

Homily: The Fifth Sunday of Easter, May 2nd 2021

Introduction

Jesus knows exactly what he is doing when he introduces the disciples in today's gospel to the image of the vine. ---Jesus mentions the popular symbol of the vine to introduce a new mandate to his followers.

Jesus announces to Pharisees, -- Sadducees, --and any Jewish listeners that being a member of the Chosen People is no longer enough to be a follower . Jesus the vine looks to his followers as branches to set up an intimate relationship bearing fruit for all to see. It is important from this moment on that Jesus 'followers establish this intimate relationship with him.

Since Jesus' message comes from his Father in heaven, everyone must accept both God's Son and belief in his message.

No other external qualification is necessary.

Only if the branches are loyal and faithful to Jesus can they be fruitful, or else they will wither and die. However fruit bearing- disciples enrich their own lives simultaneously giving praise and glory to God. Only through the observance of God's commandments do each branch / disciple bear abundant fruit.

If I am struggling to live as honestly as possible, then be assured that Jesus is walking with me in my life.

Conclusion

And how do I keep the vine in my life alive and nurtured?
BY PRAYER IN MY LIFE. All of us here struggle with prayer in my life including Fr. John. Due to the pressure of work and living,-- vital as pray---is prayer is often squeezed out, leaving me exhausted at the end of a prayer less day.

To correct that slide, always –always –treat prayer as my appointment with God as my day unfolds throughout. As your day unfolds from Morning to night make time for prayer to God no matter how brief.

Suggestion :

Read/pray a Psalm from the Old Testament. The psalms are prayer by the psalmist based on every experienced. The average psalm takes between one and two minutes to read and pray.--- As Priest I pray the psalms 5 times a day for you the people of God –MORNING-MIDDAY-Evening—Night—The office of readings –time at the discretion of the Priest.

If I neglect to pray I risk dying on the VINE.

AMEN.