

Branches of the Vine

“I am the Vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me,
and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing.”
(John 15:5)

In what ways are we branches of the Vine—pursuing various activities that help our neighbors in one way or another? To explore this idea, draw a branch that represents your life. If you like, you can make offshoots to show different uses in your life.

To help you think about your activities in terms of uses, here is a list of uses adapted from *Divine Wisdom* 11:5:

- Employment (student, teacher, doctor, homemaker, *etc.*)
- Family (being son, daughter, sibling, spouse, and/or parent)
- Household or domestic uses
- Helping the church (contributions of talents and money)
- General uses (helping schools, hospitals, and other institutions)
- Assisting the needy (if motivated by love of use)

Charity encompasses serving the neighbor in a variety of ways, doesn't it?

Which of these uses are easier to do and which are harder? Try listing them in order of difficulty. Feel free to rephrase them in a way that reflects your own life.

You might also try listing uses in the order that you think reflects which ones are most important or higher. One clue may be that these uses have the potential to give us the greatest delight (see *Arcana Coelestia* 997).