

My Friends in the Lord Jesus,

Jesus beckons, “abide in me.” This is the desire, the message, the hope of the risen Lord for us. As we begin our fifth week of Easter joy, the image of our Christian community emerges. It is a relationship with Jesus. It is one of mutuality, and the indwelling of the Holy Trinity. What is of importance is that each member of the Christian community be rooted in Jesus, as branches are on a vine. This is the meaning of what is expressed in today’s gospel passage. This is our life in Christ, united to him and with one another. Our Christian life is truly a community life, rooted in the love and in the transforming grace of the Resurrection.

Let us reflect then on some of the words, the teaching of Jesus, from today’s gospel, and use them in prayer this week.

“I am the vine, you are the branches.”

“Remain in me, as I remain in you.”

“A branch cannot bear fruit on its own.”

“Without me you can do nothing.”

“Whoever remains in me and I in him will bear much fruit.”

“By this is my Father glorified, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.”

After prayerful reflection, we make the words of what St. Peter once said to Jesus our own, “To whom else shall we go Lord, you alone have the words of everlasting life.”

Happy and blessed fifth week of Easter,

Fr. Ron