

## RECOLLECT PRAYER

*(Based on John, 15, 1-11, for the OAR General Chapter of 2004)*

**1.** Lord Jesus, you are, with us, the vine cherished by the Vine-dresser,  
The Church born afresh each springtime  
With the sap of new graces and charisms.  
The vine that nourished the search for truth  
Of Augustine our Father and his first monks.

LORD, MAY YOU BE BLESSED.

**2.** Lord Jesus, you who with your word  
Moved the hearts of the first Recollect friars  
To accept with such joy being pruned  
So that every branch might produce  
Richer and more abundant fruit.

LORD, MAY YOU BE BLESSED.

**3.** We are branches at risk of drying  
When separated from one another and from you.  
Increase our desire to be with you,  
Prolong that hour of prayer  
So that as you bring to a close  
Your sorrowful time of prayer with the Father  
You may find our spirit awake and enriched,  
Able to guide in this world's dark night  
Our brothers and sisters so easily led astray  
By other wayward lights.

LORD, MAY YOU BE BLESSED.

**4.** Like Mary, may our Augustinian Recollect sisters always be.  
While not at work in the fields  
Or preaching in the temple,  
Defending the poor or serving the brothers,  
But in silent contemplation may they win the Father's grace  
For those who struggle, preach, defend and serve.

LORD, MAY YOU BE BLESSED.

**5.** Lord Jesus, with you we are that vine  
That each morning the Vine-dresser comes to see.  
Nourish with the sap that gives strength and love  
The new brothers and sisters come to join this vine  
With dawning awareness of the call  
To follow the sure footsteps of Augustine  
And the demanding non-conformism of the Recollection.  
As they grow, still unsure of their offering,  
Take away their fears, give them courage and perseverance.

LORD, MAY YOU BE BLESSED.

**6.** Lord Jesus, with you we are that vine  
That at the midday hour  
The Vine-dresser seeks out beneath the blazing sun  
Discouraged by wrinkles and hardened bark.  
Then with strength renewed by that inner freshness  
And the joyful expectation of being weighed down  
By abundant fruit.  
Men and women, Augustinian Recollects  
Who follow you in consecrated life  
And the laymen and women who make you present  
To transform the world from within.  
All whose one desire is to remain in you  
Despite the weakness and the fall.

LORD, MAY YOU BE BLESSED.

**7.** Never allow them to become dry for the fire.  
Give them always the sap  
That will make them your Good News  
To reach the farthest rivers and roughest roads,  
The classroom, pulpit, temple and home,  
Hospital, convent, wherever may be found  
The forgotten, the migrant, the old and the sick,  
All who yearn for your love and care,  
For whom everything we do seems so little.

LORD, MAY YOU BE BLESSED.

**8.** Lord Jesus, together with you in your Church  
We are the Vine  
Branches that wait and long for the evening visit  
Of the Vine-dresser.  
Some now old who welcome the loving touch  
Of the evening sun  
Like men who at harvest's end  
And with the wine-press full  
Look forward to drinking the new wine.

LORD, MAY YOU BE BLESSED.

**9.** Lord Jesus, you who are the true Vine,  
In the dark night care for those branches  
That wounded by the wind and the cold  
But always faithful to you and your Church,  
Give unceasing witness to your law and your love.

LORD, MAY YOU BE BLESSED.

**10.** Lord Jesus, may you be blessed  
By those who produced fruit in plenty  
To the glory of the Father.  
Mary, consoler and bringer of light.  
Joseph her husband.  
Augustine our Father.  
Martyrs of the East and the West.  
Nicholas and Rita, Thomas and Ezekiel.  
And all the Saints  
Who help us preserve that joy you offer us now  
And which will one day overflow.

LORD, MAY YOU BE BLESSED FOR EVERMORE.