**For you to go and bear fruit and your fruit remains**

**VI SUNDAY OF EASTER MAY 9 (Jn 15, 9-17)**

What is the fruit that the disciples will have to bear? Here is what the Apostle Paul reveals to us in the Letter to the Romans: *"Paul, a slave of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle and set apart for the gospel of God, which he promised previously through his prophets in the holy scriptures, the gospel about his Son, descended from David according to the flesh, but established as Son of God in power according to the spirit of holiness through resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord. Through him we have received the grace of apostleship, to bring about the obedience of faith, for the sake of his name, among all the Gentiles, among whom are you also, who are called to belong to Jesus Christ; to all the beloved of God in Rome, called to be holy. Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. First, I give thanks to my God through Jesus Christ for all of you, because your faith is heralded throughout the world. God is my witness, whom I serve with my spirit in proclaiming the gospel of his Son, that I remember you constantly, always asking in my prayers that somehow by God's will I may at last find my way clear to come to you . For I long to see you, that I may share with you some spiritual gift so that you may be strengthened, that is, that you and I may be mutually encouraged by one another's faith, yours and mine. I do not want you to be unaware, brothers, that I often planned to come to you, though I was prevented until now, that I might harvest some fruit among you, too, as among the rest of the Gentiles. To Greeks and non-Greeks alike, to the wise and the ignorant, I am under obligation; that is why I am eager to preach the gospel also to you in Rome." (Rm 1, 1-15). "Now to him who can strengthen you, according to my gospel and the proclamation of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery kept secret for long ages but now manifested through the prophetic writings and, according to the command of the eternal God, made known to all nations to bring about the obedience of faith, to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ be glory forever and ever. Amen.)" (Rm 16.25-27).* The fruit that the Apostles will have to bear consists in making disciples of Christ Jesus all peoples for the preaching, the proclamation, the teaching, the witness of the Gospel that takes place through their ministry. If the Apostle does not lead the people to obedience to faith, he does not produce fruit and if he does not produce fruit he attests that he does not live tied to Christ the Lord as the branch is tied to true vine. It is a branch separated from the vine. Vine and branch must always be one. Life produces by means of the branches. The branches draw their life force from the vine. In separation there are no fruits.

*As the Father loves me, so I also love you. Remain in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and remain in his love. "I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and your joy may be complete. This is my commandment: love one another as I love you. No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you. I no longer call you slaves, because a slave does not know what his master is doing. I have called you friends, because I have told you everything I have heard from my Father. It was not you who chose me, but I who chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit that will remain, so that whatever you ask the Father in my name he may give you. This I command you: love one another.*

It Is truth. The vine without its branches does not produce any fruit. But even the branches without the vine will produce fruit. Vine and branches are one. So it is for Christ and for the Apostles. But also, for the Apostles and every other disciple of Lord Jesus. How Christ and the Apostles are one. Thus, also the Apostles and every other disciple of Jesus must be one. However, the link must not be artificial, but vital. As the branch sprouts from the vine, so the Apostles must sprout from Christ. So also, every other disciple must emerge from the Apostles. It is unchangeable truth.

Mother of the Redemption, Angels, Saints, make us one vine in Christ and in the Apostles.