

**GOSPEL PEARLS**

## Last chance

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*Jesus said to his disciples: "I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser. Every branch in me that does not bear fruit he takes away, and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes, that it may bear more fruit. Already you are clean because of the word that I have spoken to you. Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me. I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing. If anyone does not abide in me he is thrown away like a branch and*

*withers; and the branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples. (John 15: 1-8)*

All of us are called to eternal happiness but, unfortunately, not all will be among the chosen ones. Those who misuse their freedom as creatures, not cultivating their vine branch by following Christ's teachings and the sacraments, condemn themselves to be cut off from the Church and therefore from eternal happiness. Let us pray for those who are far from Jesus that they may be converted and saved at least in the final moments of their lives.