

TEXT OF THE MONTH

Gospel according to John 15 “I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. ² He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes^[a] so that it will be even more fruitful. ³ You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. ⁴ Remain in me, as I also remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me.

⁵ “I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. ⁶ If you do not remain in me, you are like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned. ⁷ If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. ⁸ This is to my Father’s glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.

⁹ “As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love. ¹⁰ If you keep my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father’s commands and remain in his love. ¹¹ I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete.

CONTEXT OF THE PRAYER

The visit of Pope Francis to Colombia left historical traces and above all marked the first step towards a new society eager for peace and ready to turn the page of five long decades of internal armed confrontation.

We still have gratitude to God, because he came to Colombia, we have the emotion of deep messages; he has taught us to value the good and beautiful things that our country has.



INTRODUCTION

Pope Francis gave three pieces of advice for us to stay in Jesus and eliminate all the external factors that distort his call.

"To remain does not only mean to be, but it indicates to maintain a vital, existential relationship of absolute necessity; it is to live and grow in intimate and fruitful union with Jesus, the source of eternal life. To remain in Jesus cannot be a merely passive attitude or a simple abandonment without consequences in daily and concrete life. Let me propose three ways to make this remain effective".

In the light of the Gospel we invite you to pray by reflecting with one of them each of the 3 weeks of the remainder of October:

REFLECTION FOR THE 2ND WEEK

1. We remain in Jesus touching the humanity of Jesus:

With the gestures and words of Jesus, which express love for those close to us and the search for those who are far away; tenderness and firmness in denouncing sin and the proclamation of the Gospel; joy and generosity in surrender and service,..., rejecting... the temptation to give everything for lost, to accommodate ourselves or to become just administrators of misfortunes



REFLECTION FOR THE 3rd WEEK

2. Let's keep looking at his divinity:

Awaking and sustaining an admiration for the study that increases the knowledge of Christ... Privileging... the encounter with... the Gospel,... Let us spend time in a prayerful reading of the Word!

It should not be an evasive study of the events of our people, nor should it go to the ups and downs of fashion or ideologies. Let us not live with longings nor want to encorset the mystery, let us not want to answer questions that no one is asking anymore and leave in the existential emptiness those who question us on the meaning of their worlds and cultures.

REFLECTION FOR THE 4th WEEK

3. Dwelling in Christ to live in joy:

If we remain in Him, His joy will be in us. We will not be sad disciples and bitter apostles,... we will reflect and carry the true joy that no one can take away from us, we will spread the hope of the new life that Christ has brought us.



CLOSING PRAYER

Recognizing that he is the vine and we are the branches; that by remaining in him and he in us, we will bear much fruit, but without him, we can do nothing; that as long as we remain in him and his words remain in our hearts, let us pray, with the certainty that we will succeed, for the Synodal Process and for Congress.

Taking advantage of the fact that we are in the month of the Rosary, let us ask for the intercession of the Virgin Mary, just as Pope Francis prayed to Our Lady of the Rosary of Chiquinquirá, patron saint of Colombia, to guide and care for her Colombian children, today we ask her not to stop guiding and caring for her children of Fondacio embarked on this adventure of growth and search for unity and fraternity.

Pray for us Holy Mother of God! Hail Mary full of grace, the Lord is with you, blessed are you among all women and blessed is the fruit of your womb Jesus. Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners now and at the hour of our death. Amen.

