

Today is the fifth Sunday in the Easter Season. In today's gospel, Jesus speaks of himself as the True Vine and of us as the branches - to show us how deeply, how intimately Jesus is connected to us, and we to Jesus.

A true vine holds nothing back. It gives its all to its branches. And nothing makes it more beautiful than to have the branches come to life – to fulfill the purpose for which they were made....

The branches serve the vine and the other branches – for if the branch does not receive this life, if it withers and dies on the vine, it takes life from the other branches.

Of course life is not without its challenges. There are always outside forces that hinder the life of the branch: like weathering storms, and the extremes of heat, cold, floods and drought. Pruning, then, becomes a life giving part of this process.

Today as we reflect on this image of Jesus whose very life runs through us, where are we called to bear fruit of Christ's kindness and compassion, Christ's justice and truth? In our everyday lives? With a family member or friend? With neighbors near or far?

Today let us bloom where we are planted, knowing that the very life of Christ in us – is the life we share in our world.