

The Vine and the Branches

A PRAYER MEDITATION FROM *AMBASSADORS OF JESUS CHRIST*

"I am the vine; you are the branches." (Jn 15:5)

FIRST MOVEMENT

- 1. Remembering that the Spirit of God dwells within you, take a few minutes to quiet yourself and call to mind this presence of God.**

"The Spirit of God dwells in you." (Rm 8:9)

- 2. Ask that God might bring your will and what you want into better harmony with the will of God and what God wants for you.**

"I delight to do your will, O God; your law is within my heart." (Ps 40:8)

SECOND MOVEMENT

- 3. Contemplate the Mystery of God's Love at Work in the World**

Read the following passage slowly. What words or phrases especially catch your attention? Listen to what is being said. Try to become part of the Mystery. Lovingly contemplate Jesus Christ as the vine and your relationship with Christ.

"All your care for those entrusted to you would be useless if Jesus Christ did not give the power, the quality and the energy that is needed to render your care useful. 'As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself' says our Lord, 'unless it remains attached to the vine, so neither can you bear fruit, if you do not remain in me. This will be the glory of my Father, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.'

What Jesus Christ says to his apostles he also says to you, that you may understand that all the good you are able to do in your work for those entrusted to you will be true and effective only insofar as Jesus Christ gives it his blessing and as you remain united with him. It is the same for you as it is for a branch. It can bear fruit only if it remains attached to the vine and draws its sap and strength from the vine. This is the source of all the goodness of the fruit.

Jesus Christ wants you to understand from this comparison that the more your work is energized by him, the more it will produce good in your disciples. This

is why you must ask him earnestly that all your ministry be energized by his Spirit and draw all its power from him. Just as he is the one who gives light to everyone coming into the world. He also gives light to the spirit of your disciples and leads them to love and to practice the good that you teach them." (Meditation No. 195.3)

4. Reflect on the Mystery of God's Love at Work in Your Own Life

Who or what is bringing life and light to your life at the present time? Where are you being reenergized? From where do you draw your strength? What do you do to remain more closely united with Christ?

THIRD MOVEMENT

5. Resolve to Be More Open to the Work of the Spirit in and Through You Today

Where has God been wanting to meet you? Where have you been being called to conversion and change? What is hindering that transformation? How has God been trying to give you new life, so that through you others might have a fuller life?

This prayer meditation is an excerpt from *Ambassadors of Jesus Christ: Prayer Meditations for Christian Educators* (1995) by Brother William Mann, FSC, Brother Henry Dissanayke, FSC, and Brother Isaias Tzegay, FSC. This book contains 35 meditations that invite one to enter into the three movements of Saint John Baptist de La Salle's *Method of Interior Prayer*.