
Scripture Reflection

We can always accomplish so much more when we do things together. We see this in so many different aspects of our lives, and it is also true in our Church. All the Lord's work that we carry out in our parish would not be possible without the commitment of our clergy and parishioners. In the same way, when we come together as an archdiocese in support of the *Annual Catholic Appeal*, we sustain vital ministries and services that transform lives in our communities.

In today's Gospel, Jesus is preparing the disciples for their mission and reminds them that they can do nothing without Him. As He often does, Jesus uses a parable.

He tells them:

*"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."
Jn 15:4-5*

Jesus is the true vine. The fruitful branches are those who remain in Him and follow His Word. In a vine, the fruit is grapes, and as Catholics, our fruit is living like Christ. When we remain in Him, our words and actions reflect His love and lead others to Him.

Jesus calls us each by name. One way that He calls us to action is through the *Annual Catholic Appeal*. Your gifts to the *Appeal* become hope and healing for the most vulnerable and spread His love and mercy, bearing greater fruit than we can even imagine.

Please give to the *Appeal* <<date and place>> or visit aca.archstl.org to learn more about how you can continue to be Christ's hands and feet and share His Love *For the Life of the World*. You can also Text-to-Give by texting "ACA" to **243725**.

Bulletin/Pulpit Announcement

Jesus is the way, the truth, and the life. When we remain in Him, our words and actions witness to His love. United as one Church *For the Life of the World* through the *Annual Catholic Appeal*, our gifts sustain life-giving ministries and services that lead others to Christ and help countless people of all faiths in situations of need and suffering.

If you have not yet made a gift to the *Annual Catholic Appeal* this year, please consider doing so today. You can pick up your pledge card after Mass, make a gift online at aca.archstl.org or use Text-to-Give by texting "ACA" to **243725**.