

## **Commentary on the Gospel for Wed, May 9th 2012**

Jesus called himself the true vine, thus implying that there is a false one. The vine was the symbol of Israel; many of the prophets had used the image: “the vineyard of the Lord of hosts is the house of Israel” (Isaiah 4:7), “Israel is an empty vine) (Hosea 10:1). The Lord is saying it is not enough to be a branch of the vine that is Israel, it is not enough to be a child of Abraham; we have to be grafted to Christ himself. Applying it to ourselves, we might say: it is not enough to be a nominal Catholic, to have your name on the books, you have to know and live the distinctive thing that is the life of faith.

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