

Making Way for New Growth

Pulling on leather gloves and hefting the tools from the shed, you head over to the fruit tree planted against the fence. Your child's preoccupation with the difficult job of pruning the tree to rid it of so many branches overshadows the purpose of this task—to promote new growth. Pruning is a reality in our human lives, as well; God works in a similar way.

Admitting our sins and embracing our penance through the Sacrament of Reconciliation often feels like pruning. Yet, God's mercy has already started nourishing our soul. He is giving us the grace to make new, life-giving choices. Gardening with your child may be an organic way to illustrate the need for cutting off the dead wood and reaching for what God offers—for all that is life-giving.