

Fr. Martin's Reflection – March 19, 2023

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Last weekend it was announced that we are hosting '**24 Hours for the Lord.**' What is 24 Hours for the Lord? What do I have to do, and is it for a whole hour? And, why an hour?

Let me start with the last question first. After Jesus had celebrated the passion, and instituted the Eucharist, he brought himself and the disciples to the garden of Gethsemane to pray. Jesus knew what lay ahead, what was to unfold, and it frightened him; he was petrified. In **Matthew 26:38** **Jesus said, "My soul is sorrowful even to death. Remain here and keep watch with me." When he returned, he found them asleep. He said to Peter, "So you could not keep watch with me for one hour?"** Jesus is inviting us, his disciples of today, to keep watch with him, to pray with him for all who must drink the cup of suffering that the world gives. For those who suffer because of war, for those who suffer because of natural disasters, for those who suffer because of addiction, for those who suffer because a loved one is an addict, and for all who suffer in our world.

So why an hour? - Because Jesus asked his disciples to spend an hour in prayer with him to help prepare them for what lay ahead. So, I ask you, can you spend one hour for the Lord? Can you share an hour with three family members, or with three friends, where you spend 15 minutes each? If you are a member of a parish group, could you partner with three others from the group and spend an hour? I know this to be true, if we willingly give an hour to the Lord, the Lord will willingly give himself to us. To sign up, please go to our parish website: www.mmotcp.org and click on '**24 Hours for the Lord Sign Up**' or if you would prefer you can contact the **Parish Office** and **give your name and time that best suits you.**

Matthew 18:20 **"Where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them."**

May God bless you and keep you forever close to God's kind and loving heart.

Fr. Martin