



The True Vine in family life

This first incident occurred when my daughter, Clare was in the second grade after she had heard the Parable of the True Vine. We were driving home from school and she was sharing with me about a classmate who had made a poor choice that day

which had gotten him in trouble. Her comment to me was, "There must have been something blocking his sap."

I was intrigued by her using the image of the sap in everyday conversation and asked Sofia about it. Sofia's response to me was:

Thank you for your letter and, please, give to Clare my best wishes for her first Communion on May 5; my wish is above all to receive the greatest abundance of sap in that blessed day and to enjoy with her whole self being a branch of the true Vine. This parable is so rich and speaks so deeply to the children. And what a blessing for us the catechists to be allowed to see children falling in love with it.

When the children come in touch with some element of the Christian message it seems that they were waiting just for that. Is it your experience also?

May God bless you, your family, your work.

Much love,

Sofia

Three years after her first communion, when Clare was in the fifth grade, my brother Matt died suddenly. Needless to say, it was a difficult time for our family. One night, at bedtime prayer, I was feeling particularly sad and was missing my brother. Clare said, "Mom, you do not have to be sad. Uncle Matt's branch is wrapped tightly around the True Vine. He and Jesus are so close now. We do not have to be sad for him."

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