

## **Fifth Wednesday of the Easter Season (C)**

### **Homily of Bishop Barres**

**May 18, 2022**

The 15<sup>th</sup> Chapter of the Gospel of John presents the classic Johannine image of the Vine and the Branches.

Jesus is the true Vine. The Father is the Vinedresser who cares for the well-being and fruitfulness of the vine and the branches. The disciples are the fruitful branches of the vine.

The branches are pruned so that more fruit can be born.<sup>1</sup>

The pruning of the vine and the branches occurs through the power of the Cross.

The pruning power of the Cross purifies us.

The pruning power of the Cross helps us to understand what comes and goes in life and what really lasts and is important.

The pruning power of the Cross helps us to see life with the eyes of Eternity.

The pruning power of the Cross leads us to Heaven and to Eternal Life.

The pruning power of the Cross deepens our Good Samaritan daily charity because it deepens our humility, our generosity and our fortitude, tenacity and perseverance.

The pruning power of the Cross of Jesus Christ helps us to move from patterns of anger and irritability to patterns of humility, mercy and meekness especially in our every day family life.

Today is a good day for an examination of conscience made through the beams of the Cross:

Am I surrendering to patterns of irritability and anger with my spouse, children and family members?

How can I live a deeper spirit of humility, kindness, gentleness and mercy with my family members?

---

<sup>1</sup> Cf. Francis J. Moloney, SDB, *The Gospel of John* (Sacra Pagina), (Collegeville, MN: The Liturgical Press), 419-422.

How can I allow the Holy Spirit to deepen my interior life and embrace the pruning power of the Cross of Jesus Christ so that I can live humility, gentleness and mercy at home?