**FRAGMENTS OF CHRISTIAN SPIRITUALITY**

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

***Catanzaro April 29, 2019***

**GROWING WELL**

**Jesus grows in age, wisdom and grace. His was a well-ordered, harmonized and perfect growth. He grows as a real man. Man, created by God in his image and likeness, is not only body, he is also immortal and spiritual soul. The body feeds on things. The soul feeds on God.**

**How does the soul feed on God? Feeding on obedience to his Word, on truth, justice and holiness that are drawn only in Him. In God everything is drawn, drawing on it in Christ Jesus. It is drawn on in Christ Jesus, drawing on it in the Church, by her mediation of grace and truth.**

**When one separates from the visible body of Christ, growth will never be well ordered and harmonized. It will never be human growth. Soul development is missing. Today man grows as a body alone. He lacks growth in the soul. He lacks in all grace and all true wisdom.**

**The task of raising children well, in age, wisdom and grace, belongs to the parents. However, everyone helps, first of all growing himself in wisdom and grace. A father, a mother who do not grow in wisdom and grace, might never make their children be raised. They are not a source for their children.**

**Wisdom and grace will be of children if they are of their parents. If they are not of their parents, they might never be of the children. Children breathe their parents' lives. A virtuous mother teaches virtues. A mother full of vices transmits vices. So it is with a father. If he is virtuous he gives virtues, otherwise he vices.**

**The other training institutions can be complementary to the father and mother, never in substitution. It means that if the family educates in vice, the Church and the school are unlikely to educate in virtue. A school where atheism reigns might never educate to true wisdom.**

**Wisdom does not pass from the book into the hearts, even because the book is written by men. Not even Holy Scripture, which is written by the Holy Spirit, passes directly from the Book to the heart. It too needs a mediator, with a heart to pass into another heart. From heart to heart.**

**Those who want to educate must educate themselves. The wise man gives wisdom. The virtuous gives virtue. The fool gives foolishness. The spoiled gives vices. The ignorant donates ignorance. The atheist atheism. The true believer gives faith. Each educates from his formation or deformation, from his vice or his virtue.**

**Whoever loses faith cannot educate to faith. Those who are immoral might never teach sound morality. Those who are out of the mystery might never introduce into the mystery of Christ and the Church, where the true mystery of man is found. Everyone, knowing his status, will also know what he might give to others.**

**Anyone who wants to give something to others must be transformed into a source, a spring. If he is a source of wisdom, he will give wisdom. If he is a source of science, he will give science. If he is a light source, he will give light. But if he is a source of foolishness and other vices, he will give foolishness and other vices. Each gives what his nature produces.**

**A command without the gift is useless. God gives a command because there is eternal life in it. Jesus gives the Gospel because it contains the most pure truth of man. The Church gives a command, because in it man finds the grace of his salvation and redemption.**

**A command without the gift is a satanic, not divine command. We must always distinguish the command of God from the command of Satan. In God's command there is a gift of eternal life that is tasted. In Satan’s command there is emptiness and death. The Christian must fill the command of life.**

**Never must the Christian separate the command from the gift of eternal life, of grace, of truth, of wisdom, of light, of Christ Jesus, of his Holy Spirit, of the heavenly Father, of the Virgin Mary and of the purity of the Gospel. The command of the Christian is a very pure gift and a very pure grace.**

**MISSION AND SUFFERING**

**Good wheat is wrapped in chaff. If you want good wheat, it must be passed through the teeth of the threshing machine to separate it from the chaff. A mission that is lived in suffering. You have to go under the hard iron to have the precious beans which then turn into life. Everything is from suffering.**

**If the man also wants to get every fruit from the earth, he will have to spray it with the sweat of his forehead. He gives his life to receive life. From the donated life other life to be given is drawn. If you take life without having given life, you are unjust. Suffering is always the source of life.**

**Gold is extracted from the mine. It is impure. You put it in the crucible. The fire melts it and separates it from the slag. It is the suffering of purification. Without going through the fire, gold is not real gold. It goes through fire and gold becomes real gold. It is suffering for the acquisition of the personal truth.**

**The Lord entrusts a mission of salvation. Must every mission go through suffering? What is the reason for it? The mission marked by pain, martyrdom and the gift of the whole life, not only does it give truth to the mission. Suffering produces truth, conversion and faith in the Word.**

**Where suffering is lacking, the mission is not only lacking in all truth, it is also devoid of any grace of conversion and faith in the Gospel, because it is without the strength of the Holy Spirit and his conviction. The Holy Spirit is the fruit from the missionary who offers his life to the mission.**

**A mission without suffering is a vain mission. Not only is it devoid of its truth, it is also stripped of all fruit of salvation. Furthermore, suffering purifies the missionary's faith, together with charity and hope. Whoever perseveres in the mission attests to the truth of it and makes it credible.**

**Suffering is a sign of the truth of our mission, because the spirit of evil only turns upon against the truth. It always helps falsehood so that it increases. It fights the truth to eliminate it from the heart and mind of the disciple of Jesus. Suffering is the seal of the truth of Jesus.**

**SIGNS AND WORD**

**The sign of the truth of the Word is the fruit it produces. The Word of Jesus always generates grace, truth, light, life, peace, joy, communion, concord, fraternal love and government and self-control. These fruits attest that our Word is the Word of Christ and it is said in the Holy Spirit.**

**Instead, the word of man generates all kinds of impurity, foolishness, war, discord, contrast, envy, jealousy, separation, division, debauchery and death. Whoever produces these fruits testifies that his word is not the word of Christ Jesus, but the word of man's enemy. It is a word of darkness.**

**The Word of Jesus says and things are accomplished according to the spoken Word. The word of the Evil one is also fulfilled, only that its fruits are death poison. If then the Word is said by the prophet, it can perform any miracle and any prodigy. The miracle reveals the truth of the prophet.**

**It is the truth: the word of man produces according to the soil in which it is planted. If it is planted in the heart of Christ Jesus, it will always produce eternal life. If it is planted in the heart of Satan, it will always produce eternal death. The more the word takes root and the more abundant the fruits will be.**

**If the roots are deep in Christ, the word produces every fruit of life and goodness. If the roots are deep in Satan, the word produces every fruit of death and malignancy and malice. The fruits not only tell which is the heart in which it is planted, but also the depth of its roots.**

**The Christian is called to plant himself in Christ with ever deeper roots. If the roots are on the surface, a light wind of temptation is enough and our tree is torn up, uprooted. Instead, if they are deep, not even a hurricane can separate us from Christ the Lord.**

**This is why I bend my knees before the Father, from whom all descendants in heaven and on earth originate, so that, according to the richness of his glory, he grants you to be powerfully strengthened in the inner man through his Spirit.**

**May Christ live through faith in your hearts, and so, rooted and founded in charity, you are able to understand with all the saints what the breadth, length, height and depth are and to know the love of Christ that surpasses all knowledge,**

**so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God. To him who in everything has the power to do much more than we can ask or think, according to the power that works in us, to him the glory in the Church and in Christ Jesus for all generations, forever and ever! Amen (Eph 3: 14-21).**

**Then, as you have welcomed Christ Jesus, the Lord, walk in him, rooted and built on him, firm in faith as you have been taught, superabundant in thanksgiving. Make sure that no one makes you his prey with philosophy and empty tricks inspired on human tradition, according to the elements of the world and not according to Christ.**

**It is in him that the whole fullness of divinity dwells bodily and you participate in the fullness of him, who is the head of every Principality and of every Power. In him you have also been circumcised not by a man-made circumcision with the stripping of the body of flesh, but with the circumcision of Christ:**

**with him buried in baptism, with him you are also risen by faith in the power of God, who raised him from the dead. With him God gave life to you too, who were dead due to the faults and the uncircumcision of your flesh, forgiving us all the faults and canceling the document written against us which, with the prescriptions, was against us:**

**he took it out of the way by nailing it to the cross. Having deprived the Principalities and Powers of their power, he made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them in Christ (Col 2,6-15). Here is the true sign that we must all offer to the world: our deep rooting in the heart of Christ Jesus.**

**TEMPTATION AND PRAYER**

**Temptation is not only satanic and also human seduction so that evil is done and good is abandoned and we walk in vices and not in virtues, proceed in transgression of the Law of the Lord and not in obedience to it. This is a temptation, but not the temptation.**

**The temptation is the dissolution of the natural and supernatural bond, by creation and redemption, from the will of the Father, manifested in its fullness of revelation in Christ Jesus, to be implemented by the work of the Holy Spirit. Here is the temptation: leading life from the personal will.**

**Then, temptation does not concern only evil, but also good. Evil is in the transgression of the Law of the Lord. Good is done in the transgression of the will to good indicated to us by Christ Jesus and the Holy Spirit. Temptation for good is as universal as temptation for evil.**

**The one in the good is more subtle and deceptive than the one in evil. Killing is known to be evil. Adulterating, stealing, saying false testimony against others, are a visible evil. Doing one good rather than another is not always visible. Indeed often doing a good and not another rewards.**

**A priest, a bishop who consecrates his whole life to the gift of the Word and grace, who is committed to educating to true justice, often produces few fruits. It is true, but tiring charity. It costs the sacrifice of a lifetime. A very pure faith is needed to carry on this obedience to the good.**

**A priest, a bishop who consign themselves to the visible works of mercy, leaving out their ministry that seals them to prayer and the Word, are esteemed and dragged by the people into great temptation, without even their realizing it. Good according to man is not good.**

**For the good to be true good, it must always be according to God. It is according to God if it is done in respect of one's vocation, ministry, gift of the Holy Spirit and mission received. Jonah must not preach in Tarsus, but in Nineveh. Paul must preach to the Pagans. Good is obedience.**

**The true obedience of the Christian is to Christ, to his Gospel and to the Holy Spirit. Thus Paul in the Letter to the Ephesians: “One body and one spirit, as one is the hope to which you have been called, that of your vocation; one Lord, one faith and one baptism.**

**One God and Father of all, who is above all, works through all and is present in all. However, each of us has been given grace according to the measure of Christ's gift. For this it is said: Having ascended to heaven, he brought prisoners with him, he distributed gifts to men. But what does it mean that he ascended, if not that he had first descended down here on earth?**

**The one who descended is also the one who ascended far above all the heavens, that he might fill all things. And he gave some as apostles, others as prophets, others as evangelists, others as pastors and teachers, to equip the holy ones for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ,**

**until we all attain to the unity of faith and knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the extent of the full stature of Christ, so that we may no longer be infants, tossed by waves and swept along by every wind of teaching arising from human trickery, from their cunning in the interests of deceitful scheming. Rather, living the truth in love,**

**we should grow in every way into him who is the head, Christ, from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, with the proper functioning of each part, brings about the body's growth and builds itself up in love (Eph 4: 11-16).**

**Today there is little education to avoid both the temptations that drive to do evil and the temptations that ask to do a good, but from our will, rather than from obedience to Christ and the Holy Spirit. Not only obedience to the Gospel, but also to the Holy Spirit and his will on each one.**

**Today all the evil in the world is the fruit not of the former temptation, but of the latter. It is the fruit of our non-obedience to the Holy Spirit. We are omissive in fulfilling the mandate received from the Spirit of the Lord. The mystery of Christ Jesus is no longer taught and testified.**

**What the Lord through the mouth of Hosea said of the priests of that time applies to us: Listen to the word of the Lord, O children of Israel, because the Lord is in dispute with the inhabitants of the land. In fact, there is no sincerity no love and no knowledge of God in the country.**

**False swearing, lying, murder, stealing and adultery! in their lawlessness, bloodshed follows bloodshed. Therefore the land mourns, and everything that dwells in it languishes: The beasts of the field, the birds of the air, and even the fish of the sea perish. But let no one protest,**

**let no one complain; with you is my grievance, O priests! You shall stumble in the day, and the prophets shall stumble with you at night; I will destroy your mother. My people perish for want of knowledge! Since you have rejected knowledge, I will reject you from my priesthood (Hos 4: 1-6).**

**These are words that should make us reflect. If a priest wants the ruin of his people, it is enough that he no longer teaches the Law of the Lord and no longer preaches the Gospel according to truth. He makes God's field a vegetable garden cultivated with thorns and every bad grass. Without the Gospel we die.**

**GO SAVE CONVERT**

**In every man everything must be by divine will. Nothing must be from his own will. This is why we are asked to be obedient to the Holy Spirit. Falling into the temptation to be from our will is easier than you might think. Everyone must be careful.**

**When a command is received, it must never be disobeyed. If the command is to go, save and convert, you must never go to do anything else. Everything that is done must be oriented towards achieving the salvation of every man, in conversion to the word of the Gospel.**

**This is the true Christian contradiction. In his Holy Spirit, Jesus sends his disciples to do one specific thing and they do another thing. They are sent for conversion and they work for non-salvation and non-conversion and the non-announcement of the Word. They fell into temptation.**

**LOVE AND OBEDIENCE**

**Who wants to love, must do one thing: obeying every command received. If obeying is the only way to love, then why do we fall into temptation? We fall because our mind and heart want to take the place of the mind and heart of Christ and the Heavenly Father.**

**We think we have a heart larger than that of the Father and a wisdom more wise than that of the Holy Spirit. We think, indeed we believe, that what comes from our mind and heart produces real fruits of salvation. A bread saves. What is the gospel for?**

**If we do not put on the greatest humility of believing that there is no wisdom beyond the wisdom of the Spirit of the Lord, we will always fall into sin to replace ourselves to the heart of Christ and the wisdom of the Holy Spirit. When this happens it is the end of the mystery of true salvation.**

**STRENGTH IN THE LORD**

**Whoever wants to remain in the purest obedience to every command of Christ Jesus and the Holy Spirit, must draw on all strength in the Lord without interruption. Strength is both light and grace, truth and power of the Holy Spirit. Without grace and light and power temptation wins.**

**When one falls into temptation it is the death of the mission. We are from our will, from our mind and from our heart. The mission is lived only from the heart of Christ and from the mind of the Holy Spirit. Either we are always from Heaven or our mission will never produce fruits of eternal life.**

**BRIEF FINAL CONSIDERATIONS**

**No man might ever grow well if left alone. To grow well you need the help of a father and a mother. Not of a single father. Not of a single mother. But of a father and mother who make virtues their daily bread. From the vices of the parents you grow in the vices. From virtues we grow in virtues. From wisdom one grows in wisdom. From malice to malice. From foolishness to foolishness. From idleness to idleness.**

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**Anyone who wants to give something to others must become a source, a spring. If he is a source of wisdom, he will give wisdom. If he is a source of science, he will give science. If he is a light source, he will give light. But if he is a source of foolishness and other vices, he will give foolishness and other vices. Each gives what his nature produces. A command without the gift is useless. God gives the command because there is eternal life in it. Jesus gives the Gospel because it contains the most pure truth of man. The Church gives a command, because in it man finds the grace of his salvation and redemption.**

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**Mother of the Redemption, Angels and Saints arrange that every child grows in wisdom and grace and every disciple of Jesus in imitation of Christ the Lord by the motion of the Holy Spirit.**