**Whoever remains in me, and I in him, bears much fruit**

**WEDNESDAY MAY 5 (Jn 15, 1-8)**

What fruits do bear those who remain in Christ Jesus? Christ, who remains in the Father transforms every Word of the Father into a fruit of truth, justice, proclamation of the Gospel and also prodigy, miracle and sign; the fruit of Christ is the whole Word made obedience, made work, made life and therefore charity and hope. Therefore, also the disciple who remains in Jesus, will transform the whole Word of Jesus into a fruit of truth, justice, mercy, forgiveness, compassion, proclamation of the Gospel. Every Word to which prompt and immediate obedience is given produces a fruit of salvation and redemption. The Virgin Mary through her obedience produced a divine, eternal fruit. In her womb because of her “yes” Father's Only Son was incarnated: *“During those days Mary set out and traveled to the hill country in haste to a town of Judah, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the infant leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth, filled with the holy Spirit, cried out in a loud voice and said, "Most blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And how does this happen to me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? For at the moment the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the infant in my womb leaped for joy. Blessed are you who believed that what was spoken to you by the Lord would be fulfilled. "(Lk 1, 39-45).*How does one remain in Christ? By remaining in his Word, in his revealed truth, in his Holy Spirit. If the contact with Jesus the Lord is cut off, one is branch separated from the true vine and one is good only for the eternal fire. But how does one still remain in Christ Jesus?

One remains in Christ Jesus, remaining in his body which is the Church. If we separate from the Church, we separate from Christ the Lord, we also divide ourselves from our brothers, both brothers of faith and brothers of non-faith. The words of the Apostle Paul are illuminating: *“There are different kinds of spiritual gifts but the same Spirit; there are different forms of service but the same Lord; here are different workings but the same God who produces all of them in everyone. To each individual the manifestation of the Spirit is given for some benefit. To one is given through the Spirit the expression of wisdom; to another the expression of knowledge according to the same Spirit; to another faith by the same Spirit; to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit; to another mighty deeds; to another prophecy; to another discernment of spirits; to another varieties of tongues; to another interpretation of tongues. But one and the same Spirit produces all of these, distributing them individually to each person as he wishes. As a body is one though it has many parts, and all the parts of the body, though many, are one body, so also Christ. For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body, whether Jews or Greeks, slaves or free persons, and we were all given to drink of one Spirit. " (1 Cor 12, 4-13).*As Christ and the Church are one body, so Christ, the Church and the Christian must be one. Those who remain in the Church remain in Christ.

*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. If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask for whatever you want and it will be done for you. By this is my Father glorified, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.*

Today we want Christ, but not the Church. Some of the Church still approaches the sacraments, often as a magical or traditional act, but the Word is not wanted. Today we want a Church without Christ, without the Word of Christ, without his truth and grace. Without the Church there is no abode in Christ, no fruit is produced. Christology and ecclesiology can never be divided, separated. They are one.

Mother of the Redemption, Angels, Saints, let us dwell in Christ and in the Church.