

**FR.TK.REFLECTIONS FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER YEAR-B.2024.**

**THE VINE AND THE BRANCHES:**

This is a great time of the year in many parts of the world which experiences different seasons within the year. Am very much aware of the extraordinary floods affecting many African countries like Kenya this time. Keep save and harvest the water!

Those who normally experience four season, trees are beginning to bud, plants are flowering, grass is green. The rebirth of nature gives exactly what we were **longing and needed** after winter. Our **moods begins to change, new energy seems to come** each Sunny day. you are no longer depressed, caged and imprisoned by violent weather.

Having lived in Napa wine County for 10 years, am sure the people from this beautiful county understand the gospel today more than any one else. It is just the right moment when **clearing, pruning** prior to the spring. All the vine yards are all clean and springing up. The vine has lost brances and leaves in the process of pruning thus **separating the branches from the main vine**. They are ready for fire since they are no longer part of the vine, they have been **detached from the vine**.

Our gospel talks of the **vine and the branches** and pruning, it talks about Christian as **branches linked, connected to Christ the vine**. Christ states that **I am the vine and you are the branches (Jn. 15:5)**. This gives us the image of **closeness, unity and interdependence** to Christ and to one another. It reminds us we shouldn't **forget the lord or ignore one another**, thus living for ourselves and separating from that unity.

Vine and branches are necessary for bearing the fruits, branches cannot survive without the vine. The branches too are necessary and play a big role for bearing fruits. Christ needs us as his branches that we may execute the mission of bearing fruits in this violent world we live in. We are his instrument as we see in our first reading (Act:9-26) Paul after being very **brutal** to Christians, he was converted and the same aggressiveness he had in killing the Christian, became a very strong tool for him to preach the same Christ. We must be ready and willing to present and proclaim the risen Lord to the world like the converted Saul with all the challenges we face. Christ is not asking us to be **successful but to be faithful and fruitful.**

We must stay in **contact and connection with the living Lord the vine. We nurture this through community living, prayer and in works of mercy.** If during this Easter you feel you have been **praying more, your conscience has spoken to you to change, have the desire to change things for better with Christ, feel that there is injustices which need to be addressed,** you feel you want to go back to your God then I assure you ***there is still life in you.*** The call today is **TO BE BRANCHES AND STAY CONNECTED TO CHRIST THE VINE.**