

• **PRAYER** •

“... *Be Watchful! Be Alert! ...*”  
“*Be on the Watch! ... Stay Awake! ...*”

Mark 13:33

Advent messages I learned during my formation at Gethsemani.  
Wake Up! Stay Awake! Grow up! Clean Up!

These words still echo in my mind after 35 years!  
“... at dusk ... at midnight ... when the cock crows ... at early dawn.”

There was always anticipation that the abbot would come to my cell:  
And catch me asleep. I learned to “be on guard!”  
So that my present behavior wasn't measuring up to my commitment to prayer.

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*Silence. Prayer. Work,*  
*Surrendering to the presence*  
*of Christ*  
*We reach into the scattered*  
*rays of divinity.*  
•  
*Saint Therese of Lisieux*  
*The Little Flower*  
•



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*As we open into the*  
*world that is invisible*  
*the work,*  
*we are given allows us to*  
*disappear into the*  
*dimly formed image of*  
*Christ.*  
•  
*Sister Mary Goolaganda*  
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• **PRAYING IS BEING AT REST** •

These scriptures teach us the need for alertness and readiness by comparing us to:  
the gate-keeper who did not know when the owner of the house would return,  
“in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or in the morning,”

We must always be ready so that Christ will not find us asleep.  
If we are awake and ready ... then when Christ comes ... we will greet Him with joy.

Our whole life should be a preparation to meet Our Lord.

“... *when we are awake ... we are not sleeping ... we are resting...*”  
(Sister Mary Goolanganda)

Our Lord practiced the art of resting in the arms of the Father  
Jesus prayed at the sacred hours of the day:  
“Jesus went off ... praying all night to God ...”

Vigils| Lauds| Terce| Sext| None| Vespers | Compline|

I pray that when my head hits my pillow I will find myself  
Resting in the arms of Christ.

*Only the Goodthings to Come*

*robert r. lackney permanent deacon, Mark 1: 1-18 | December 2017 |*

deacon robert's blog: <http://aahospitalchaplain.blogspot.com/> <http://archangelpublications.com>  
PS: *God expelled Adam and Eve from the Garden of Eden with the promise that their seed will bring light to all.*