**WEDNESDAY MAY 18 – FIFTH WEEK OF EASTER [C]**

**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.**

**In order to remain in Christ, one is to enter Him, first. How does one enter Him? Through the only way that is that of the baptism:** “**Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews. He came to Jesus at night and said to him, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God, for no one can do these signs that you are doing unless God is with him." Jesus answered and said to him, "Amen, amen, I say to you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above." Nicodemus said to him, "How can a person once grown old be born again? Surely he cannot reenter his mother's womb and be born again, can he?" Jesus answered, "Amen, amen, I say to you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. What is born of flesh is flesh and what is born of spirit is spirit. Do not be amazed that I told you, 'You must be born from above.' The wind blows where it wills, and you can hear the sound it makes, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes; so it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit." Nicodemus answered and said to him, "How can this happen?" Jesus answered and said to him, "You are the teacher of Israel and you do not understand this? Amen, amen, I say to you, we speak of what we know and we testify to what we have seen, but you people do not accept our testimony. If I tell you about earthly things and you do not believe, how will you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? No one has gone up to heaven except the one who has come down from heaven, the Son of Man.” (Jn 3, 1-13)**

**So as to be able to receive the baptism, one is to first be made disciple of Jesus. One is made disciple through the preaching and the announcement of the Word of Jesus:** “**Then Jesus approached and said to them, "All power in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, until the end of the age." (Mt 28, 18-20)** **He said to them, "Go into the whole world and proclaim the gospel to every creature. Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved; whoever does not believe will be condemned. These signs will accompany those who believe: in my name they will drive out demons, they will speak new languages. They will pick up serpents (with their hands), and if they drink any deadly thing, it will not harm them. They will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover." So then the Lord Jesus, after he spoke to them, was taken up into heaven and took his seat at the right hand of God. But they went forth and preached everywhere, while the Lord worked with them and confirmed the word through accompanying signs. (Mk 16, 15-20)**

**Since today both making disciples and baptising in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit is becoming impossible, one is condemning man to be a fruitless fig tree. Every man is a tree planted in the vineyard of the Lord. It is a wild tree, though. It might never produce any fruits of Christ. To produce them, it should be implanted with the life of Christ Jesus. Since today one teaches that this implant is no longer necessary, one does nothing but condemning the tree to remain wild. And the ones who say and teach these things are the own disciples of Christ. But if the disciples of Jesus teach these things, they certainly speak neither from the heart of the Father, nor from the heart of his Only Begotten Son and not even from the Holy Spirit. They speak from their heart.**

**Let us read the text of Jn 15,1-8**

**"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.**

**Every disciple of Jesus is to pay attention. His word is not turned to mosquitoes, to flies, to midges, to lizards, to spiders, to bats. Despite being creatures of God, also these animals deserve great respect when one speaks to them or about them. The disciple of Jesus speaks to some souls that are immortal and that consequently might even end up into eternal perdition. How could you, Christian dare to condemn a soul to the eternal death with your words that are in open and evident contrast with the divine Word that Christ Jesus has brought to your ear, Word He has sealed with his blood to attest its truth? If you, Christian, wants to be honest, if you do not believe in the Word of your Lord, let the others believe. For you silence is a true act of wisdom. The word that denies the Word of Jesus the Lord and the truth of the Holy Spirit is a very serious sin. No one is allowed to deny one only Word of Christ Jesus. They were given to us at the price of his blood. No disciple of Jesus is permitted to despise the blood of his Redeemer and Saviour. May the Virgin Mary help us. They only want to say what Jesus has said. Amen.**