



INTRODUCTION

As the Covid 19 surge continues, we are all the more advised to stay home.
 We do not have a choice but stay home with family members.
 What do you do at home when family stays together? (play, cook and eat, tell stories, clean together)

Stress the good things that can happen when family stay together (listening to stories, or watching movie or playing games) Helpful activities create mutual understanding and bond of love to each one.
 On the other side there are things that may bring family apart, in spite of staying together like the use of social media that invites individualism.

In today’s Gospel, Jesus uses the image of the vine and the branches (or a plant and leaves) to show how he makes a home in us and how we can make our home with him?



because apart from me you can do nothing. 6 Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. 7 If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. 8 My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.

Reader: *The Gospel of the Lord*
 All: *Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ*

1.2 Brief Guided silent Meditation / Personal Prayer
 Jesus calls himself the true vine, and us the branches (Jn 15.5). What does this mean for you?

1.3 Text in Context

The vine described in today’s Gospel refers to the grapevine. Grapevine plantation is called vineyard. Its produce can be eaten fresh, dried for raisins and pressed into wine and made into vinegar. Making something out grapes is very much part of Israel’s daily life; as part of meal and means of livelihood. It is also considered as an important gift from God, meant to be enjoyed and men were not to go to war until they had tasted of their own grape harvest ...

<https://www.bibleplaces.com/grapevines-vineyards/>

Vineyard and grapevine are mentioned more than any other plants in the Bible especially in the Old Testament. No wonder why Jesus uses the image of the vine and branches which people of his time are very familiar with as our Gospel of today tells us.

1. What did Jesus call himself and who is the Father to him? (I am the true vine. The Father is the vine grower)
2. How does the Father work in him as vine? Why does he do it? (He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit.)
3. The word abide appears seven times in this text. What does the text say on “abide” in relation with Jesus, the vine and the disciples, the branches?
 -Branches cannot give fruit by itself unless attached to the vine. Similarly, the disciples cannot do anything if away from Jesus.
 -Branches cut off from the vine gets dry and thrown away so does with disciples who separate themselves from Jesus.
 -Disciples who follow the words of Jesus, whatever they asked from Jesus will be done for them.



OPENING PRAYER

Lord Jesus, you promised to send your Holy Spirit to teach us all things.
 As we read and study your word today, allow it truly to touch our hearts and change our lives. Amen.



**PHASE ONE
 REMEMBER THE STORY OF JESUS**

1.1 Proclamation of the Gospel Story John 15:1-8
Enthroned the Bible on a table with lighted candle)

A moment of prayerful silence
We will not be able to understand the Word of God unless God himself opens our hearts. Let us now welcome Jesus as he speaks to us through his Word

Alleluia
Alleluia! “Pag-ukoy dinhi ha akon ug tuguti ako pag-ukoy dida ha imo, nasing an Ginoo, “an akon mga sangang damo an mga bunga.” Alleluia! (Jn 15: 14a, 5b)

Reader: A reading from the Gospel of Saint John

15“I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine grower. 2 He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. 3 You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. 4 Abide n me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. 5 I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit,

4. What is given to the Father each time a disciple abides in Jesus (Father is glorified by the disciples, bearing much fruit)

PHASE II REFLECT the Story
of the Church
(Teachings of the Church)



The Word of God continues to tell us how to keep our faith in the Risen Lord not only as individual but as a believing community. Last Sunday, we come to know Jesus as the Good Shepherd who greatly cares for each one of us, the sheep of his flock.

John is the Gospel writer of today's reading. He places Jesus talking to his disciples before he went for his passion. Jesus prepares them for the work they will do when he has gone.

In today's Gospel reading, Jesus calls himself the true vine, and us, the branches. He simply gives us a picture that apart from him, we cannot bear fruit. And to keep producing fruit, we must abide or remain in Jesus.

Simple Science tells us the close relation of vine to the branches.

From the soil, the root takes nutrients to flow into the vine to the different parts of the plant. The vine gives way to the sap, giving life to the branches to produce fruit. The branches stay fresh and alive while attached to the vine. Once cut off from the vine, branches will get dry and die.

The image of the vine and the branches shows our close relationship with Jesus. The life of the vine flows to the branches.

Jesus, the great vine, allows his very sap of life to flow to us, the branches. His risen life is our own life. We share his life through his word and the Holy Spirit.

Jesus is simply telling us:

I share with you all that I am. Remain in my love.

Can we imagine a life without Jesus, a world without God, or a life without something to hope for? Jesus, the only Savior of the world, is our true happiness. Shall we not attach ourselves to him?

Am I rooted in Jesus?

Do I allow his very life to and spirit to flow into my whole person?

What should we do to remain in Jesus, just like making our home with him? How shall we make our bonding with Jesus to keep ourselves attached to him? Pope Francis gives us three concrete ways how to remain or how to make our home in Jesus.

- Abiding with **Jesus begins with prayer**, which allows us to experience His love.
- **Prayer is essential but it should lead us to love one another.** We are all branches of the same vine. Remember that each one does affect all the others.
- The Holy Spirit leads us **to love not only those who love us, "but to love everyone**, even as Jesus taught us." Like the Good Samaritan, we are called to be neighbors to all, to love even those who do

not love us in return. This is the working of the Holy Spirit - fruit of remaining in Jesus.

So, when we have bonding with Jesus, as the vine and branches are intimately joined, we produce fruits of love coming from the Lord's resurrection. Jesus, the vine and we, the branches become part of each other – one in loving.

-Do I have the courage to step out of myself to attend to the needs of others?

-If I have made a home with Jesus, how ready am I to allow the sap of life from his vine to absorb my whole person so that I may love the neediest I know or even those I do not know?

- If I can do something good, do I attribute it to the life-giving vine?

PHASE THREE RESPOND – with/ in my personal
faith /community faith story

We have seen and heard from social media, many people who are affected by pandemic.

Those badly affected are the poor who depend on daily wage like drivers and factory workers. No work, no pay for them due to lockdowns especially in big cities.

Filipino bishops are encouraging free-food stations run by the people for the poor, to help ease hunger during the pandemic, as these "community pantries" expand rapidly across the country.

<https://www.vaticannews.va/en/church/news/>

What do you say about this? What can you do as a family or as a community to participate on this action for help at this time of pandemic?



CLOSING PRAYER

Enable Me to Abide in Your Love

Dear Lord, I know that I am commanded to abide in You and I desire to live my life day by day, simply resting and abiding in You. Teach me Lord how to abide in You, so that all that is of myself will melt away as the Spirit of Christ pulses through my being.

Give me the strength to be a fruitful branch, for You alone are my sufficiency. Enable me to abide in Your love so that I may produce much fruit, out of the abundance of Your grace. In Jesus' name I pray,

Amen <https://prayer.knowing-jesus.com/Prayers>

BACKGROUND FOR THE CATECHISTS

CCC 755 "The Church is a cultivated field, the tillage of God. On that land the ancient olive tree grows whose holy roots were the prophets and in which the reconciliation of Jews and Gentiles has been brought about and will be brought about again. That land, like a choice vineyard, has been planted by the heavenly cultivator. Yet the true vine is Christ who gives life and fruitfulness to the branches, that is, to us, who through the Church remain in Christ, without whom we can do nothing.

