

AUGUST 27, 2020  
Memorial of St. Monica  
Matthew 24: 42-51

“YOU MUST BE READY.”

We have a lot of way to secure our properties: houses, cars, computers and many others. We are security-conscious nowadays and there is no wrong about that. We have sophisticated house alarm or doorbell wherein we can see people outside our door and talk to them. This is a sign of the times for the purpose of securing our properties and even our lives especially our vulnerable. The trend of security is not new. In our gospel, we find this image of thievery and burglar breaking into someone’s house. This is one of the many ways Jesus expressed His teaching from the daily experience of the people which people can easily relate to.

Jesus is again reminding us to be awake and keep guard like the owner of the house who draws attention to the element of surprise of the thief at night. My brothers and sisters, “staying awake all night becomes in Jesus’ parable an image of the disciples remaining alert to the presence, to the coming, of the Lord. The Lord lives in constant awareness of us; we are called to live in constant awareness of Him. We find it difficult to be aware of the Lord all the time, because so many other things fill our minds and hearts. Yet, that is what the Lord asks of us. We are to attend to, be aware of, His constant presence to us. This is what might be termed the contemplative attitude. There is a sense in which we are all called to become contemplatives — with a small c.”<sup>1</sup>

Today we are celebrating the memorial of St. Monica. Monica was awake, alert and gave all and did everything for the conversion of her son St. Augustine. “She never rested from praying for her son to return to the faith. Monica was distressed to learn that her son had accepted the Manichean heresy—’all flesh is evil’—and was living an immoral life. One night she had a vision that assured her Augustine would return to the faith.

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<sup>1</sup> [www.associationofcatholicpriests](http://www.associationofcatholicpriests)

From that time on, she stayed close to her son, praying, and fasting for him. And he did return to the faith, because Monica stayed awake, and Augustine woke up.”<sup>2</sup> So, my brothers and sister, stay awake and we must be always ready because we don’t know when the Lord is coming. If the Lord finds us awake and ready, He said: “Blessed is that slave whom his master will find at work when he arrives. Truly I tell you, he will put that one in charge of all his possessions.”<sup>3</sup> We can do this through prayers, good works with patience, love, understanding and humility. So, let us ask the intercession of St. Monica that we may always be awake despite difficulties and problems and be ready in times of failures and discouragement.

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<sup>2</sup> [www.catholicsermons.com/passionists](http://www.catholicsermons.com/passionists)

<sup>3</sup> Matthew 24: 46-47 NRSV Catholic Bible Press USA