



Feast of Saint Madeleine Sophie Barat

Let us go with
her to visit the
vineyards!



How many times must
Madeleine Sophie have
contemplated the vineyards of
Joigny



How she longed to stroll through them and take note of the growth of this beloved plant, image of Jesus.

Look ... observe ... touch ... smell ...
to better understand the life of the vine.



The Wine Grower is the master of the vine.

Let us consider:

- the roots
- the trunk
- the shoots
- the soil



The **roots**, although hidden from sight, nourish the plant; they penetrate the soil in search of a water source to give the plant life.





The **trunk** is hard, twisted, bent, and marked by constant pruning. It is not very pretty but, without it, there are no shoots, there is no fruit.

The trunk transports the sap that feeds the branches.

The **shoots** have been selected to bear fruit.

They must be available and flexible as they decide nothing.



The rockier the **soil**,
the better: rock absorbs
the heat of the day and
delivers it to the plant at
night. This is how the
grapes obtain their sugar.





Let us contemplate the
beauty and color of the
seasons.



Madeleine Sophie tells us of her experience, of the relationship between the Vine and the Heart of Jesus.

Here we share some excerpts of her letters. Read them slowly and highlight those paragraphs in which you discover the invitation of the Lord to remain in Him in order to bear fruit.



Pray, my daughter, to the Vineyard Keeper to send workers. We have such a need!

Letter to Philippine Duchesne in Florissant, Paris, 25 December 1835



...if you recognize the tree by its fruit, it seems I should be grateful to the divine Heart for what he allows to flourish in the vineyard. All work with such devotion!

*Letter to Mother Joséphine de Coriolis,
Paris, 15 January 1856*



Our Savior will prune his beloved vine when it bears fruit so his divine Heart can harvest even more; this vision of faith and love is consoling but also retains the bitterness of sacrifice.

Letter to Mother Blanc, Paris, 9 June 1856

Jesus can only water what he has planted. *I am the vine and my Father is the keeper of the vineyard.*

We must unite our being to the divine trunk, where sap and life flow, and above all allow ourselves to be pruned and cut in order to bear fruit.

*Letter to Mother Gertrude De Brou,
Rome, 11 January 1842*



...if you become, as you have decided, perfectly humble, generous, and faithful; for the most intimate practice of these virtues, adhere strictly to the root of grace, the branches stemming from the trunk of the vine. How abundant the yield would be in these young hearts!

*Letter to Mother d'Avenas,
Rome, 17 October 1839*



« What a consolation for me to think that you partake of this sap that nourishes the true vine and that you will make sure to bear fruit in Poland for the glory of Jesus... Like the vine, you will be pruned to yield more.»

Letter to Mother Marie de la Croix en route to Poland, Conflans, 10 June 1843



Without the help of the stock
of the vine, what can we do!
Our poor branches, which
have nothing but leaves, what
would we do! What would we
produce without the sap that
nourishes the true vine!

This vine is for us the Heart of
Jesus! We will not cease to ask
that he deign to water us,
even prune us, for without
Him we cannot do anything.
Sine me non est nihil.

*Letter to Mother Césarie de Bouchaud in
Bourges, Paris, 11 June 1864*



Are we willing to let
ourselves be worked and
transformed by the Heart
of Jesus, like the grape
vine?





Keep constant vigil over the vineyard of your heart, that small field that our God likes so much and on which he has bestowed great graces.

Letter to Mother Emilie Giraud in Niort, Amiens, 8 January 1809



Happy Feast of Saint Madeleine Sophie

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