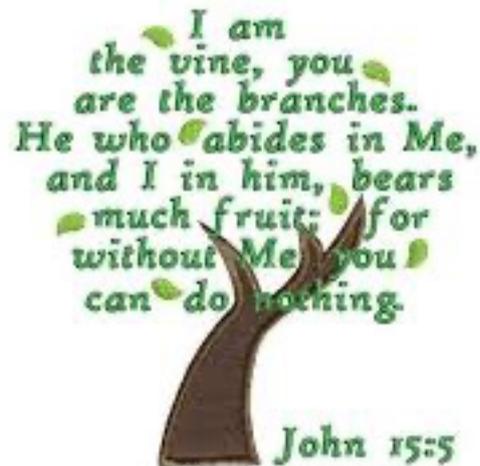


PRAYING TOWARDS SUNDAY 5TH OF EASTER -with Annie Osdieck



It was not you who chose me, but I who chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit that will remain. (Gospel)

THE GOSPEL. [John 15:1-8](#)

Remain in me as I remain in you

The
branches
move and live and
have their being—in the vine.
The prayer of the spindly branches
is one with the prayer of the anchor vine.
Abba listens to the beseeching of the vine.

Lord,
you tell us to ask for whatever
we want and it will be
done for us.

We
want:

no greed
no hunger
no violence
no prejudice

no pandemics
no global warming
no suffering children
no suffering immigrants

We want to learn to love.

Abba, please hear
our prayers.

THE FIRST READING. Acts 9:26-31

Saul reported how ... he had spoken out boldly in the name of Jesus.

Knock us off our feet
and blind us
with your light.

Pour
out your Spirit.
Grant us new sight.

Lord,
talk to us
as you did to Paul,
so we too can speak out boldly
in your name.

THE SECOND READING. 1 John 3:18-24

**God is greater than our hearts and knows everything. ...
We receive from him whatever we ask.**

Needs come with their hands
stretched
out.

You know each need
better than we do.
You know that we lack
one thing only:

You, our God.

REFLECTION

Fruit of the Vine

The essence of Christian religion is our being grafted into Christ, allowing the true vine's energizing sap to circulate through our veins so that all our thoughts, words, and deeds are progressively upgraded, and we become more Christlike. It is a slow process but eventually it yields fruit, and continues to do so for as long as we remain on the vine. We are not the source of our own virtue; it is all gift.

And what about our sins? Like the poor, they are always with us. These are the shadows that tend to deepen as the light within us burns more brightly. Meanwhile, our inevitable moral failures don't seem to make much difference to God's attitude toward us. "Even though our hearts condemn us," writes St. John, "God is greater than our hearts. And (He) knows the whole story." **Michael Casey Cistercian monk**

