SAINT PAUL
FAITH FAMILY FUTURE
1849

Daily Mass Readings
Sunday, April 5th, 2020

Readings: MT 21:1-11
IS 50:4-7
PHIL 2:6-11
Gospel: MT 26:14-27:66 or 27:11-54

Reflections from Father Blessing

How many of us during this time of distress have great intentions to pray but struggle to get ourselves to do it? The disciples had that experience in the garden with Jesus. Jesus had just warned them that their faith would be tested. Yet, only a few hours after the warning, as the threat was right there upon them, Jesus asks them to pray with Him. There Jesus knelt just a few feet away from them, but they couldn't keep their eyes open.

You might be asking why it was so difficult for the disciples to stay awake and pray? They had to know that their lives were at risk. The scriptures tell us how concerned they were to follow Jesus into Jerusalem for Passover? "Let us also go to die with him," Thomas said, as Jesus left for Bethany at the awareness of Lazarus' death. Bethany was only two miles from Jerusalem where the authorities were plotting to kill Jesus. Thomas knew that Passover was near and that Jesus would want to go into Jerusalem to celebrate. The other apostles knew as well and must have been afraid.

I wonder if the reason the disciples couldn't stay awake was because they were actually exhausted. I wonder if they found it difficult to sleep, afraid for their life and their friend's. Have you ever had an experience where fear gripped you to the point of not sleeping well or at all? In those times you might find yourself dozing off throughout the day, but never really being at rest. It is so difficult to pray in those moments.

At this time I think there are many who are concerned about the health situation we are facing and losing sleep. That is especially true if they are directly affected by the disease in some way. Jesus wanted the disciples to pray so their trust in God could increase to the point where they would not worry. I am sure he would want the same for us. May your prayer lead you to trust God,.

God bless you and give you good rest!

PALM SUNDAY

©LPi