

Weekend of April 28, 2024
Fifth Sunday of Easter

Barona:

Mass: Tuesday through Friday. Rosary at 7:45 AM, Mass at 8:00 AM. @ Shrine

Saturday: 5:00 PM mass

Sunday: Sunday 8:00 AM. @ church

Confessions: By appointment only

Adoration: 1st Fri. of the month (8:00 AM).

Viejias:

Sunday: Sunday, 10:30 AM. @ Church

Confessions: By appointment only.

Sycuan:

Sunday: Sunday Mass 12:30 noon @ the Church

Confessions: By appointment only

PLEASE PRAY FOR....

Vicaldo Family, Michele Nikas Beaman, Richard Nikas, Wendy Reyes, Irmina Gines, Gimo Manuel, Ruben and Marcie Cu, Joyce Martinez, Dustin Lutze, Deloris Loucks, Sam Halabo, Lisa Smallwood, Eleanor Davis Wallace, Robert and Margie Cruz, Mike Wise, Neil Quizon, Jim Hughes, Mary Begay, Tonito Arcangel, Juliet Ray, George Arviso, Rose Ramos, Zita Haygood, Lilly Gautreaux, Mark Noriega, Juan Miguel, Jim Hughes, Laurie Boedicker, Aspen Sergin, Robert Laurel, Janet Vilareal, Romero Family, Annie McTavish, John Francis, Orlando Nicolas, Blanca Lechner, Paolo Espiritu, John Clark, Kevin Bethsayag, Tyre Nichols, Steve TeSam, Jeanette Garcia, Mike Banegas, Bennett Zerrudo, Mark Noriega, Carol Richardson, Nancy Rourke, Colleen Crowden, Jeff Ashii, Pamela Nolan CSC, Rosario and Paul Estepa, Haley Price, Mark Marquez, Lulu Cabinatan, Michael Martinez, Fr. Earl Henley, MSC, Alex Banegas, Fr. Dominic Asare, SVD, Caroline Mendoza

Please check prayer list and add names as desired.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

*Barona: Wednesdays at 3:00 p.m.
with Alyssa Parada*

*Sacramental Preparation with Mark Price are
ongoing each Wednesday.*

Viejias: 3:00 PM

Barona: 4:30 PM

Sunday Mass is livestreamed @ 8:00 AM, Barona.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Just go on Facebook under Herman Manuel

MAY

Sunday, May 5 – 10:00 AM,
Viejias May Crowning, May Queen –
Rianna Christman. There will be one
mass for all reservations.

Sunday, May 11 – 11:00 AM, Viejias
mass and grave blessing

Sunday, May 12 – Mother's Day and
Children's mass at all reservations.

Sunday, May 19 – 10:00 AM, Barona
May Crowning, May Queen – Kateri
Osuna. There will be one mass for all
reservations.



I am the vine, you are the
branches. Whoever abides in
me and I in him, he it is that
bears much fruit, for apart
from me you can do nothing.
If anyone does not abide in
me he is thrown away like a
branch and withers; and the
branches are gathered,
thrown into the fire, and
burned.

John 15:5-6



PASTOR'S CORNER

The Vine and the Branches

A reflection on the Fifth Sunday of Easter

Somebody once compared a Christian to a basketball player. "To be a good player," he said, "it's not enough that you know how to dribble or avoid getting fouls. What matters most is to be able to shoot, to make points and to be productive."

The great St. Thomas Aquinas contended that we could have an idea of religion through the meaning of the three etymologies of the Latin word *religio*: to bind (*ligare*), to read (*legere*), to choose (*eligere*). We are by nature religious beings. We come from God, and we return to God; we can live the fullness of human life if we freely bind ourselves with God, we read our life's situation in the light of God's kingdom, and we choose to love God above all things. Real happiness results when there is a communion of God in our lives.

Today's gospel brings us a narrative in which Jesus conveys his teaching symbolically. Jesus draws us the picture of the vine and the branches. Jesus said: I am the vine, you are the branches. Whoever remain in me and I in him will bear much fruit." The vine is a well-known biblical symbol of God's people. Celebrating the Exodus, which is the deliverance of the Israelites from the slavery of Egypt and their possession of the Promised Land, the psalmist pictures God as a vine grower: "A vine from Egypt you transplanted; you drove away the nations and planted it" (Ps 80:8). We also know for instance that the vine grows luxuriant and drastic pruning is necessary. We also know that the wood of the vine is good for nothing because it is too soft for any purpose. The only thing that can be done with the wood of the vine is to make a bonfire of it and destroy it. With or without knowing what a vine looks like, we know that "a branch cannot bear fruit by itself; it can do so only if it remains in the vine."

What Jesus wants to teach us in today's gospel is the extreme necessity for us to remain. Now what does "to remain in Christ," mean? "To remain in Christ," mean:

First is to listen to Him and keep His words.

Actually, we can refuse to listen to Him at all or we can listen to Him and then render Him lip service unsupported by any good deed. We can accept Him as Lord and then abandon Him in the midst of difficulties and temptations or attributes all of our difficulties and temptations to Him.

Second is to recognize that Christ alone is the real Vine and that without Him we can do nothing of value to God.

Third is to live in the Church which is the Mystical Body of Christ, in accordance with the statement of one of the Popes that who does not have the Church as his/her Mother, cannot have God as his/her Father.

Fourth is to see God in all persons and things even in our enemies and those things that we don't like. Just like a woman that she paid the toll fees of the five cars behind her. May be because, the saying influenced her, "Practice random kindness and senseless acts of beauty."

Fifth is to have an active sacramental and prayer life. Do we pray always? Do we regularly go to Mass on Sunday? Do we avail ourselves of the sacrament of Confession? May be let us make a list of how many hours do we pray; how many hours do we spend for works, friends and family and in that we may be able to rate something of ourselves. How about if we spend just a few minutes talking about the word of God instead of talking less nothing?

Lastly is to be convinced that there is a need to prune the structures, methods, approaches, and others that have become old and obsolete in order to give way to new ones which in turn will themselves grow old, and to remain always with the everlasting: Christ who himself is the vine.

Let us reflect all of these my dear friends to see to it if our lives always remain in Jesus Christ who is the vine.

Rev. Fr. Joseph Benitez