“Whoever has ears ought to hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To the victor I will give the right to eat from the tree of life that is in the garden of God.”

**Revelation 2:7**

The tree, as it blossoms and withers through the seasons, has long been a symbol of the eternal cycle of life, death, and resurrection. Just as Eve’s eating of the fruit of the tree of life in the primeval paradise brought death into the world, Christ’s death on a tree, the cross, has restored the right to the tree to those who hold fast to the faith and do God’s will in the face of persecution.

*This landmark sycamore tree on the Grotto lawn predates the University’s founding in 1842.*