**I am the true vine and my Father is the farmer**

**V SUNDAY OF EASTER MAY 2 (Jn 15, 1-8)**

New Testament, new truth, new life. Israel, a vine planted by the Lord, has disappointed the expectations of its God: *“Let me now sing of my friend, my friend's song concerning his vineyard. My friend had a vineyard on a fertile hillside; He spaded it, cleared it of stones, and planted the choicest vines; Within it he built a watchtower, and hewed out a wine press. Then he looked for the crop of grapes, but what it yielded was wild grapes. Now, inhabitants of Jerusalem and men of Judah, judge between me and my vineyard: What more was there to do for my vineyard that I had not done? Why, when I looked for the crop of grapes, did it bring forth wild grapes? Now, I will let you know what I mean to do to my vineyard: Take away its hedge, give it to grazing, break through its wall, let it be trampled! Yes, I will make it a ruin: it shall not be pruned or hoed, but overgrown with thorns and briers; I will command the clouds not to send rain upon it. The vineyard of the LORD of hosts is the house of Israel, and the men of Judah are his cherished plant; He looked for judgment, but see, bloodshed! for justice, but hark, the outcry!" (Is 5, 1-7).* The stubbornness in not wanting to produce fruits of justice, meant that the vineyard was abandoned to if same. It was the ruin, the devastation, the destruction.

The psalmist sees the abandonment of vineyard to itself and ask the Lord to *intervene: "You brought a vine out of Egypt; you drove out nations and planted it. You cleared out what was before it; it took deep root and filled the land. The mountains were covered by its shadow, the cedars of God by its branches. It sent out its boughs as far as the sea, its shoots as far as the river. Why have you broken down its walls, so that all who pass along the way pluck its fruit? The boar from the forest strips the vine; the beast of the field feeds upon it Turn back again, God of hosts; look down from heaven and see; Visit this vine, the stock your right hand has planted, and the son whom you made strong for yourself. Those who would burn or cut it down may they perish at your rebuke. May your hand be with the man on your right, with the son of man whom you made strong for yourself. Then we will not withdraw from you; revive us, and we will call on your name. LORD God of hosts, restore us; light up your face and we shall be saved. "(Ps 80 (79) 1-20).*In the New Testament this will never happen again. There is no longer a vineyard. There is only one true vine: Christ Jesus, who will never disappoint the Lord forever; never will He be abandoned by his God. Of this true vine, the Father is the farmer. He cuts off the branches that do not produce, so that they are thrown into the fire. Prune the shoots that bear fruit, so that they give much more fruit. It is a truth always to be preached, announced, shouted to the Church and to the world. The Father is the only keeper of the vine. He always intervenes according to the mystery of his will and takes care of the true vine.

*I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine grower. He takes away every branch in me that does not bear fruit, and everyone that does he prunes so that it bears more fruit. You are already pruned because of the word that I spoke to you. Remain in me, as I remain in you. Just as a branch cannot bear fruit on its own unless it remains on the vine, so neither can you unless you remain in me. I am the vine, you are the branches. Whoever remains in me and I in him will bear much fruit, because without me you can do nothing. Anyone who does not remain in me will be thrown out like a branch and wither; people will gather them and throw them into a fire and they will be burned. By this is my Father glorified, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.*

It is the obligation of every branch, starting with the Lord's Apostles, to always let oneself be cared for by the Father, through the work of the Holy Spirit. As the Father heals the Apostles, they must help the Father to heal every other branch. They will help him through their Word which must always be the Word of Christ Jesus and their example which must be very pure, universal, uninterrupted obedience to Christ the Lord, to the Word, to the Holy Spirit, to the heavenly Father. Each Apostle is obliged to help the Father.

Mother of the Redemption, Angels, Saints, make us true branches of the true vine which is Christ.