**FRAGMENTS OF CHRISTIAN SPIRITUALITY**

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

***Catanzaro 20 May 2019***

**TRUE PRESENCE**

**Every word of Jesus is always fulfilled: "In truth I still say to you: if two of you on earth agree to ask for anything, my Father in heaven will grant it to you. Because where there are two or three gathered in my name, there I am among them "" (Mt 18,19-20).**

**We are not gathered in the name of Jesus when we are in the same place, in the same Church and in the same room. It is not a "local" meeting. Instead, it is a spiritual and evangelical "meeting" in grace, obedience, truth, justice, holiness, mercy and forgiveness.**

**We are gathered in the name of Jesus when two or three people are one heart, one will and one thought with Christ the Lord. We want what the Lord wants. We love what the Lord loves. The Gospel is obeyed with the same obedience as Christ the Lord.**

**If there is a "diversity" in name: one is gathered in his name, another in the name of this or that other man, a third in the name of anyone and not even his, you are in the same place, but you are not in the same name. One is Christ, one is the Gospel, one the truth, one end and one the thought of the Lord Jesus.**

**St. Paul teaches us this unity: “I urge you: behave in a manner worthy of the call you have received, with all humility, gentleness and magnanimity, enduring each other in love, having at heart to preserve the unity of the spirit by means of the bond of peace.**

**One body and one spirit, as one is the hope to which you have been called, that of your vocation; one Lord, one faith, one baptism. Only one God and Father of all, who is above all, works through all and is present in all (Eph 4: 1-6).**

**So the Psalm: Behold, how beautiful and how sweet it is that brothers live together! It is like precious oil poured on the head, which descends on the beard, the beard of Aaron, which descends on the edge of his garment. It is like the dew of Hermon, which descends on the mountains of Zion.**

**Because there the Lord sends the blessing, life forever (Ps 133 (132) 1-3). Brother is he who is blood of his own blood and life of his life. We are brothers of Christ Jesus, we are the body of his body, the life of his life and with the Eucharist he becomes our blood and flesh.**

**This is why it is urgent to free ourselves from every vice, every transgression, every disobedience, every injustice. It is urgent to put on charity, mercy, truth, peace, forgiveness, meekness, humility and poverty in spirit, to become one with Jesus the Lord. Sin divides and separates.**

**Even with the Mother of Jesus, who is our Mother, we must be one. When do we become one with the Mother of Jesus? When we do everything Jesus asks of us. It is obedience to Jesus the Lord that testifies that we are true children of the Mother of God.**

**We must always grow in brotherhood with Christ and in sonship with the Mother of God and our Mother. We grow, increasing our ability to obey. The more you obey, the more you are brothers of Jesus. The more you obey, the more you become true children of the heavenly Mother. Obedience is everything.**

**Here is the unity that Jesus wants: "I am the true vine and my Father is the farmer. Every branch that does not bear fruit in me he cuts it, and every branch that bears fruit he prunes it to bring more fruit. You are already pure because of the word I have announced to you. Stay in me and I in you.**

**As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself if it does not remain in the vine, so neither can you if you do not remain in me. I am the vine, you are the branches. Whoever remains in me, and I in him, bears much fruit, because without me you cannot do anything. Whoever does not remain in me is thrown away like the branch**

**and it dries; then they pick it up, throw it into the fire and burn it. If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask for what you want and it will be done to you. My Father is glorified in this: that you bear much fruit and become my disciples (Jn 15: 1-8). Unity of essence, substance and nature.**

**United in the same place we are all and always. United in the name of Jesus, we are united if we are united in the Gospel, in the truth and in the will of Christ the Lord. This unity must always be sought, always built and never taken for granted. If we are not gathered in the name of Jesus, no meeting will ever hold.**

**ANNOUNCING AND REMINDING THE GOSPEL**

**The announcement of the Word is the essence, substance and nature of the disciple of Jesus, as essence, substance and nature of the vine is to produce grapes. If the vine does not produce grapes, it must be cut. For the farmer it has no value. What is the use of growing a sterile vineyard? You cut it and plant another one.**

**For the Christian, announcing and remembering the Gospel is more than breathing, more than food and more than water. Without air, without food and without water it is physical death. Without the announcement and remembrance of the Gospel is the death of the Christian. His nature does not produce Gospel because it is not Gospel.**

**Whoever wants to produce announcement and remembrance must become evangelical nature, spiritual nature and Christic nature. If this transformation of nature does not occur, there is an insurmountable abyss between the Gospel and the Christian. Never might the earth produce grapes. It is not a vine. Vine produces grapes. Its nature is vine.**

**Gospel nature produces announcement and remembrance of the Gospel. Christic and spiritual nature produces proclamation and remembrance of the Gospel. Never might nature of flesh produce a single word for the remembrance and announcement of the Gospel. Whoever wants to remember and proclaim the Gospel must be of an evangelical nature.**

**When the evangelical nature is lost, our word is always directed to the earth and its things. Whoever breathes the Gospel remembers and announces the Gospel. Those who breathe the earth announce and remind the earth. Evangelical heart, evangelical word. Heart of earth and word of earth.**

**WITHOUT THE WORD OF GOD THERE IS NO SALVATION**

**Without the Word of God there is no salvation, because it is the Word of God reveals to us that the Salvation of God is Christ Jesus. There is no salvation, because salvation is in the conversion to the Word of God, which reveals that Christ is the only name in which it is established that we can be saved. There is no other name.**

**There is no salvation, because salvation is accomplished through faithful and uninterrupted obedience to the Word of God, which is the Word of Christ Jesus. The Word leads us to Christ and makes us live in Christ, with Christ and for Christ. Without announcement, there is no knowledge and there is no obedience.**

**Thus St. Paul to the Romans: Indeed: Whoever invokes the name of the Lord will be saved. Now how will they call on the one they have not believed in? How will they believe in the one they haven't heard of? How will they hear about him without anyone announcing him?**

**And how will they announce him if they have not been sent? As it is written: How beautiful are the feet of those who bring a happy announcement of good! But not everyone has obeyed the gospel. Isaiah says so: Lord, who believed after having listened to us? Therefore, faith comes from listening.**

**Listening concerns the word of Christ (Rom 10: 13-17). The Church lives with the Word. When the Word is not proclaimed, the death of the Church herself is decreed. The Church lives on the Word, because it is the Word proclaimed, reminded, witnessed and lived that enriches her with new children.**

**The Word is kept silent, the Church ages terribly and dies. A Church that ages and dies, a community that ages and dies, reveals that the Word of God, of Christ Jesus, does not resound either in her and or for her. The silence of the Word produces more damage than ten thousand heresies.**

**The Word is the life of the Church. Tomorrow, if the Church decided not to proclaim the Word to the world, to peoples, to nations, to countries, never must she decide not to preach the Word to herself again. If she decided this, she would decide her death and her disappearance from the earth.**

**In truth, then we are not that far from such a decision. The fear of preaching the Gospel to the Gentiles is turning into fear of preaching the Gospel to the same Church herself and to the very Christians. The results are there for all to see. The Church languishes, ages and dies inexorably.**

**History teaches us that when the Church wanted to rise from her ashes, she always started by making the Word of Jesus and his Gospel resound in the heart, inviting to conversion and faith. Either we return to the announcement of the Gospel, or we are condemned to a sure death.**

**The Church does not live on agreements, treaties, conventions and dialogues. She lives if she proclaims the Gospel and expressly invites to conversion and faith in the Word, in the sacraments and in obedience to the Word accepted in faith. For lack of announcement, confusion and loss of conscience reign.**

**Who can truthfully proclaim the Word? Only that Christian who lives by the Word. The more he lives by Word, the more he announces it. The less he lives by the Word and the less he announces it. When the Word is not proclaimed it is a sign that it is not lived. If the heart is without Word, the mouth is also without Word.**

**ONE-WAY LOVE**

**The Christian is called to daily conversion to the Gospel, to live by the Gospel and according to the Gospel. The obligation to live the gospel is personal. The contract or covenant or pact is entered into between the individual and Christ Jesus, in the Holy Spirit. What exactly does this covenant with Jesus consist of?**

**He promises eternal life to those who believe in his Word and obey it for all the days of his life. Where must this Word be lived? Not surely in blissful skies. It must be lived in the world. The world is the kingdom of evil, malice, insult, slander and falsehood.**

**The world is a builder of infinite crosses. The world is the realm of impiety: "We rule over the just, who is poor, we do not spare widows and nor do we respect the grey hair of an elderly person. May our strength be the law of justice, since weakness is useless.**

**We tend pitfalls to the just, who is inconvenient for us and opposes our actions; he reproaches us for the faults against the law and reprimands us for the transgressions against the education received. He proclaims that he possesses the knowledge of God and calls himself the son of the Lord.**

**He has become a condemnation of our thoughts for us; it is unbearable merely seeing him, because his life is not like that of others and his paths are completely different. We have been considered by him to be counterfeit money and he keeps away from our ways as from impure things.**

**He proclaims blessed the final fate of the righteous and prides himself on having God as father. Let's see if his words are true, let's consider what will happen to him in the end. For if the righteous is a child of God, he will come to his aid and free him from the hands of his adversaries.**

**Let's put him to the test with violence and torment, to know his meekness and test his spirit of endurance. Let us condemn him to a defamatory death, because, according to his words, help will come to him" (Wis 2,10-20). The Christian must persevere in love in the midst of evil.**

**The Christian is in all similar to a boat in a stormy sea. All the waves crash against it, but it must continue to sail. Never must let it be overwhelmed by the waves of evil. It would end up being a boat. If the Christian is overwhelmed by the waves of evil, he ceases to be a Christian.**

**That is what loving in one way means: always remaining in the fullest and most perfect obedience to every Word of Jesus the Lord. The contract was stipulated with him and with no one else. It is He who, when evening comes, will give us our wages. The other exists to be saved with our obedience.**

**If the other person exists only to be saved by us, then he is not the object either of our thoughts and or of our criticisms, judgments, murmurs, gossip and vain and foolish words. This is the only thought of the Christian: what does Jesus the Lord ask me for the salvation of my brothers?**

**Salvation does not come from our will. It always comes from the purest and most perfect obedience to the will of Christ the Lord. Whoever obeys the Word of Jesus saves himself and his brothers. Whoever disobeys saves neither himself nor his brothers. Salvation comes from obedience.**

**If the other person exists to be saved, just as we exist before God to be saved, then as Jesus made himself the gift of eternal salvation in the hands of the Father, so we too must make ourselves a gift of salvation and redemption in the hands of Jesus the Lord, in him, with him and for him.**

**Whoever gives himself to God as a gift for the salvation of his brothers must always be from the will and thought of Christ Jesus. He must have in his heart and mind the same feelings that were in Christ Jesus. He must live the same obedience, same love, same humility and meekness.**

**If the disciple stops looking at Christ, little by little he begins to waver, creak, start, wave, fall and be shattered as a Christian. The flesh conquers him and he is no longer an instrument of salvation for his brothers. One saves from the Holy Spirit, never from the flesh.**

**One-way loving is possible. You can do it if you become imitators of Christ Jesus. He lived only out of obedience to the Father, moved and comforted by the Holy Spirit. His cross is the sign of this love. He offered himself for the wicked in the appointed time. From his sacrifice the redemption of the world is.**

**ALWAYS PERSEVERING**

**When you begin the journey with Christ Jesus, it is stopped not even with death. It must always last. Disciple is the one who follows his master. The Christian is a disciple if he follows Christ Jesus. The wisdom, science, love, humility, meekness of Jesus are always to be learned.**

**One must always be his disciples. We separate from Him and become disciples of the world. But if we are disciples of the world, our teacher is the prince of the world and only vices, transgression of the Commandments and all sorts of disobedience, idolatry and immorality are learned from him.**

**One does not persevere because he walks behind a project and realizes it. The Christian perseveres by letting himself be taught day by day by Christ Jesus, in the Holy Spirit, following the sound doctrine and morality of the one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church. Perseverance is following.**

**Today discipleship has become an impossible reality. It is no longer conceived of as a life requirement. Everyone wants to be from his will, from his thoughts, desires, imaginations, fantasies and aspirations. It is discipleship that makes the Christian true. The Christian is a disciple by nature.**

**Those who were once Masters in the Church - Pope, Bishops, Presbyters, Doctors of Sacred Science and Guides in the spirit - today are considered only a source of opinion. Their thinking is the same as any other thought. Christ Jesus, the Master of every teacher, is also relativized.**

**Today Jesus is just an opinion in the dense forest of man's thought. It is not the world that sees Jesus like this. It is the Christian. His disciples are the ones who every day denigrate, despise and insult their Master and Lord. If the Master of masters does not exist, might there be another master?**

**Without the Master of masters, without any other teacher by evangelical institution, without even the teacher by nature - father and mother - the fly Christian is born. Everyone flutters over his manure. And everyone feeds on the fruit of his thoughts and desires. But the havoc does not end here.**

**One offers his thought as true prophetic and divine thought, drawn from unknown and obscure prophecies. Everyone makes himself his own prophets and his guides. The Gospel and the Holy Spirit are also used to give truth value to his spiritual manure. Without the Master of masters that is what happens.**

**It is God's will that Christ is the Master of every master, because He is the Disciple of the Father and the Model of every disciple. It is God's will that his Apostles are the masters of his Gospel, of his truth, of his death and resurrection and of his eternal life. Obeying is an obligation of justice.**

**PROCLAIMING THE GOSPEL IS A DUTY**

**Proclaiming the gospel is an obligation of a spiritual nature. Just as it is an obligation of nature for a tree to produce flowers, branches and fruits, so it is the obligation for the Christian, having become the body of Christ, to produce works and words of Christ Jesus. One body, one life and one fruit. An obligation of nature.**

**If we do not proclaim the Gospel, if we do not produce the works of Christ, it is a sign that we have separated from Him. It is a natural obligation for the branch to produce grapes. If the branch does not produce grapes, it must be cut. It is not an obligation of will, but of nature that the Gospel must be preached, reminded and announced.**

**FORWARD WITHOUT EVER STOPPING**

**Jesus says that you don't start building a tower and to then stop it. What you start must be brought to completion. When you lose faith in what you started, you always go back. Faith is everything for the disciple of Jesus. If faith is lost, everything is lost.**

**The disciple gives Jesus his faith and the Holy Spirit gives the disciple the fruits of Christ and also perseverance to the end. An eternal truth.**

**BRIEF FINAL CONSIDERATIONS**

**Jesus teaches his disciples that who perseveres to the end will be saved. Everyone saves his soul with his perseverance. But in what must one persevere? In being his disciples. In being listeners to his voice. In being guided by him our only Shepherd, Master and Lord. If the relationship of discipleship is broken, there is no longer perseverance. You are simply sheep without a shepherd. It is the spiritual, moral and ascetic disarray. It is the loss of our soul, because it is handed over to the prince of the world. We leave the sequence of light, the sequence of darkness begins.**

***When you begin the journey with Christ Jesus, even with death, it must not be interrupted. It must always last. Disciple is the one who follows his master. The Christian is a disciple if he follows Christ Jesus. The wisdom, science, love, humility and gentleness of Jesus are always to be learned. We must Always be his disciples. We separate from Him and we become disciples of the world. But if we are disciples of the world, our teacher is the prince of the world and only vices, transgression of the Commandments, all sorts of disobedience, idolatry and immorality are learned from him.***

***One does not persevere because he walks behind a project and realizes it. The Christian perseveres by letting himself be taught day by day by Christ Jesus, in the Holy Spirit, following the sound doctrine and morality of the one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church. Perseverance is following. Today discipleship has become an impossible reality. It is no longer even conceived of as a life requirement. Everyone wants to be from his will, from his thoughts, desires, imaginations, fantasies and aspirations. It is discipleship that makes the Christian true. The Christian is a disciple by nature.***

***Those who were once Masters in the Church - Pope, Bishops, Presbyters, Doctors of Sacred Science and Guides in the spirit - today are considered only a source of opinion. Their thought is the same as any other thought. Christ Jesus, the Master of every teacher, is also relativized. Today Jesus is just an opinion in the dense forest of man's thought. It is not the world that sees Jesus like this. It is the Christian. It is his disciples who every day denigrate, despise and insult their Master and Lord. If there is no Master of masters, might there be any other master?***

***Without the Master of masters, without any other teacher by evangelical institution, without even the teacher by nature - father and mother - the Christian-fly is born. Everyone flutters over his manure. And everyone feeds on the fruit of his thoughts and desires. But the havoc does not end here. One offers one's thought as true prophetic and divine thought, drawn from unknown and obscure prophecies. Everyone makes himself his prophets and his guides. The Gospel and the Holy Spirit are also used to give truth value to the personal spiritual manure. Without the Master of masters this happens.***

***It is God's will that Christ is the Master of every master, because He is the Disciple of the Father, the Model of every disciple. It is God's will that his Apostles be the masters of his Gospel, of his truth, of his death and resurrection and of his eternal life. If it is the will of God, obedience must be given to it, only obedience. Obeying is an obligation of justice. But it is also an obligation of justice that every Master in Christ Jesus, with him and for him, is a true disciple of Jesus, just as Jesus is a true disciple of the Father. If the Master in Christ is not a disciple of Christ, he will never be known as a Master by the disciples of Christ.***

**As Christ was the servant of the Father to obey the Father, so all the Masters in Christ, through Christ and with Christ, are servants of Christ to obey Christ, conforming to Him in life and in death. Conformation to Christ says that the Master in Christ is true Master. It does not mean that he is listened to or followed as a true Master. Jesus was opposed and crucified. He was rejected as a Master of humanity. Even today he is rejected and despised, outraged and insulted. Who made himself a master alone, who chose himself his human teachers, who makes himself his prophets, might never welcome Christ Jesus as his Master.**

**Mother of God, Angels and Saints, make sure that we are all true disciples of Christ Jesus our Lord. He is our one and only Master. It is in him that the Father builds teachers.**