

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



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MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
March 27 <i>Lenten Weekday</i> Dn 13:1-9, 15-17, 19-30, 33-62 or Dn 13:41c-62 Jn 8:1-11	March 28 <i>Lenten Weekday</i> Nm 21:4-9 Jn 8:21-30	March 29 <i>Lenten Weekday</i> Dn 3:14-20, 91-92, 95 Jn 8:31-42	March 30 <i>Lenten Weekday</i> Gn 17:3-9 Jn 8:51-59	March 31 <i>Lenten Weekday</i> Jer 20:10-13 Jn 10:31-42	April 1 <i>Lenten Weekday</i> Ez 37:21-28 Jn 11:45-56	April 2 <i>Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion</i> 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.
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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

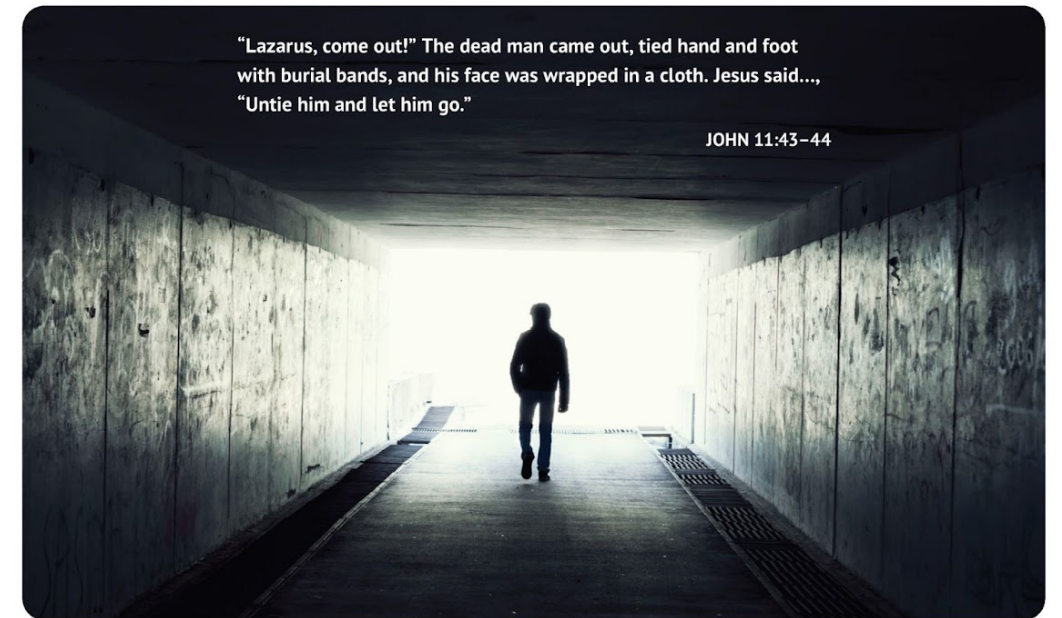
When I feel sorry for myself or just down in the dumps, when I feel buried by life not going the way I think it should, sometimes I remember to stop thinking about myself and my problems, and I say to myself, *I need to go care about someone else*. It seems that doing so pulls me out of that tomb of 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 deader 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



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St. Joseph Church & St. Aloysius Church

Edina & Baring, MO
 Pastor: Fr. Simeon Etonu -
 Deacon: Rev. Mr. Ken Berry
 509 North Main Street, Edina,
 Missouri 63537



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 sasj.diojeffcity.org

Office Hours:
 Mon-Tues, Thurs-Fri. 1-4 PM

Mass Schedule			Mass Intention
Tues. 3-28	Chapel (Edina)	5:30 PM	Mary Elizabeth Schaffer
Wed. 3-29	Chapel (Edina)	8:00 AM	Tim O'Brien
Thurs.3-30	St. John (Memphis)	5:30 PM	
Friday 3-31	Chapel (Edina)	8:00 AM	Maria Berry
Sat. 4-1	St. John (Memphis)	5:30 PM	
Sun.4-2	St. Joseph (Edina)	9:00 AM	People of Parish

We ask your prayers for those from our parishes & community who are ill or suffering:

Autumn Early, Don Kutcher, Eleanor Pozek, **Bryant Western**, Linda Early, Ken and Marianne Berry, Mark and Joetta Krueger, Cheryl Mayes, Larry and Kay Sykes, Nancy Platz, Walker Clary, Betty Smith, Tina Lonberger, John Pipta, Rosemarie Pipta, Christine Pipta Svitana, Laura Pipta, LaMayra Hicks, Beth Frye, Rosalie Klote Caldwell, Amy Coram, Brooke Pinson, Harold Lentz, Kaitlyn Early Taylor, Eric DeRosear, Dorothy Killday, Lacey Woods, Keith Payne, Judi Bishop, Dan Bishop, Mary Beth Bruegenhemke Renaud, Judy Sharp, Barb Adams and Irene Kaswara

We ask your prayers for the following Military Personnel:

Quinton Windoffer, Michael Head, Skee Ferguson, Michael Stansberry, Ryan Kriegshauser, Lauren Hudson, Jennifer Schmermund, Jack Franklin, Denis Seiglie, Jude Pipta, Matthew Moore and Brady Johnson.

PARISH HAPPENINGS: Fifth Sunday of Lent, March 26, 2023

PeoplePassword for Formed.org FB7B4M Lent is a great time to check out the information.

NO Holy Hour this week.

Rosary: We have a recitation of the Rosary at 8:30 AM before Mass in the Church.

Cleaning the Chapel: There is a signup page on the bulletin board in the back of the church. If you have questions, contact Nena Palmer at 660-342-2744. March 26- Betty Morgret

Easter choir practice: Thursday evening at 7:00, March 30.
 Sundays after Mass March 26th and April 2nd. All are welcome.

St. Aloysius Cemetery Board: The annual meeting of the St. Aloysius Cemetery Board will be on Monday, March 27 at 7 PM at the Baring Hall.

Lenten Penance Service: 7:00 PM on March 30th at Saint Joseph Church in Edina, MO.

Stations of the Cross: Every Friday during Lent at 7:00 PM in Church.

Weekly Gifts to God & Parish

St. Joseph March 26, 2023

March 19, 2023	\$1,411.00
Amount needed weekly	\$2,310.00
Deficit/Surplus	- \$ 899.00
Fiscal year to date	\$95,445.54
Needed Fiscal year to date	\$87,780.00
Deficit/Surplus	+ 7,665.54

Breaking the Silence of Abuse - As a diocese, we are committed to breaking the silence of abuse. When someone is reporting abuse, we must acknowledge their pain and how difficult it is to talk about it. False allegations are very rare. Our initial response to someone who is disclosing abuse for the first time must be compassionate. For those who need to report abuse, encourage them to contact our Victims Assistance Coordinator, Jacqueline Baldwin, (573-694-3199) and to make use of the appropriate State of Missouri hotline (1-800-392-3738) or the Attorney General's clergy abuse online form. All of this information is also on our website, under the 'report abuse' tab. For those who want information or want to convey a message to Bishop McKnight, please encourage them to write to us at reportabuse@diojeffcity.org.

Liturgical Ministry Assignments for Sunday, April 2, 2023

Music Ministry:

Servers: Jason Devlin, Natalie Greenley and Connor Greenley

Lector: Jackie Gudehus

Communion Minister: (if needed) Dan Niemeyer

Ushers: Clint Miller, Nathan Miller, Keith Gudehus and Tim Penn

Gift Bearers: Alan Morgret family

Collection Counters: Carol Fox and Margaret Gibson

Bishop McKnight's March prayer intention for our Local Church

For a greater respect for the dignity of all human life; may our Catholic Faith inspire us to recognize all human beings — no matter their age, race, or condition — as our brothers and sisters in the Lord.



Fifth Sunday of Lent, March 26, 2023

“Christ Jesus has made me His own.” Are you called to belong to Christ alone as a priest, deacon or through the consecrated life?

Contact the Vocation Office at 573-635- 91. 27 ext. 260