

MAY 2020

Living the Vows as a Path of Growth

“Living the vows as a path of growth calls for charity, solitude, asceticism and kenosis.”
(Capitular Acts 2019 p. 16)

1. As I begin my prayer, I beg for the grace of joyful and fruitful living of the vows as a radical option for kenosis.
2. I prayerfully read John 15:1-4.

¹ “I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine grower. ² He takes away every branch in me that does not bear fruit, and every one that does He prunes so that it bears more fruit. ³ You are already pruned because of the word that I spoke to you. ⁴ 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.

- One beautiful image that Jesus uses to describe Himself in the text given above is “the Vine.”

I picture a grapevine with its branches, large and small. Which branch mirrors me? Is my branch healthy or a bit withered and tired? What needs to be “pruned” or “trimmed” in me so that my life in the Lord can bear much fruit?

- God abides in me. What concrete events in my life have I felt Jesus’ abiding presence?
3. Carrying in my heart my experiences of God’s abiding presence, I prayerfully read pages 16 and 17 of our Capitular Acts 2019 especially the following portions:
 - As disciples of Jesus, re-read our Book of Life in the light of the Gospel, taking into consideration the challenges of today's world.
 - Living the vows as a path of growth calls for charity, solitude, asceticism and kenosis.
 - Following the example of Jesus, become servants who encourage collaboration in the animation of our communities.
 - Proclaim Christ by the witness of a joyous community, living our vows with sincerity, and review regularly our lived experience in community.

How do I look at my vows? What challenges have I encountered in living out my vows?

I consider these questions and talk about them with the Lord.

4. I take a few moments at the end of my reflection to enter into a few silent moments with God.

5. **Points for Faith Sharing:** What concrete event in my life of consecration and in my community life have I felt Jesus' abiding presence? Review our lived experience in community. How are we being invited to give joyful witness to Jesus through our vowed life?