

THE VINEYARD IS ENTRUSTED, NOT OWNED

Isaiah 5:1–7 • Philippians 4:6–9 • Matthew 21:33–43

Isaiah sings of a vineyard lovingly planted and carefully tended. Jesus then tells of tenants who make a tragic mistake: they begin to act as though the vineyard belongs to them. What was entrusted becomes something they try to possess.



That is a Gospel worth hearing in an established parish such as Holy Cross. We have a history, ministries, traditions, a church building, generous volunteers, and ways of doing things that have served us well. We should be grateful for all of it. But gratitude is different from ownership. The parish is not ours to guard from change; it is God's vineyard, entrusted to us so that it may bear fruit. The question, then, is not simply,

"How do we preserve what we have?" It is also, "What fruit is God asking from us now?"

Perhaps it is a new volunteer being given room to serve, a ministry willing to welcome new ideas, a parishioner noticing someone who has been standing quietly at the edge. Healthy stewardship keeps our hands open. We receive, we cultivate, and one day we will hand it on. The vineyard belongs to God. Our joy is to help it bear good fruit.

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