

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER—B—5-2-21




“Our Union with the Lord in the Community of the Church” Vine & the Branches! The Church throughout Judea, Galilee, & Samaria was @ peace bcos of Saul’s conversion & the consolation of the H/ Spirit that guided the Church. I’m the vine, Jesus tells his disciples, & you’re the branches. (Jn 15:5ff) Whoever remains in me & I in him will bear much fruits, bcos without me you can’t do nothing. (1 Jn 3:18). Children, let us love not in word or speech but in deed & truth. (1 Jn 3:23). And his commandments is; we should believe in the name of his Son, Jesus Christ, & love one another just as he commanded us. In a way, Easter Time for the Church is like springtime for the world, & for those of us who live in the northern hemisphere, it’s wonderful dt they coincide. The world around us celebrates new life, trees & plants are budding, animals have come out of hibernation, the sun is out longer. As Xtians, we also celebrate new life in the Lord by our baptism.

Jesus tells is in today’s Gospel that he remains in us & if we remain in him, we’ll bear much fruit, for cut off from me you can’t do nothing. Barnabas reported to the Apostles how Saul had seen the Lord on the way to Damascus, (Acts 9:26-31) I’ll praise you Lord, in the assembly of your people, ((Ps 22). This is his commandment; that we may believe & love (1 Jn 3:18-24). I’m the vine, you’re the branches (Jn 15:1-8).

In the 1st reading, Paul of Tarsus persecuted the early Church, trying to destroy the blossoming vine. Saul later called Paul returned back to Jerusalem with Barnabas after three years in & out of Damascus. The Church didn’t trust nor welcome him well bcos they were still afraid of him. Many of the Jews, bcos they were under Roman occupation, had two names-a Roman name & a Jewish name. Thus, Paul also had the name, Saul. Most of the time, he’s called Paul., but occasionally, as in today’s 1st reading, he’s called Saul. Remember, he was a zealous Pharisees & a fierce persecutor of all who believe in Christ. Only after Barnabas consented, vouched to sponsor him & was later accepted as a disciple. This reading brings out to us that a living r/ship with God & Xt alone is not enough. Our r/ship with God should be carried by a living r/ship with a congregation. **Don’t try to go it alone as a Xtian.** You need a congregation & a congregation needs you. Without being exclusive, have some Catholic friends, who feel about religion as you do. 2nd reading teaches us to accept all the consequences of being a Christian. **Love implies deeds!** Faith implies keeping the commandments. Always check & balance your consciences.

Today’s Gospel passage takes place @ the Last Supper. Jesus final meal with his apostles b/4 his death. He had just dismissed Judas, after announcing that he would betray him. He also had already told Peter that he would deny him three times b/4 morning. The other ten apostles would abandon him as well, none of them accompanying him as he was put on trial. So, when he tells them “**Remain in me**” he’s making heartfelt plea to his closet friends, (Jn 15:4). He knows fully well that they’ll not remain with him, but will desert him when he needed them. But their bond is stronger than their actions on that fateful day. Though, they don’t remain with him, they remain in him as he remains in them, as he remains in us, no matter how far we may wander.

Few statements where Jesus uses metaphors dt tells us how important it’s dt we remain united with him. Notice that each of these begins with the words; “**I am**” Last Sunday, we heard him tell us, “I’m the Good Shepherd” “I’m the light of the world” I’m the bread of life; I’m the resurrection & the life; I’m the true vine & you’re the branches; I’m the way, the truth & life; I’m the alpha & omega. We’re united with Xt & with each other through the Spirit.



Knights of Columbus
St Henry Council 8860

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invited to join!*

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Charity – Unity – Fraternity – Patriotism

Blessed Michael J. McGivney

DAILY READINGS

<p><u>Sunday:</u> Acts 9:26-31 Psalm 22 1 John 3:18-24 John 15:1-8</p>	<p><u>Tuesday:</u> Acts 14:19-28 Psalm 145 John 14:27-31a</p>	<p><u>Thursday:</u> Acts 15:7-21 Psalm 96 John 15:9-11</p>	<p><u>Saturday:</u> Acts 16:1-10 Psalm 100 John 15:18-21</p>
<p><u>Monday:</u> 1 Corinthians 15:1-8 Psalm 19 John 14:6-14</p>	<p><u>Wednesday:</u> Acts 15:1-6 Psalm 122 John 15:1-8</p>	<p><u>Friday:</u> Acts 15:22-31 Psalm 57 John 15:12-17</p>	<p><u>Sunday:</u> Acts 10:25-26,34-35,44-48 Psalm 98 1 John 4:7-10 John 15:9-17</p>