

MAUNDY *Thursday*

CHURCH WALK

It is a tradition of the Catholic Church to visit nearby churches after the Holy Thursday Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper and to pray at the altar of repose, to remember how Jesus went off to pray before the Passion. We pray at these beautifully prepared altars of repose to be in the presence of the Lord, just as His disciples were during Jesus' Agony in the Garden as Jesus prepared for His Passion. This guide may be used as a source for deeper prayer while meditating on the scene of being with Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane.

During visit to first church:

To begin: Take a deep breath. Clear your mind of worries and anxieties of daily life. Know that you are in the presence of the Lord. Be attentive to Him.

Then Jesus came with them to a place called Gethsemane, and he said to his disciples, "Sit here while I go over there and pray." He took along Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, and began to feel sorrow and distress. Then he said to them, "My soul is sorrowful even to death. Remain here and keep watch with me." - Luke 22:36-38

Imagine: What does the garden of Gethsemane look like? Are you close to Jesus, or a little farther away? What emotions does He seem to be experiencing?
Place yourself in this scene.

Pray with these words:

"Remain here and keep watch with me."

Why is Jesus asking you to remain with Him?

What is He telling you?

Spend some time pondering these reflections.



During visit to second church:

To begin: Take a deep breath. Clear your mind of worries and anxieties of daily life. Be reminded that you are in the presence of the Lord. Continue to be attentive to Him.

He advanced a little and fell prostrate in prayer, saying, "My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from me; yet, not as I will, but as you will." When he returned to his disciples he found them asleep. He said to Peter, "So you could not keep watch with me for one hour? Watch and pray that you may not undergo the test. The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak." Withdrawing a second time, he prayed again, "My Father, if it is not possible that this cup pass without my drinking it, your will be done!" - Luke 22:39-42

Imagine: Jesus speaks to His Father in Heaven. With what kind of intensity is Jesus praying to the loving Father?

Pray: When I pray, am I honest with God? Do I bring Him my difficulties and struggles in life? Do I pray with my heart, or only with formalities? How can I be more open and honest with God right now and forevermore in my prayer?

Spend some time pondering these reflections.

"Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation. The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak."

During visit to third church:

To begin: Take a deep breath. Clear your mind of worries and anxieties of daily life. Be reminded that you are in the presence of the Lord. Continue to be attentive to Him.

Then he returned once more and found them asleep, for they could not keep their eyes open. He left them and withdrew again and prayed a third time, saying the same thing again. Then he returned to his disciples and said to them, "Are you still sleeping and taking your rest? Behold, the hour is at hand when the Son of Man is to be handed over to sinners. Get up, let us go. Look, my betrayer is at hand." - Luke 22:43-46

Imagine: The disciples cannot stay awake. These are some of the last few moments they have with Jesus before He undergoes the passion. Would you encourage them to stay awake? Would you just focus on Jesus? What would we do while Jesus is praying?

Pray: Is Jesus asking me to also keep my eyes open? To what part of my prayer life is Jesus telling me to be more attentive, and to stay with Him? From this point onward, how is Jesus telling me to, "Get up, let us go"? Where is Jesus taking me in my faith? In what way is Jesus asking me to follow him in my daily life?

Spend some time pondering these reflections.