

March 22, 2026



WEEKLY LETTER FROM MONSIGNOR KEN

Everybody has problems. While some, unfortunately, have more than others, no one is exempt. That being said, without a doubt the biggest problem of all is death. It has always bothered us, confused us, angered us, and even defeated us. We don't like to think about our own mortality and we grieve the loss of loved ones. Even if someone lived a long life, it still hurts. And, if someone was young, or their death unexpected, we are devastated. We don't like death. It all goes back to Eden. God didn't create us that way. It was sin that brought the plague of death into our world. "For you are dust and to dust you will return." (Genesis 3:19c)

What are we to do? What is the answer? That really is THE question of life. Well, there is good news. There is hope. It is not found in a philosophy, a book, a quote, or even a mystical experience, although these can help. The answer is a PERSON! The answer is Jesus Christ! This is the Good News proclaimed by the Church, and we don't have to wait until Easter to know it and celebrate it. It is boldly stated in our Gospel for this Fifth Sunday of Lent. In it we read the story of the raising of Lazarus in which Jesus makes the bold claim that the Church proclaims and we believe: "I AM THE RESURRECTION AND THE LIFE!"

This does not mean that we don't die and it doesn't mean that death doesn't hurt or that we don't grieve. Death is still Enemy Number 1. However, it has been defeated. The raising of Lazarus gives us hope for our own and our loved ones' resurrection.

I have often shared the book I read a number of years ago, *The Case for Christ*, by Lee Stroebel. He was a reporter, and an atheist, who decided to investigate to see if there is reason to believe. He ends up being fully convinced and went from being a committed atheist to a devout Christian. In that book, towards the end, he shares one interview he had that was part of his searching. After finishing the formal questions, he asked this professor, informally and personally, what all this means. The man's expression changed from being the teacher, to that of an ordinary human being who grieved. He told the story of his wife's cancer and the pain of losing her. Then, with warmth and love, he shared that this belief means that he will see his wife again. In other words, Jesus is the Resurrection and Life. I invite you, as you hear again the story of Lazarus, to renew your faith, and have hope!

"Death is swallowed up in victory. Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting?...Thanks be to God who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ." (1 Corinthians 15:55, 56b)