

Dear Padre,

Are Catholic religious orders dying?

Yes...and no.

In Africa and Asia, some religious orders are vibrant, with orders of men and women religious increasing in number. In the United States, Europe, and Oceania, it's a different story. As many as 300 of the 420 institutes of women religious in the US are in their final decades of existence (*Leadership Conference of Women Religious*, 2019). One-third of all women's congregations in the US have fewer than fifty members. In the US, sisters over age ninety far outnumber those under sixty. Consequently, many communities fall short of the number of active ministers needed to replace their elderly and retiring members. The story is similar for many orders of religious men.

As those in religious orders struggle to remain effective in their mission and ministry for God and humanity, they are reimagining styles of leadership, levels of administration, and, in short, ways of getting the job done. This includes, for example, creative partnerships with laypeople to share in the charism, community life, and ministry of the religious order.

People are still drawn to Jesus and the work of building the kingdom. Only God knows how this "building process" will look in the future. As in all challenging times, the Church remains hopeful. From crisis comes resurrection! ●

Fr. Byron Miller, CSsR / DearPadre.org



CNS PHOTO/JAMES RAMOS, TEXAS CATHOLIC HEALD

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
March 27	March 28	March 29	March 30	March 31	April 1	April 2
Lenten Weekday	Lenten Weekday	Lenten Weekday	Lenten Weekday	Lenten Weekday	Lenten Weekday	Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion
Dn 13:1-9, 15-17, 19-30, 33-62 or Dn 13:41c-62 Jn 8:1-11	Nm 21:4-9 Jn 8:21-30	Dn 3:14-20, 91-92, 95 Jn 8:31-42	Gn 17:3-9 Jn 8:51-59	Jer 20:10-13 Jn 10:31-42	Ez 37:21-28 Jn 11:45-56	Mt 21:1-11 Is 50:4-7 Phil 2:6-11 Mt 26:14-27:66 or Mt 27:11-54
Timely topics viewed with a Catholic perspective						
Catholic Update explores contemporary issues through the lens of Catholic teaching and traditions. Print and digital subscriptions! For more information, visit Liguori.org or call 800-325-9521.						



A WORD FROM POPE FRANCIS

Take away the stone from your heart! Let the Word of God restore life where there is death. Jesus repeats to us: "Take away the stone." God did not create us for the tomb....He created us for life, [which is] beautiful, good, joyful.

ANGELUS, MARCH 20, 2020

Our Parish COMMUNITY

March 26, 2023
Fifth Sunday of Lent (A)
Ezekiel 37:12-14 / Romans 8:8-11
John 11:1-45 or John 11:3-7, 17, 20-27, 33b-45



Called from the Pits

FR. JOSEPH JUKNIALIS

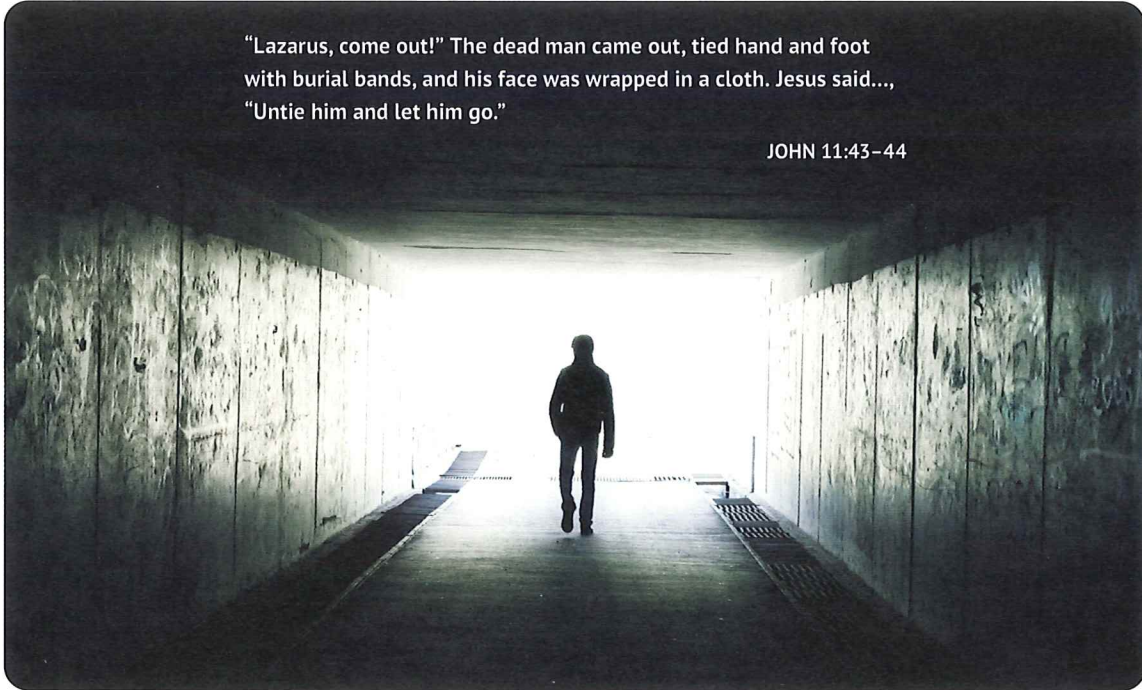
When I feel sorry for myself or just down in the dumps, when I feel buried by life not going the way I think it should, sometimes I remember to stop thinking about myself and my problems, and I say to myself, *I need to go care about someone else*. It seems that doing so pulls me out of that tomb of darkness and back into the light. Then I ask myself, *Why didn't I do that sooner?* The truth is, I didn't remember. But the very fact that I eventually do remember is the spirit of God dwelling within me that pulls me back into life, just as Paul once wrote (Romans 8:9 and the verses afterward). It's like hearing a voice calling me out of a dreary tomb of death, just as sure as Lazarus heard Jesus calling him out.

Have you experienced times when your spirit feels dead than dead, but then someone or something calls

you back into life? I have. When that happens to us, I think we've been blessed with a hint of the resurrection. When I find myself wondering if there is really life beyond death, if resurrection really does happen to us, then I think about all the times that what I thought was a death turned out to be some unexpected doorway to new life. If that happens with such little deaths along the way, wouldn't it also happen on our last day on this earth? ●

Reflect

Have you ever experienced something that seemed terrible at the time that turned out to be a blessing in disguise?



"Lazarus, come out!" The dead man came out, tied hand and foot with burial bands, and his face was wrapped in a cloth. Jesus said..., "Untie him and let him go."

JOHN 11:43-44



Rectory & Parish Office
600 Soderberg St. Lakin, KS 67860
Mailing Address: PO Box 983
Fr. Peter Tran, Pastor—355-6405
Tuesday—Friday 9:00 am - 4:00 pm
Email: saintanthonylakin@gmail.com

5th SUNDAY OF LENT (Violet)

3/25/2023 - Saturday, 4: 00 p.m.

Servers: Lucy Gannett, Jonathan Gannett, Nathan Gannett

Reader: Gwen Waechter

E.O.HC: Debbie Frederick, Gwen Waechter

3/26/2023 – Sunday, 9:00 a.m.

Servers: Cade & Jace Berning, Luke Woodrow

Reader: Kyle Berning

E.O. HC: Toby & Jessica Luhman– Fuller

Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion (Red)

4/1/2023 - Saturday, 4: 00 p.m.

Servers: Volunteer, Jason Velasco, Ryann Bamberger

Reader: Karen Burden

E.O.HC: Tino Rosales Jr., Karen Burden

4/2/2023 – Sunday, 9:00 a.m.

Servers: Kirbe & Kipton Koons, Joleigh Lohman-Fuller

Reader: Mike Broeckelman

E.O. HC: Teresa Beltran, Rosa Cardenas

Karen Burden, Rel.Edu. Committee	355-6388
Lisa Gannett, DRE	355-6611
RCIA	355-6405
Gwen Waechter, Parish Council Chair	272-1030
Tressa Powers, Finance Council Chair	355-6206
Altar Society President, Nanette Rice	355-7676
Tom Bachman, Grand Knight	640-8259
Prayer Line Starters, Allison Bushek	355-1696
& Nanette Rice	355-7676

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

Saturday, Mar. 25	4:00 p.m.	Rosie Perez
Sunday, Mar. 26	9:00 a.m.	Bergkamp F. Int. & Sullen
Monday, Mar. 27	8:30 a.m.	Charles & Eileen Hoff
Tuesday, Mar. 28	8:30 a.m.	Mark Meier
Thursday, Mar. 30	No Mass	Sp. Int. Burden Family
Friday, Mar. 31	No Mass	S.Int. Powers Family
Saturday, April 1	4:00 p.m.	Rosie Perez
Sunday, April 2	9:00 a.m.	Suellen Bergkamp

Reconciliation: Confessions will be heard every Saturday at 3:00 p.m. and every Sunday at 8:00 a.m. or by appointment.

Baptism: Parents who have children to be baptized must be registered. Godparents must be 16 years of age or older and have received Confirmation and Eucharist. Please call the parish office for an appointment.

Marriage: Please contact parish priest at least four to six months before the wedding.

Anointing of the Sick: Celebrated anytime by calling a priest.

MARCH 26—FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT

With the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption. (Ps. 130)

My friends, two weeks ago we saw a woman depart from a well more alive than she had been before. Last Sunday we saw a blind man encounter Jesus and leave that encounter more alive, more whole than he had been before. And today's gospel we saw how Jesus restored the life of his friend Lazarus --- an act that must have astonished those who witnessed it.

We see Jesus love, and we are called to love like him. We see him forgive, and we are called to forgive like him. We see him heal, and we are called to heal like him. We see him show compassion and mercy and understanding, and we are called to do the same. And we see Jesus at work in this miraculous story and we find ourselves wondering --- what exactly are we being called to imitate?

My friends, we have a choice, a choice each and every day --- a choice to be life-givers or not, people who share with others the grace we have been gifted with or not, people who extend our hands in love to others or not. Who will we be? Fr. Peter

COLLECTION for March 19, 2023: Envelopes: \$960 Loose: \$382; Online Giving: \$302.64; Total 1644.64 Average Weekly Expense: \$1,761.17. Income over/under -116.53

CHURCH PROJECT GOAL \$52000—Building Fund To Date: \$24022.63 *Thank you so much for your love for our parish church and your faithful stewards.*

EASTER FLOWERS If you want to send flowers in memory of a Loved One for Easter, please put your donation and names into the regular collection. Thank you!

2023- ST. ANTHONY’S SCHOLARSHIP FORM is available at the vestibule of the church.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR—UPCOMING EVENTS & CELEBRATIONS

Parish Breakfast—Sunday 3/26, right after 9:00 a.m. Sunday Mass

Lent Penance Service—Sunday, 3/26 at 6:30 p.m.

Soup & Sermon—3/29

Knight of Columbus Meeting 4/5/ at 7:30 p.m.

Holy Thursday 4/6/2023 St. Anthony’s Mass @ 6 p.m. St. Raphael’s @ 6:30 pm (MT)

Good Friday 4/7/2023 St. Anthony’s Service @ 3:00p.m.; St. Raphael’s @ 6:00 pm (MT)

Easter Vigil 4/8/2023 St. Anthony @ 8:30 p.m.

Easter Sunday Mass 4/9/2023 Christ the King’s Mass @ 8:00 am.; St. Anthony’s @ 9:15am. & St. Raphael’s @ 10:30.

Stations of the Cross —every Wednesday during Lent @ 7:00p.m.

QUESTION OF THE WEEK What keeps me from seeing the truth? What keeps me from acknowledging what I see?

PRAYER OF THE WEEK Father of Life, Lord of the living, just as your Son called Lazarus from the tomb, so he calls us to step out of everything that confines and destroys us. Revive our sense of evil so that we will confess the ways we are bound by sin. Call us forth to proclaim your saving power, and command us to rise above all that wounds, corrupts, and kills. Liberate all who are entombed by fear and despair. Enliven our desire for justice, healing, and peace. Free us from the death-dealing power of sin so that we may lead new lives in Christ. Amen..

UNDERSTANDING THE GOSPEL OF THE WEEK - (John 11:1-45)

The last sign The raising of Lazarus is the last and greatest sign that Jesus works before his crucifixion and resurrection. The one who is living water (John 4), bread of life (John 6), and light of the world (John 9) here restores physical life, thus revealing in the clearest, most unmistakable way yet that he is eternal life for all who believe.

Returning to Jerusalem (vv. 1-16) People have just tried to arrest Jesus while he was in Jerusalem (10:39). By returning there, Jesus knowingly faces death. Ironically, by bringing Lazarus back to life, Jesus provokes his enemies to put him, the life-giver, to death (11:46f). Thomas doesn’t yet understand that Jesus offers eternal life, but he believes enough to follow Jesus into death (v.16).

Glorifying God (v. 4) Jesus loves Lazarus, but he doesn’t hurry to his friend because he wants to glorify his Father. After Jesus brings Lazarus back to life, more people will believe that Jesus is God’s Son, sent by God to offer eternal life to all who believe in him (vv.4,45). This is the work Jesus has come to do, and it’s more important than sparing his friends a time of grief (vv.5-6). Day vs. night (vv. 9-10) Those who walk during the day are people who live in the light, which is Jesus. Those who reject this light stumble about in the darkness of the night. These people remain subject to sin and death.

Meeting the mourners (vv. 20-40) Jesus breaks the power of sin and evil while bringing people to a clearer understanding of who he is. Martha believes Jesus is Lord, Messiah, and even Son of God, but she thinks Jesus will bring people to new life at some point in the future; she doesn’t yet understand that Jesus brings people into eternal life right now. Mary as well as some of the Jews who’ve come to console Mary and Martha think similarly.

Waking Lazarus (vv. 41-44) Jesus received life and power from his Father and obeys God in everything. Therefore, Jesus only has to thank his Father for the work entrusted to him; he doesn’t have to ask for anything. Because Jesus perfectly obeys his Father, he knows God will do whatever he asks. Lazarus is wrapped in burial cloths. Jesus will also be wrapped in such cloths after his crucifixion. Lazarus, however, needs help to become free from them. Jesus needs no such help because he has power over sin and death (20:6-7). (oursundayreadings.wordpress.com)

UNDERSTANDING THE FIRST READING (Ezekiel 37:12-14)


New life in those old bones God called Ezekiel to prophesy when Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon, invaded Jerusalem in the sixth century BC. He deported Israelite leaders from their homeland, making them live in exile in Babylon. He also looted the city and destroyed the temple, the symbol of God’s presence among his chosen people. The terrible events surrounding the Babylonian exile crushed the hope and faith of God’s people. Ezekiel has a vision of God’s people as scattered bones (37:1f). God vows that one day he will raise the people up, reunify them, and restore them to their homeland.

STEWARDSHIP REFLECTION

Really There use to be a show called, “Ripley’s, Believe It Or Not!” chronicling the weird and unbelievable. People are drawn into acts of amazement and the unexplainable. Jesus did these acts, one after another, yet, they don’t seem to have the same affect on people. Why is that? Today we read how Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead, not moments after his passing with CPR, but four days after he was entombed with three words—“Lazarus, come out!” Jesus said he performed these acts “for the glory of God, that the Son of God may be glorified.” Then there are modern day miracle workers, like St. Mother Teresa, Fr Emil Kapaun and Blessed Carlo Acutis—ordinary people, loving God and neighbor, extraordinarily. We, too, can work miracles of love—believe it, or not! (Catholicdioceseofwichita.org)

Lo creas o no Había una serie llamada “Ripley’s, Believe It Or Not” (Ripley’s, Lo Creas o No) que relataba lo extraño e increíble. La gente se siente atraída por actos de asombro y lo inexplicable. Jesús hacía estos actos, uno tras otro, sin embargo, no parecen tener el mismo efecto en la gente. ¿Por qué? Hoy leemos cómo Jesús resucitó a Lázaro de entre los muertos, no momentos después de su fallecimiento con reanimación cardiopulmonar, sino cuatro días después de haber sido sepultado. Lo hizo con cuatro palabras: “¡Lázaro, sal de allí!” Jesús dijo que realizó estos actos “para la gloria de Dios, para que el Hijo de Dios sea glorificado.” También están los que hacen milagros hoy en día, como la Santa Madre Teresa, el Padre Emil Kapaun y el Beato Carlo Acutis: personas ordinarias, que aman a Dios y al prójimo de forma extraordinaria. Nosotros también podemos realizar milagros de amor, ¡lo creamos o no!


**Congratulations for completing your
Confirmation program at St. Anthony of Padua Catholic
Church, but most importantly for being anointed with the
gifts of the holy spirit and being confirmed as a full
member of the Roman Catholic Church.**

A decorative illustration in the top left corner featuring a red flower with green leaves and a blue bird with white stars on its body, perched on a branch.

Wishing you a life full of faith
and love on this

Confirmation Day.

May you be blessed in all that
you do.

A decorative illustration in the bottom right corner featuring a red flower with green leaves and a blue bird with white stars on its body, perched on a branch.

**Rosa Alba, Zaira Anguiano, Mya Brown, Amari Esquibel, Quincy Esquibel,
Ashlee Hernandez, Vanessa Miranda, Leslie Ramirez, Karen Solano, Adan
Vazquez, & Luna Aaliah Vasquez**

We are grateful to their parents, sponsors, catechist who worked hard to prepare them for this very special day on their journey of faith! May the love of Jesus forever remain close to you.

FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT

Step out of the spotlight

While the Hebrew scripture written before Jesus lived doesn't explicitly speak of resurrection in the same way it is spoken of after Jesus is raised from the dead, there are certainly rumors and whispers. Perhaps the most explicit references are in chapter 37 of Ezekiel, where God, working through the prophet, raises a valley of dry bones to new life and promises to restore them to the promised land after their captivity in Babylon centuries before Christ. Saint Jerome called the vision of the valley of bones a "simile" of the Resurrection to come. There's hope for these old bones yet! (Preparethework)

CUARTO DOMINGO DE CUARESMA Indicios de resurrección

Aunque las escrituras Hebreas previas a la vida de Jesús no hablan explícitamente de la resurrección de la misma manera en que lo hacen después de que Jesús resucitara de entre los muertos, ciertamente hay rumores y susurros. Quizá las referencias más explícitas se encuentren en el capítulo 37 de Ezequiel, donde Dios, a través del profeta, resucita un valle de huesos secos a una nueva vida y promete devolverlos a la tierra prometida tras su cautiverio en Babilonia siglos antes de Cristo. San Jerónimo llamó a la visión del valle de huesos un "símil" de la Resurrección que ha de venir. ¡Todavía hay esperanza para estos viejos huesos!