

St. John Paul II Parish, Sellersburg IN
The First Fifteen

The Spiritual Life and Evangelization Commission asked that all parish meetings begin with a program we are calling “The First Fifteen.” We are asking all parish meetings to begin with a few minutes of faith sharing. One person in the group reads the reading provided below (which corresponds with this next week’s weekend readings) and everyone is given an opportunity to reflect and share on the readings. The questions below are simply a way to stimulate your reflection. You can use them or anything that strikes you about the word of God.

Sunday, April 29, 201

John 15: 1-8

Jesus said to His disciples: “I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine grower. He takes away every branch in me that does not bear fruit, and every one that does he prunes so that it bears more fruit. You are already pruned because of the word that I spoke to you. Remain in me, as I remain in you. Just as a branch cannot bear fruit on its own unless it remains on the vine, so neither can you unless you remain in me.

I am the vine, you are the branches. Whoever remains in me and I in him will bear much fruit, because without me you can do nothing. Anyone who does not remain in me will be thrown out like a branch and wither; people will gather them and throw them into a fire and they will be burned. If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask for whatever you want and it will be done for you. By this is my Father glorified, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.”

Questions to Ponder:

1. Have you ever had to prune a tree or bush? Did this pruning give the tree new life or did you kill it? What lesson did you learn from your this pruning?
2. In your reading of this gospel do you see yourself as a vine producing fruit or a vine headed to the brush heap? What ways can you change to produce “fruit” in your spiritual life?”
3. Do the words of Jesus seem harsh to you or are they words of guidance and help to become a better person? Share your view and your reasoning.

End with the “**Glory Be**” “**Glory be to the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen**”