Be the resurrection and the life for others

Raising Lazarus from death to life is one of the most well-known stories in the Gospel of John. In the dialogue between Jesus and Martha, sister of Lazarus, Jesus makes a profound proclamation, “I am the resurrection and the life.” These words give us reason to hope, not only in our resurrection to eternal life after death, but in our purpose in life each day.

Like a mystery novel, the story keeps us in suspense until our purpose is revealed near the end of the story. We are to loose the graven clothes of others to help set them free. When this is done, both they and we experience a new life in Christ every day.

I believe we share the resurrection with others by seeing them as human beings – no matter their age, no matter their health, no matter their memory loss, no matter their financial status, no matter how many times he or she might complain or repeat themselves.

So, during these days of the coronavirus, the Spirit of God inspires us to recall the story, reflect on our purpose, and ask, “How will I be the resurrection and the life for others as well as myself?”

St. Lazarus,

Jesus frequented the home you shared with Martha and Mary, your sisters. He blessed your family with his consoling presence. He wept upon your death but turned your death into the wonderful revelation of being our resurrection and life. He called you forth from the tomb and released you from bondage. Help us to loosen the bonds of others and ourselves.

Amen.

In the spirit of St. Lazarus,

Fr. Bob Kelly, OP

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