

His tears dissolve death's bonds

By Father Robert J. Kennedy
Guest contributor

We see and hear about death so often that we no longer seem to notice it. We may feel a momentary stab of pain or horror, but we then turn away and go back to the business of living. Frequently, we are numb to the death around us.

So if you have the Lenten courage to do so, gaze upon the world's violence, terrorism, genocide, torture and warfare. Look upon people's poverty, hunger, destitution and oppression. See the tragedy of catastrophic illness, the aftermath of natural disaster, and the personal experiences of loneliness, abandonment, abuse, addiction and failure.

If you can hold your gaze for long enough and allow yourself to feel what

you are seeing, then you will have the same view Jesus did as he looked into the grave of his beloved friend, Lazarus, in this Sunday's Gospel. Jesus was looking into death's open mouth and smelling its stench. "And Jesus began to weep" (John 11, v.35). This shortest of all Scripture verses is also one of the most revealing, for it tells us Jesus was subject to the same pain and grief we all know as we face death in its many forms.

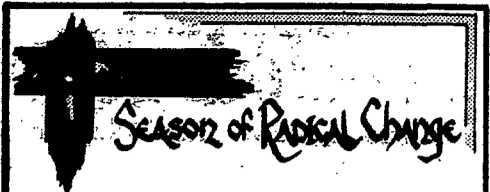
He, too, is "troubled in spirit, moved by the deepest emotions" (v.33). Did he have deep questions about what was happening? Did he feel powerless as he saw his friend bound tightly by death's vesture? Of course he did! He was a human being, and he wept.

John leads us to believe, however, that Jesus' grief was not over his deceased

friend alone (see v. 9-10). Jesus weeps because he sees beyond this one death to all the world's deaths, including his own. He weeps in solidarity with all who experience death and all who are its victims. He weeps about the bonds of sin holding us captive. He weeps over the forces of evil and death that retard life or snuff it out completely.

Yet this is not the end of the story. Jesus' tears dissolve death's bonds. Like baptism's waters, Jesus' tears combine with God's faithful saving will and the church's faith to break death's power.

This is how it happened for Lazarus. Approaching the tomb in tears, in prayerful solidarity with God and assured of Mary's and Martha's faith, Jesus calls Lazarus to new life. And Lazarus comes forth into the sunlight.



This is how it happens for us as well: Jesus' grief joins with our own and God's faithful love for the sake of resurrection and new life.

Where Jesus stands weeping, death cannot hold us captive, for Jesus is the resurrection and the life. We are strengthened in the power of Jesus' tears as we continue to scrutinize our hearts in this Lenten season for all that is sinful, weak and unworthy in ourselves and as we confront with grief our world's evil and death. And the strength of the One who is resurrection and life will empower us to untie all those bound by the power of death and let them go free (see v.44).

LENTEN

Dining Guide

Abstinence & fasting

Barring medical exemptions, all U.S. Catholics between the ages of 14 and 60 are asked to abstain from meat on the Fridays of Lent and to fast — i.e., eat only one full meal and two smaller meals, with no between-meal snacks — on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday.

THE LAMP LIGHTER

A Special Place for Special People

March Special

A TASTE OF ITALY

includes:

- Chicken Escarole Soup
- Cesar Salad
- Veal Parmigiana
- Pollo Alfredo
- Tortellini

plus

Cannoli for Dessert

All for \$14.50

Serving Lunch
Mon.-Fri. 11:30am-2pm
Dinner Mon.-Thurs., 5-10pm
Fri.-Sat., 5-11pm

Located Down the Road from the
Greece Marriott
831 Fetzner Rd.
corner Maiden Lane
225-2500

EASTER SUNDAY BRUNCH

11:30A.M.-3:30P.M.

Champagne, Dessert and Beverage Included \$16.95 per person plus tax and gratuity \$15.95 per person without champagne

Senior Citizens: \$14.95
Children 6-12 \$7.95
Children 5 & under are FREE

Free Parking in the Midtown Garage

For Reservations
Call 546-2490

Top of the Plaza Restaurant
1400 Midtown Tower

OLYMPIA

NEIGHBORHOOD RESTAURANT & LOUNGE

OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK
SERVING BREAKFAST, LUNCH & DINNER

GATES	GREECE
2380 Lyell Ave. at Howard Road near St. Theodore's 8:30a.m.-10:00p.m. 429-6231	570 Stone Rd. at Dewey Ave. near St. Charles 8:00a.m.-10:00p.m. 863-3071

BEST FISH FRY IN TOWN!

FRESH HADDOCK

- Beer Battered, Breaded or Broiled Served Everyday
- BAKED FISH - Greek Style
- SCALLOPS - Broiled or Fried

PLUS MANY OTHER DAILY SPECIALS

USE THIS AD FOR

10% OFF

Per guest check at either location.

Valid everyday except Friday
Not valid on Breakfast Specials or with other coupons.
Coupon Expires 4/8/93 c.c.

100%

CAPTAIN JIM'S

Fish Market & Restaurant

FOR ALL YOUR LENTEN SEAFOOD NEEDS

- Fresh & Cooked Seafood
- Fish Frys
- Clams
- Scallops
- Shrimp
- Fresh Fillets
- Baked Dinners
- Sandwiches
- Cooked Fish By The Pound

DINE-IN OUR TAKE-OUT—PHONE ORDERS GLADLY ACCEPTED

HADDOCK FISH FRY \$4.49
Available Every Day
Includes French Fries & Cole Slaw

2329 E. Main St.
(Corner of E. Main & Winton) **482-3640**

BRADDOCKS BAY Restaurant

Serving Fish & Seafood Specials Every Friday

Sunday Breakfast
Lunch Daily

372 Manitou Rd. • 392-7770

THE WEBSTER COLUMBUS CENTER

SERVING DINNERS EVERY FRIDAY: 5-8P.M.

Fish • Pasta • Chicken • Beef

STOP OUT DURING LENT FOR ONE OF OUR FAMOUS FISH FRIES

Childrens Portions Available

TAKE OUTS TOO!

70 Barrett Dr.
Webster, NY
872-6090

HICKS & MCCARTHY

In The Heart Of Pittsford Village

-FRIDAY SPECIAL-

English Battered Haddock or Cod Fish Fry

\$1.00 OFF ANY DINNER EXPENDITURE WITH THIS AD (EXCEPT TAKE OUTS)

586-0938

Pittsford:
23 South Main St.
OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK
Mon.-Sat. 7:00am-8:00pm
Friday til 9:00pm; Sunday til 3:00pm

STOP BY PETALS THIS LENTEN SEASON!

Featuring:

FRIDAY FISH FRY

Fresh, Deep Fried Haddock served with french fries, coleslaw, rolls & butter.

\$8.95

Effective Fridays 2/26-4/9

PETALS

Rochester Marriott Thruway
5257 W. Henrietta Rd. • (716) 359-1800