Feast of Saint Madeleine Sophie Barat

Let us go with her to visit the vineyards!

WORLD ASSOCIATION OF ALUMNAE/I OF THE SACRED HEART (AMASC)

SOPHIE BARAT CENTER
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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