

Prayer of Pruning

Preparation: Choose an appropriate hymn and one reading from among the experiences given by missionaries such as Miriam Therese or Evangela from Nepal, Maria Alix Bento from Brazil, etc. Distribute copies for reflection.

Begin by listening to Mozart's "Ave Verum," or a suitable hymn.
Quiet Reflection

Reading: Leader: March 15, 1822 #1.

At the age of 25, Blessed Theresa wrote in her retreat notes

Side 1: In Jesus! He has given me a part in his unspeakable mercy, his poverty, his hardship, suffering, anxiety and need. To him, now, I write this: I cannot describe my interior peace. Now I am in Jesus. May he do what he wants with me. Him will I trust. He will remain in me, and I in him: on him I will build...

Side 2: I know that my love is not yet sufficient, and my soul must be purified, but this purification I leave in the hand of the Vinedresser who will trim and **prune** the branches, even through this will be painful. All my life will be lived by God's grace in the service of Christ through the mediation of his holy mother. Amen

All: I am the Vine, you are the branches. Whoever abides in me bears much fruit. (Jn. 15:5)

Reading: Reflection from Missionary

Quiet Reflection: What does this reading say to me? Where do I need pruning?

Leader: On February 27, 1881, Mother Margaret of Cortona wrote the following to Mother Caroline: "The flowering of an Order is exhibited not so much in the number of houses and sisters as in the good spirit prevailing among its members..." Please join me in the following prayer:

Concluding Prayer:

My Late-Won Joy, (Augustine's name for God)

We come together thanking you for all who followed your call to serve in other lands. As you gave them restless hearts searching for you, create in us new hearts, seeking the same. Help us nurture our own "sturdy roots," accepting your pruning, and celebrating the flowering. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen

Closing Hymn: Salve Regina