

# **MORNING MEDITATION**

## **Wednesday, Fifth Week of Easter**

**Serenity may be cultivated through mindfulness and watchfulness  
and letting go of expectations.**

### **Acts 15:1-6**

The number of Christians continued to increase, and many gentile converts joined the community. Some converted Pharisees demanded that the gentile converts follow the Mosaic Law. This created dissension in the early Church. Paul and Barnabas were delegated to consult the apostles and the elders on this matter.

### **Psalm 122**

**I rejoiced because they said to me,  
“We will go up to the house of the Lord.”  
And now we have set foot  
Within your gates O Jerusalem.**

### **John 15:1-8**

**I am the vine, you are the branches...remain in me, you will be fruitful...you can do  
nothing without me...**

The fruitfulness of the branches depends on their union, connection with the vine. The branches become fruitful only in the vine. The vine itself doesn't bear the fruit. Vine bears the branches and feeds the branches, and the branches bear the fruit.

**Abide in Christ....be united with him.... live in his spirit.....you will bear much fruit! Be  
constantly fed by the “word” of Jesus and the “bread” of life and “cup” of compassion  
that Jesus offers. You will be fruitful.**

Fruitfulness also depends on the branches being trimmed, pruned and cleaned. We could rephrase it to read “fruitfulness depends on being tamed, disciplined, controlled, directed, channeled, etc. – wild branches do not yield.... they become unyielding!”

**Be open and docile to the Holy Spirit! Be open to being pruned, trimmed, cleansed,  
disciplined, tamed....be docile to the pruning process of the heavenly father...wild  
branches become unyielding!**

**Saint of the Day, May 6 - St. Dominic Savio and 12 other saints are  
remembered this day.**

Dominic Savio was born on April 2, 1842 in the village of Riva in northern Italy. He was given the name Domenico at baptism. The name Domenico means "of the Lord" and the surname Savio means "wise". His parents had ten children in all. His father was a blacksmith and his mother, a seamstress. They were poor, hardworking and pious. His parents took great care to give him a Christian upbringing. By the age of four, Dominic was able to pray by himself and was occasionally found in solitude, praying. At the age of five, he learned to serve Mass, and would try to participate at Mass every day as well as go regularly to Confession. Having been permitted to make his First Communion at an early age, he had much reverence for the Eucharist.

Dominic joined Saint John Bosco as a student at the Oratory in Turin at the age of 12. He impressed Don Bosco with his desire to be a priest and to help him in his work with neglected boys. A peacemaker and an organizer, young Dominic founded the Company of the Immaculate Conception which, besides being devotional, aided St. John Bosco with the boys and with manual work. All the members except Dominic, would, in 1859, join St. John Bosco in the beginnings of his Salesian congregation. By that time, Dominic had been called home to heaven.

As a youth, Dominic spent hours rapt in prayer. His raptures he called "my distractions." Even in play, he said that at times, "It seems heaven is opening just above me. I am afraid I may say or do something that will make the other boys laugh." Dominic would say, "I can't do big things. But I want all I do, even the smallest thing, to be for the greater glory of God."

Dominic's health, always frail, led to lung problems and he was sent home to recuperate. As was the custom of the day, he was bled in the thought that this would help, but it only worsened his condition. He died on March 9, 1857, after receiving the Last Sacraments. Some thought that Dominic was too young to be considered a saint. Saint Pius X declared that just the opposite was true and went ahead with his cause. Dominic was canonized in 1954.

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