hand. For this test the great promise follows.**

**Wealth is proof man and poverty is proof for every. Suffering and joy are a test. Science is a proof and non-science is a proof. Virtue is proof and vice is a proof. Being well is a proof and illness is a proof. Everything is a proof. Everything must be lived in the will of God.**

**Blessed is the man who resists temptation because, after having overcome it, he will receive the crown of life, which the Lord has promised to those who love him (Jas 1:18). There is a difference between temptation and trial. Temptation is an invitation to abandon the will of the Lord, his Law and his Statutes.**

**Today, temptation for us is abandoning the Gospel, the Word of Jesus, sound morality, sound doctrine and walking with our will and our thoughts. Instead, the test serves to measure how great, strong, resistant and faithful our love for the Lord is. This is why it is urgent to grow.**

**Here is the prayer of the wise man not to fall in the hour of trial: “I ask you two things, do not deny them before I die: keep falsehood and lies away from me, do not give me either poverty or wealth, but let me have my piece of bread, so that, once satisfied, I do not deny you.**

**And say: "Who is the Lord?" or, reduced to poverty, do not steal and abuse the name of my God (Pr 30,7-8). Every moment of our life is a proof of fidelity and love. It is urgent to pay attention to it. Falling into infidelity or temptation is very easy. A simple carelessness is sufficient.**

**You are full of joy, even if now you have to be, for some time, afflicted by various trials, so that your faith, much more precious than gold, tested,- destined to perish and yet purified with fire - returns to your praise, glory and honour when Jesus Christ is revealed (1Pt 1).**

**Here is the invitation of the Lord Jesus: "Come to me, all of you who are tired and oppressed, and I will give you refreshment. Take my yoke above you and learn from me, who am mild and humble at heart, and you will find refreshment for your life. My yoke is in fact sweet and my weight light" (Mt 11,28-30).**

**If the Christian wants to live his whole life as a test of loyalty, love, justice, truth, wisdom and every other virtue, he must build his home in the Gospel of Jesus the Lord. When we leave the Gospel we have fallen into temptation. We are chaff on the wings of evil. We are governed by it.**

**Every test of fidelity and love not passed, reveals our spiritual state. We can begin a true path of growth in wisdom and grace to never fall again. Unfortunately, we live as distracted and inattentive. We lead life with very high spiritual and sapiential deficiencies.**

**There is only one risk: that we consume our lives in vanity, in frivolity and in the ephemeral, a sign of great foolishness and ignorance. The lack of wisdom and intelligence, says the Psalm, makes us similar to mules that are not ruled by intelligence. Today is not only a risk. It is a matter of fact.**

**THE TIME OF GOD**

**Every prayer is heard by the Lord. Except that we don't notice it. When we pray, we ask from our heart and intelligence which are very limited. We see neither the before nor the after. The Lord sees before and after, time and eternity.**

**St. Paul exhorts us to raise to the Lord all our requests, the fruit of our uneasy heart. The Lord grants prayer by bringing peace to the heart. When the heart remains in the peace of its Lord, it needs nothing. On the cross Jesus has his heart in the heart of the Father.**

**This does not mean that the Lord does not grant what we ask of him. However, the methods are not the ones established or thought of by us. They are always the fruit of his eternal wisdom and knowledge. God always works from God. We always ask from men, even if we are in the Holy Spirit.**

**Jesus tells us that if we ask him, the Father will always give us the Holy Spirit. Growing in wisdom and intelligence in the Spirit, always asking the Lord according to his desire and his thought. Christian prayer is not pagan prayer. It is prayer in the Spirit.**

**A COMFORTABLE GOD**

**What is the difference between the comfortable God and the living and true God? The difference is simple to show. The living and true God is the God of the Commandments, of the Word, of the Gospel, of obedience to his will and of listening to his voice. He says and we do with prompt obedience.**

**The comfortable God is the God without Commandments, without Law, without Word to be observed. The comfortable God is the God from whom it is required that he obeys man's will and is according to his thoughts. The comfortable God is a God without will, without thought and without Word.**

**Today this comfortable God is the God of only mercy, only forgiveness, only grace, only Paradise, only eternal life and only goodness. The living and true God is mercy, because fidelity, he is fidelity because justice, he is justice because he does what he says and gives what he promises.**

**Making yourself a comfortable God is easy. It suffices to get out of the Word of God, out of the Gospel of Christ Jesus, out of the objectivity of sound doctrine and morality, and you are worshipers of the comfortable God. But this comfortable God is not God. He is an idol artificially invented by us so that everyone can live as he pleases.**

**WE BELONG TO HIM**

**We are not of the comfortable God. He is an idol invented by us. By creation, redemption, salvation and justification we are of the living and true God. When are we really of the living and true God? When we are the true body of Christ the Lord and in the Holy Spirit we live for him, in him and with him.**

**We are not of a God who is in his divine and eternal essence a mystery of unity and trinity. We are of the true God if we are of the Father, of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. We are of the true God if we are from the love of the Father, from the grace of Christ Jesus and from the communion of the Holy Spirit.**

**If we are not of Christ, we are neither of the Father nor of the Holy Spirit. Christ is the only way that makes us be of the Father and of the Holy Spirit. This path is his body. One becomes one body with Christ, he lives as a true body, he is of the Father and of the Holy Spirit, but always as long as he is in him.**

**Today, however, the Christian no longer loves to be of the God Trinity. He wants to be like all the other peoples of the earth. He also wants to have a God made by him, thought by him, sketched by him and designed by him. It is no longer God who makes man it is man the one who builds his God, according to his heart.**

**GOOD JUST AND MERCIFUL**

**It is the duty for who speaks of God, of the living and true God, of the God of mystery and unity of trinity, to explain what mercy and what justice are in God and what is the root on which both justice and mercy grow. Everything comes from the heart of the Father who is the heart of mercy and pity.**

**God said: I will put enmity between you and the woman. Between your lineage and her lineage. This will crush your head and you will snatch her heel. This Word is the first Word of mercy uttered by the Lord God. The first was a word that revealed the tree of life and the tree of death.**

**The lord remains faithful forever to every Word he says. God's faithfulness to his Word is his justice. If you eat of it, you die. The man ate and he died. If you repent, I forgive you. Man repents and he is forgiven. If he does not repent, never might he be forgiven. He is not just.**

**God is just in the word of life and just in the word of death. Today an unjust God is worshiped. God said salvation is in Christ. We say it is without Christ. God says he gives eternal glory to those who believe in Christ and live by the Gospel. We say that eternal glory is for everyone.**

**The Word says one thing about the Lord and we say the opposite. The gospel speaks one way and we speak in a totally different way. We are transforming ourselves into worshipers of a God without faithfulness, without justice and consequently without true mercy. Mercy is justice.**

**Mercy without justice is not mercy. Might a single man on earth ever live mercy without justice? Can a man be merciful if he kills, commits adultery, steals, says false testimony, cultivates superstition and is idolatrous in thoughts?**

**THE GUARDIAN ANGEL**

**The faith of the Church confesses that the Lord entrusts an angel to each soul, so that it may be the one to push it towards the path of good and to remove it from the path of evil. In order for the Guardian Angel's voice to be heard, it is necessary that the soul invokes its heavenly Guardian and asks.**

**The Church thus prays: "Angel of God, who you are my custodian, enlighten, rule and govern me, who was entrusted to you by heavenly piety". The love of the Lord has entrusted me to you. Now be the one to think and see what the holiest way is for me to reach my Lord in the eternal light.**

**We often spend days, weeks, months and even years without ever speaking a single word to our Guardian Angel. The absence of relationship is a clear manifestation of disinterest, but also of a low spiritual sensitivity. We lack respect for his presence.**

**Honouring the Guardian Angel is true Christian piety. He never disappoints those who invoke him. He is always ready to bring our voice to the Mother of God, who is their Queen, or to their King who is Lord Jesus. It is a great honour for the Guardian Angel to present the prayer of his assisted person.**

**I AM WITH YOU**

**Jesus promised it: "I will be with you until the end of the world". But when is Jesus with us? When we want to be with Him. If we separate, we move away, He always remains faithful to his Word. However, he cannot act because we are far from him, we are absent.**

**Jesus is like the sun. He will always shine with grace, truth and eternal life for us. But if we hide in a cave, in the cave of sin, his rays might never hit us. We have placed a powerful barrier between us and Him. If we come out of the cava, his light is there.**

**To be He with us, we must be in Him. But he waits for us to return to him and never denies us the grace of the return. He always sends his ministers so that they preach his Word and invite to conversion for the forgiveness of sins. The Church is true grace of salvation.**

**WITHOUT EVER GETTING TIRED**

**We are often like Elijah. We run a day’s journey in the Gospel, in the mission, but then we get tired immediately. We lack all strength. Strength is drawn from the Holy Spirit. It is He the Spirit of fortitude. The Spirit is revived with prayer, with the sacraments and with works of charity.**

**If we leave these ways behind, we are like woodless fire. Gradually it fades, until it dies out. Only ash remains. Many Christians today are only ash. They live without praying, without attending the sacraments, with a life closed in on itself, without any work of charity.**

**Whoever does not want to be ash, extinguished fire, fire without any flame, fire that gives only smoke out, he must return to the source of truth and grace. Today there is an even greater danger. We have moved away from the source of light, of grace and the truth which is the Church of Christ Jesus.**

**ALWAYS PERSEVERING**

**If a plant wants to produce fruit it must be perennially planted in the earth. If the Christian wants to produce fruits, he must be planted in Christ, in his Gospel, in his grace, in his light, in his truth and in his Holy Spirit and must never be separated from his heart and his life.**

**When you do not persevere in the mission it is a sign that you have separated yourself from Christ the Lord. having separated from Christ, one is also separated from the Holy Spirit. Without the Holy Spirit we can only produce the works of the flesh. Only those who are in the Spirit will be able to produce the fruits of the Spirit. Eternal truth.**

**Jesus is in the Spirit and produces the fruits of the Spirit. He perseveres in love until death on the cross. The mother of God is in the Holy Spirit, she also perseveres in love until Golgotha. Martyrs are in the Holy Spirit and persevere in love until the outpouring of blood.**

**OVERCOMING TEMPTATIONS**

**Pray to overcome temptations is the command of Christ Jesus. Without prayer it is impossible to overcome temptation. We don't see it. We don't have the strength to overcome it. Since we are always tempted, we must always pray. Jesus prays and sweats blood to overcome temptation.**

**Temptation is always crouched at our door. It is more than a shadow that follows us. Only with prayer might it be overcome.**

**BRIEF FINAL CONSIDERATIONS**

**Every disciple of Jesus must know that he will always be tried in his fidelity and love. God will put him to test to try the truth of his heart and the righteousness of his thoughts. God cannot work with whoever is not faithful to him in everything.**

**Lucifer was tried by the Lord through his light which was beyond all created light. He saw himself so bright that he declared himself God, in all things similar to God, putting himself on a par with God. A third of Angels, seduced by him, fell into the same lie and falsehood. They were thrown into the sulfur and fire pond. Eve also let herself be seduced by Satan with his deception and falsehood. She too decided to take her life into her hands and make herself equal to God. She, having been seduced and fallen into disobedience, seduced and made Adam fall into disobedience. They were driven out of the garden of life. Job was put to a very severe test of faithfulness from Satan. First by losing everything he had: lands, animals, sons and daughters. Then losing the health of his body, which became a plague. But he did not fall. He remained faithful to his God. He did not rebel. He did not curse the Lord. Jesus was tempted by Satan to free himself from the Father's will. If he had fallen into this temptation, he could not have saved humanity. Instead, he remained faithful and obedient to the Father until his death on the cross. For his obedience and faithfulness the Lord redeemed the world. Paul was tempted so that he became proud due to his great gifts of grace and truth. In order not to fall into this sin, the Lord put a thorn in his flesh, a prod of Satan that always slapped him.**

**For this thorn he always remained humble and small. Every man must know that he will always be put to the test. For this reason he must pray to the Holy Spirit to give him all wisdom and intelligence to recognize each trial and the strength to overcome it. Whoever trusts in himself, not only he does not see, he cannot even pass the test. Abraham was proved in his fidelity and love with the request for the sacrifice of his son, of his only-son. Abraham promptly obeyed. He went to the mountain. When he was about to immolate his son, the Angel of the Lord stopped his hand. For this test follows the great promise. Wealth is proof for every man and poverty is a proof. Suffering is a test and joy is a test. Science is a proof and non-science is proof. Virtue is proof and vice is a proof. Proof is being well and illness is a proof. Everything is a proof. Everything must be lived in the will of God. Blessed is the man who resists temptation because, after overcome it, he will receive the crown of life, which the Lord has promised to those who love him (Jas 1:18). There is a difference between temptation and trial. Temptation is an invitation to abandon the will of the Lord, his Law and his Statutes. Today temptation for us is to abandon the Gospel, the Word of Jesus, sound morality and sound doctrine and walk with our will and our thoughts. Instead, the test serves to measure how great, strong, resistant and faithful our love for the Lord is. This is why it is urgent to grow.**

**Every moment of our life is a proof of fidelity and love. It is urgent to pay attention to it. Falling into infidelity or temptation is very easy. It suffices a simple carelessness. If the Christian wants to live his whole life as a test of loyalty, love, justice, truth, wisdom and every other virtue, he must build his home in the Gospel of Jesus the Lord. When we leave the Gospel we have fallen into temptation. We are chaff on the wings of evil. We are governed by it. Every test of fidelity and love not passed, reveals our spiritual state. We can begin a true path of growth in wisdom and grace to never fall again. Unfortunately, we live as distracted and inattentive persons. We lead life with very high spiritual and sapiential deficiencies. There is only one risk: that we consume our lives in vanity, in frivolity and in the ephemeral, a sign of great foolishness and insipidity. The lack of wisdom and intelligence, says the Psalm, makes us similar to mules that are not ruled by intelligence. Today it is not only risk. It is a matter of fact.**

**Virgin Mary, Mother of the Redemption, Woman always faithful to your Lord, teach us to overcome every test to be always found faithful. Angels and Saints ensure that we never fall when the Lord comes to test our heart. Always make us faithful.**