**FRAGMENTS OF CHRISTIAN SPIRITUALITY**

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

***Catanzaro 01 April 2019***

**REMINDING THE WORD OF JESUS**

**God, our God, the Creator of heaven and earth, the Lord of the universe, sends his prophets into the world to bring his divine Word back to the heart of his people, and through it to the heart of every man, to which full, perfect and uninterrupted obedience is due.**

**God, our God, sends his son, not only to proclaim the divine Word of eternal life to the world, but also to accomplish the atonement of sins, through his obedience up to the death by the cross. Jesus didn't just say the Word. He also showed how it must be obeyed.**

**Jesus, our Redeemer and Saviour, the one and universal Mediator between his Father and humanity, the way, the truth, the life, the justification and the peace, the Lord of heaven and earth and the Judge of the living and of the dead, sent his Apostles into the world to proclaim the Word of life to the peoples.**

**Not only must the Apostles announce the Word of life, they must also show how the Word is lived. Teaching to live the Word, living it, is an essential apostolic mandate. Everything is from this teaching. Those who do not teach, by living the Word, make the announcement vain.**

**Today much announcement is made vain both because instead of the Word of God the word of men is said and because it is shown how the word of men is lived. Since our life is not obedience to the Word, the Word can no longer be proclaimed. The heart from which to draw it is missing.**

**The Mother of God, Mother of the Redemption, Mother of the Church and Mother of Light, sees that in the hearts there is no longer the Word of her Son, Jesus and as the Father of Heaven in the Old Testament, she asks, in great respect of the will of man, that the Word of her Son is reminded.**

**The rule for remembrance is the same given by Jesus to his Apostles. It must be announced, showing how it must be lived. The Word is put in the heart. You live it. You announce it. You show how it is obeyed, obeying the one that reminds, announces, says and teaches the Word, first.**

**Before sending his Apostles into the world, Jesus gave them the Word of the Father and showed how it is lived even in the smallest precepts. Whoever wants to remind the Word must ask that it is reminded to him. The Church in the Holy Spirit and the Holy Spirit in the Church reminds it.**

**The Church reminds the Word by announcing, teaching, teaching, evangelizing and catechizing. Whoever wants to remind the Word must receive it with the Holy Spirit in the Church. Whoever receives it from the Spirit has always to be confronted with the Church. The Holy Spirit and the Church.**

**Whoever receives the Word from the Church must always ask the Holy Spirit to lead him to the whole truth, in understanding and in life. Church and Holy Spirit must be one source of the Word, not two separate ones, but one. Apostles and Holy Spirit one source.**

**Not only that. Whoever proclaims the Word must always bring into the Church, so that she must complete the conversion to the Word, with the gift of the grace of the sacraments. Word and grace must be one. Everything is done in the Church, with the Church and for the Church. It is the truth of essence.**

**When we are not in the Church, when the ecclesial community is not formed, when we do not live as the true body of Christ, the announcement of the Word is in vain. The true fruit of the announcement is the formation of the body of Christ, in unity and holiness, in communion and peace.**

**The announcement of the Word leads to the body of Christ which is the Church. Whoever receives the Word, whoever accepts it, must necessarily welcome the Church to form the Church. The Church is not invisible, but visible. Belonging to the Church must be visible and thus the formation of the Church.**

**When are we sure we remind the Word? When we approach someone to the one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church, in a visible and non-invisible way, making him a member of the parochial and diocesan community. Without insertion into the Church, there is no true remembrance of the Word.**

**TO THE HARD TEST**

**The test is like the crucible: it serves to ascertain how strong faith, hope and charity are. Every man of God is put to the test. However, the biggest test concerns faith. The whole world does not believe in the Word given to us.**

**We must believe in it and obey the mandate that has been entrusted to us for all the days of our lives. Joseph saw in a dream coming from the Lord that he would risen up over his family.**

**He must believe when he is thrown into the cistern, when he is sold to the Ishmaelites, when he is a slave to Potifar and when he is in Pharaoh's prisons. History says the opposite of the Word and men also say the opposite. But whoever received the Word must always remain in it.**

**Men say otherwise. But whoever has to proclaim the Word must persevere in the announcement, even if no man on earth believes in it. The proof is in the faith that becomes obedience. You obey to the end. You persevere in the command received to the end.**

**Today, since the world refuses to listen to the Word, we offer it other things. We have fallen from the test. We have not persevered. Abraham receives the promise from the Lord. The Lord asks him for the Son of promise. He believed, firm in hope against all hope.**

**Jesus also became obedient until the death by the cross. On the cross He believed in resurrection. He overcame the test. He persevered in faith to the end. The whole world thought they had eliminated him forever. The Father raised him from the sepulchre. Now He is immortal and in glory.**

**Every disciple of Jesus is put to the test in his faith. Today in a particular way. The whole world no longer believes in the Word of Jesus. The disciple must continue to believe. Even if he remained alone in the Church, he must continue to believe. The test is personal. Everyone can fail.**

**Everyone is personally obliged to remain faithful. Everyone's fall will never justify the personal fall. In the time of Noah the whole world was corrupt. Only he persevered in justice. He remained faithful. For his faithfulness the Lord saved the lives of men and animals on earth.**

**I fought the good fight, I finished the race, I kept the faith. Now all I have left is the crown of righteousness which the Lord, the just judge, will hand over to me on that day; not only to me, but also to everyone those who waited with love for his manifestation (2Tm 4,7-8).**

**Thus Paul concludes his confession as Apostle of the Lord. The whole world may also have not believed in his preaching. However, he remained faithful to the mandate received to preach the Gospel to the pagans.**

**The communities he founded fell from faith, he always remained faithful and put the Word of truth back into the hearts of many. The whole world may also not believe. Whoever received the mandate must persevere. The world can also crucify. We must continue.**

**HEAVENLY HELP**

**When the Lord's plan could be compromised by the hostile will of men, He always intervenes with his wisdom and omnipotence. Nothing is impossible to the Lord. All He can do so that his plan of salvation is not interrupted by the powers of evil.**

**Jesus is crucified. The world thinks of having achieved an overwhelming victory. Jesus rises. The world remains defeated. The Apostles are in the Sanhedrin. Things are getting bad for them. They risk being stoned. Gamaliel intervenes with his wisdom and intelligence and they are freed.**

**Pietro is in prison. Herod is about to put him to death. The Church prays. The Lord still needs Peter and sends an Angel to free him from prison. Paul is also needed by the Lord and for the release from certain death he uses his nephew who reveals the plan devised by the Pharisees to kill him.**

**It is the truth. We know that the Lord always intervenes for the salvation of the mystery of salvation and redemption. However, no one might ever know through which ways He will intervene. They are suggested by his wisdom, which we are not given to know until its fulfillment.**

**Which ways will the Lord choose for each individual person, so that the mystery of salvation can be brought to fulfillment according to his will? We will never know it prematurely. However, we know that he is always attentive, alert and does not sleep. His ways are always effective.**

**GO SAVE CONVERT**

**Obedience is always to the mission that has been entrusted to us, however to be lived not according to our will, but according to the ways indicated by the Lord. When we separate from the indicated modalities, there is no mission. Mission and revealed modalities must be one.**

**Only the Lord can change the modalities. No modification is allowed to man. If he makes changes, the mission is no longer according to God, but according to the missionary's heart. Working a life without harvesting any fruit for having changed consignments is foolishness.**

**Here is the mission of the Apostles that always lasts: «All power in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore, go and make disciples of all peoples, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you.**

**And behold, I am with you every day, until the end of the world" (Mt 28,18-20). If you preach the Gospel, you do not baptize, you do not make disciples and you do not teach to live according to the Gospel, the mission is useless. Both spiritual and material energies are vainly consumed.**

**Whoever has received the mission of going, saving and converting must go to men, invite them to welcome the salvation that is obtained in Christ Jesus, urging them to conversion to the Gospel. This mission was lived by the apostle Paul by inviting and imploring to reconciliation.**

**In fact, the love of Christ possesses us; and we know well that one died for all, therefore all died. And he died for all, so that those who live no longer live for themselves, but for the one who died and rose for them. So that we no longer look at anyone in the human way; if we have also known Christ in the human way, now we no longer know him this way. So much so that if one is in Christ, he is a new creature; old things are gone; here, new ones were born.**

**However, all this comes from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and entrusted us with the ministry of reconciliation. In fact, it was God who reconciled the world to himself in Christ, not attributing their sins to men and entrusting the word of reconciliation to us. Therefore, in the name of Christ, we are ambassadors: through us it is God himself who exhorts. We beg you in the name of Christ: let yourself be reconciled with God. He who had not known sin, God made him sin in our favour, so that in him we could become justice of God (2Cor 5,14-21).**

**Without an invitation to conversion, there is no mission. Without a proposal for the true salvation that is obtained in Christ Jesus, there is no mission. Without going to the men to call them to enter the Church, there is no mission. Salvation is in Christ Jesus and in the Church through the work of the Holy Spirit.**

**IN THE GREAT SUFFERING**

**When one wants to serve the Lord, he must always prepare for suffering. Jesus has just started his preaching and the inhabitants of Nazareth decide to throw him from the cliff on which their city is built. During his public life there is not a single day without suffering.**

**He ended his days on the cross, but first he was spit, insulted, slapped, mocked, humiliated, scourged and crowned with thorns. Even on the cross, as a Crucifix, he was mocked and insulted. But He persevered in faith, despite all suffering and mortification.**

**The Apostles too were arrested and flogged as soon as they began preaching. But they were happy to suffer outrages for the name of Christ Jesus. Stephen was stoned for having borne witness to the Lord Jesus. A**

**truth must be put in the heart. It must never come out of it.**

**All suffering is always governed by the wisdom of the Lord. It is the way by which it is established that we can achieve the greatest glory in the heavens. All suffering is for us. It is a grace of our God. By living and offering it we can save many souls.**

**By living and offering it, there will be great glory in the heavens for us. "Because, with regard to Christ, you have been given the grace not only to believe in him, but also to suffer for him, by sustaining the same struggle that you have seen me sustain and you know that I sustain even now (Phil 1,19-20 ).**

**This is the great teaching of Paul. A very high vision witnessing when suffering is seen as the true grace of the Lord. If it is grace, it should not be wasted. If it is grace, it must be lived in fullness of love. Having a vision of faith in everything enriches life and sanctifies it.**

**The persecution for justice, for the name of Jesus, for the Gospel is bliss: Blessed are the persecuted for justice, the kingdom of God is theirs. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven. Persecutions and insults for the name of Christ give great glory.**

**PROMISE MADE AND MAINTAINED**

**When Jesus makes a promise, he always keeps it. One must only have the patience to wait. The Lord promised that he would have placed enmity between the snake and the woman. This promise has been kept, first in the Virgin Mary and then in Christ Jesus. How many years went by?**

**The Lord promised that in the descendants of Abraham he would have blessed all the nations of the earth. How many years went by? Did the Lord promise Moses that he would have freed his people from the slavery of Egypt and brought it into the land of Canaan?**

**How many years went by? A thousand years with the Lord are like one day and one day like a thousand years. When God promises, hours, days, years, centuries and millennia can pass, but his promise is always fulfilled. You just have to wait. We must know how to wait in faith.**

**What God promises will never be realized according to thoughts of the earth, but always according to eternal wisdom. The Lord promised the Messiah. Who could have ever imagined that the Messiah would have been the Only Begotten Son, the Eternal Word of the Father? You can't even imagine.**

**The historical ways through which the Lord makes his promises, only his wisdom knows them. There is no human mind that can imagine the things of God. We only have to wait for the Lord to do what he promised. The Lord is always faithful to his every word.**

**When the Lord makes a promise, mountains can collapse, rivers and oceans can also disappear, the world can be turned upside down, but the Word of the Lord will be fulfilled. How nobody will ever know. We know that the word of God is never uttered in vain by the Lord.**

**Today, this is precisely the great crime that Christians are consuming. They have lost faith in the Word of the Lord. They think that the Lord has vainly spoken. They do not believe that every word of his is unfailingly fulfilled. If he promised hell, hell will be and so it is with Heaven.**

**SALT OF THE EARTH LIGHT OF THE WORLD**

**The Christian is not a candlestick that carries a lit lamp. He is the lit lamp. It is his life that must illuminate the world of divine and eternal truth. He is not a salt shaker, in which salt is poured and then everyone draws it at his will. He is the salt and it is he who must give wisdom.**

**Jesus' words are clear: “You are the salt of the earth. You are the light of the world ". We are not salt and light because we are bearers of light and salt which is not our life. Our life is light. Our life is salt. If we are not salt and we are not light, we cannot illuminate anyone.**

**Another truth. Light shines because it consumes oil or other energies. Salt gives flavour by melting. The grain of wheat gives life by dying to itself. If the Christian wants to give light, he must be consumed in charity. If it wants to give flavour, he must melt into the world by serving the Gospel to it.**

**So, my dear, you who have always been obedient, not only when I was present but much more now that I am far away, dedicate yourselves to your salvation with respect and fear. In fact, it is God who arouses in you the will and to work according to his plan of love.**

**Do everything without murmuring and without hesitation, to be irreproachable and pure, innocent children of God in the midst of an evil and perverse generation. In their midst you shine like stars in the world, holding firm the word of life.**

**Thus on the day of Christ I might boast that I have not run in vain, nor having labored in vain. But, although I must be poured on the sacrifice and on the offering of your faith, I am happy and I enjoy it with all of you. In the same way, you too enjoy it and rejoice with me (Phil 2: 12-18).**

**This is the great teaching of Paul. If the Christian is not salt with life and is not light with works, his word is in vain. But the Word that is not witnessed with life is always in vain. Life and Word must be one. Life must attest that the Word is the most pure truth.**

**JOURNEY OF FORMATION IN THE WORD**

**The risk that everyone can make his own Gospel, his doctrine, his Word, his truth and his morality, is always at hand. Paul left the Corinthian community alone for a few months and every bad herb of immorality and false faith began to grow in it.**

**In a few months nothing of the faith had remained in its purity of origins. people also came to deny the resurrection of Jesus the Lord, which is the heart and the foundation of the whole Christian faith. Even with the Galatians the same betrayal of the Gospel is noticed. Here is why catechesis is urgent.**

**Catechesis is not a stage on which everyone enters and recites at will. Catechesis is the true communication of the mystery of salvation, according to Scripture, Tradition, the Magisterium of the Church and sound theology, made by the minister of the Word in the name and with the authority of the Church.**

**Catechesis is true "magisterial" teaching. It is a teaching that obliges the faithful to obedience. If who participates in the catechesis does not understand, he can ask for explanations, which must always be "magisterial" teaching. The enemy of catechesis is "in my opinion".**

**Nobody is allowed to teach using the "in my opinion". Catechesis is to impart a sure ecclesial doctrine, without misunderstandings or misinterpretations. Truth is truth. Falsehood is falsehood. Christ is Christ. The world is the world. Justice is justice. The Gospel is the Gospel.**

**LOVING THE EMBRACED MISSION**

**Whoever wants to be faithful to the mission he must love the mission. How do you love the mission? Making it become life of our life and thought of our thought. Mission is loved, when life is made to become the mission. Instead, we give some time to the mission, but not life.**

**Not only that. We think that we can live the mission only when we dedicate ourselves to the mission. But only with the body. We are often without the spirit, without the soul and without the thought. Other times we reduce the mission to a work to be done. Other times we live it from sin.**

**No evangelizing mission, of salvation and of conversion can be carried out if we are in the world, in sin and live in the manner of the world. The mission can only be lived from virtues, in grace and in the holiness of life. Sin and mission, vice and mission squeak.**

**ECCLESIAL JOURNEY**

**Our journey is ecclesial if it is a journey in Scripture, in Tradition and in the Magisterium under the guidance of those who have been made shepherds to feed the flock of Christ Jesus of grace, truth, light and Holy Spirit. Without the guidance of the pastor, there is no ecclesial journey.**

**But if the journey h is not ecclesial, the mission is not ecclesial either. The evangelizing mission necessarily involves entrusting the soul to the shepherd so that he may lead it into the truth of Christ Jesus. Shepherd and flock must be one, never two separate realities.**

**Today we are witnessing a terrifying metamorphoses. Shepherds change "species" and become sheep. The sheep change "species" and become shepherds. The presbyter declares himself a lay person among the laity. The layman takes on the role of true shepherd. The metamorphosis damages the Church more than a thousand heresies.**

**REMEMBRANCE PRAYER**

**In Holy Scripture the Lord is always asked to remember his Word, his Covenant and his Promises. Remembrance is a request for benevolence, mercy, forgiveness and compassion. We remind the Lord of each person, so that the Lord will cover him with his love and light.**

**The remembrance prayer needs no words. The Lord knows what every person needs and He always provides with great love.**

**BRIEF FINAL CONSIDERATIONS**

**It is the obligation of every disciple of Jesus to remind the divine Word of the Gospel. Everything must always start from it and end in it. Without the remembrance of the Word, the kingdom of God is not built, the Church of Christ Jesus is not built and we are vain Christians.**

**God, our God, the Creator of heaven and earth, the Lord of the universe, sends his prophets into the world to bring back to the heart of his people, and through it to the heart of every man, his divine Word, to which full, perfect and uninterrupted obedience is due. God, our God, sends his son, not only to proclaim the divine Word of eternal life to the world, but also to accomplish the atonement of sins, through his obedience up to death by the cross. Jesus didn't just say the Word. He also showed how it must be obeyed. Jesus, our Redeemer and Saviour, the one and universal Mediator between his Father and humanity, the way, the truth, the life, the justification and the peace, the Lord of heaven and earth and the Judge of the living and of the dead; he sent his Apostles into the world to proclaim the Word of life to the peoples. Not only the Apostles must also announce the Word of life, they must show how the Word is lived. Teaching to live the Word and living it, is an essential apostolic mandate. Everything is from this teaching. Who does not teach, by living the Word, makes the announcement vain. Today, much announcement is made vain both because instead of the Word of God the word of men is said and because it is shown how the word of men is lived. Since our life is not obedience to the Word, the Word can no longer be proclaimed. The heart from which to draw it is missing. The Mother of God, Mother of the Redemption, Mother of the Church and Mother of Light, sees that in the hearts there is no longer the Word of her Son Jesus, and as the Father of Heaven in the Old Testament, she asks, in great respect of the will of man, that the Word of her Son is reminded.**

**The rule for remembrance is the same given by Jesus to his Apostles. It must be announced, showing how it must be lived. The Word is put in the heart. You live it. You announce it and show how you obey it; first, by obeying the one who reminds, announces, says and teaches the Word. Before sending the Apostles into the world, Jesus gave them the Word of the Father and showed how it is lived even in the smallest precepts. Whoever wants to remind the Word must ask that it is reminded to him. The Church reminds it in the Holy Spirit and the Holy Spirit in the Church. The Church reminds the Word by announcing, teaching, training, evangelizing and catechizing. Whoever wants to remind the Word must receive it with the Holy Spirit in the Church. Whoever receives it from the Spirit always has to be compared with the Church. The Spirit and the Church. Whoever receives the Word from the Church must always ask the Spirit to lead him to the whole truth, in understanding and in life. Church and Holy Spirit must be one source of the Word, not two separate sources, but one. Apostles and Spirit one source.**

**Not only that. Whoever proclaims the Word must always bring into the Church, because she must complete the conversion to the Word, with the gift of the grace of the sacraments. Word and grace must be one. Everything is done in the Church, with the Church and for the Church. It is truth of essence. When we are not in the Church, when the ecclesial community is not formed, when we do not live as the true body of Christ, the announcement of the Word is in vain. The true fruit of the announcement is the formation of the body of Christ, in unity and holiness, in communion and peace. The announcement of the Word leads to the body of Christ which is the Church. Whoever receives the Word, whoever accepts it, must necessarily welcome the Church to form the Church. The Church is not invisible, but visible. Belonging to the Church must be visible and thus the formation of the Church. When are we sure we remember the Word? When we approach someone to the one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church, in a visible and non-invisible way, making members of the parochial and diocesan community. Without insertion into the Church, there is no remembrance of the Word.**

**Mother of the Redemption, Angels ensure that every Christian remembers the Word of Jesus in fullness of truth, love, justice and holiness. Everything is born in conversion with the remembrance.**