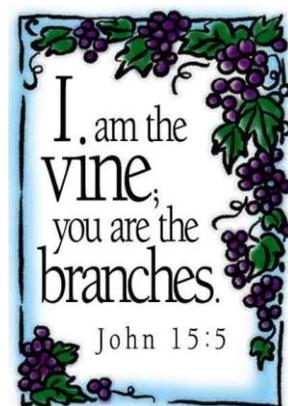


ACCOMPANYING ONE ANOTHER

In today's Gospel reading, "Jesus said to His disciples ...

**I am the vine, you are the branches.
Whoever remains in me and I in him
will bear much fruit"** (John 15:5).

An interesting reflection on Christ's metaphor of the vine is that the individual branches are also connected to each other. Together they are bathed in the same light, drink of the same sap, strengthen the whole, and become more abundantly fruitful. We are connected to each other through Jesus Christ Our Lord.



Unleash the Gospel teaches how important we are to each other in our walks of faith, in deepening the intimacy of our relationships with Jesus, in staying well connected to the life-giving Vine in His Church. Our Archbishop invites us to accompany and encourage one another. He wants us to share our stories and to listen attentively to others. He wrote, "even when Jesus walked with the two disciples on the road to Emmaus ... he first listened to them and allowed them to share their hopes and disappointments, winning their trust. He met them where they were in their faith and helped them to go further." Our mutual accompaniment with each other is also a very good thing. Just being around other people who are also trying their best to live faithfully each day can help us all grow.

Our parish has many fine opportunities for men or women or youth to gather for fun, fellowship, conversation, and sometimes to learn. Come find mutual encouragement and pray together. You are invited to check out these small groups and see how you might connect and so "bear much fruit":

- **Women's Ministry** (the popular Spring Tea is soon)
- **Men of St. Thomas More** (every other Monday)
- **Youth Group** meets on Sunday evenings
- **Book Clubs**
- **Bible Studies**
- **Euchre Club**
- **Choirs** (Adult, Contemporary Ensemble, Hand Bell)
- **St. Vincent de Paul Conference** (Christian service)
- **Fun Bunch** (organizing social events)
- ... and more can be found in the Bulletin.

"Encourage one another and build one another up ... admonish the idle, cheer the fainthearted, support the weak ... always seek what is good both for each other and for all." (1 Thes 5:11-15)