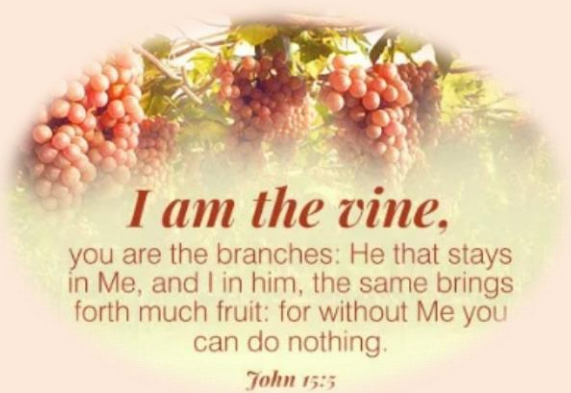


**The Reflection from Pastor Fr. John
Carlos, Holy Cross Church, Harrison, NJ,
May 2, 2021**

INTERNET CONNECTION



In this Sunday's Gospel, Jesus speaks about the need for a strong connection, and he does so by using an example from the agricultural society of his day.

He says, "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."

Then Jesus declares what happens to those who lose their connection with him. He warns, "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 we are to blossom as the men and women God wishes us to be, if we are to bear fruit and bring forth a harvest of goodness, we need to be united to the love, strength, and power that flow from a connection with Jesus Christ and with his living Body, the Church.

Sunday's readings remind us that Christians need a connection to Christ. That connection happens through the Church, where we meet the Lord in Word and Sacrament and in the Christian Community that gathers in his name.

We might say the Church is like an internet service provider, it furnishes us with what we need to have a strong, life-giving connection to Jesus Christ.

Whether we make use of that connection is up to us. If we do, then we are like that connected branch that Jesus describes. Joined to the vine, that branch has life and bears fruit.

If we ignore the connection to Christ that the Church provides, then we are like a branch disconnected from the vine. We spiritually wither and die.

Each time we use a digital device to connect to the Internet, we might use that moment to remember the importance of our being connected to Christ and his Church. The stronger that connection, the more vibrant our spiritual lives!

May the Risen Lord bless us with his presence and peace during this Easter Season,

Father John Carlos

