**HOLY WEEK – HOLY THURSDAY**



**“Jesus spends the Night in the Garden”**

**Biblical Readings:**

 - Mt 26: 30-56

 - Jn 18: 12-27

 - Mk 14: 53-72

 - Mt 27: 1-2. 11-14

 - Lk 23: 5-12

 - Mt 27: 15-26

 Today, in imagination I am with the Lord Jesus in the last moments of his earthly life.

 It is really sad that people accused him in a most unjust and cowardly way. All accusations were fabricated in an evil conspiracy to kill him. Nobody defended him. Only the wife of Pilate who said to her husband that Jesus was innocent: “Have nothing to do with that righteous man” (Mt 27: 19). Even Jesus’ disciples deserted him. He was so lonely! He was condemned unjustly!

 In my reflections, I saw people beat him, scourge him, whip him, spit at him and humiliate him as if he was not a human-being. I saw blood all over his body, from head to toe. He did not say a word. He accepted the wounds, the humiliation and the suffering because of love - Love for his Father and love for sinful humanity. He obeyed his Father by accepting a terrible death in order to fulfil the promise of salvation.

 I saw his body bent down as if the sins of humanity were too heavy on his shoulders! He did not lament, utter a word of complaint. He wanted to accept this passion in order to take away the sins of humanity. It is because of this sinful world that he emptied himself, humbled himself and allowed himself to be stripped and treated like a criminal condemned to death.

 When I saw how he was beaten terribly, bleeding and bruised everywhere on his body, my heart was broken and I prayed:

**Asking for a Grace:**

 *Lord Jesus,*

 *Can I suffer a bit for you?*

 *Can I share a bit with your wounds?*

 *I love you, too!*

*Amen.*

