

Alice is 34...a wife, mother of 5...and a beautiful person. 3 months ago Alice wanted to commit suicide because she was in horrific pain. Over a 6 month period Alice had appointments with a variety of doctors. Many of them thought her problems were in her imagination. The pain was so debilitating and draining that friends said Alice looked like she was in her late 50's. Pain ages us. Fortunately, Alice was led to a doctor in Flint who discovered the source of her pain. Through treatments, surgery and rehab.... Alice is now vivacious, smiling, has her wonderful sense of humor and living fully the life she feels she was given back.

Alice can be thought of as a modern day Lazarus figure. Someone down, discouraged, depressed and like dead who comes to new life.

In the 1st reading God says: "I will open your graves and have you rise from them." From death God brings us to new life.

As we draw near to the end our lenten journey, is there a dying taking place within us? The fundamental death began with Ash Wednesday.....a commitment to die to sin. Some expressions of that death taking place within us might be death to pride, greed and envy; death to anger, lust, gluttony and laziness. With God's grace, we are coming to new life....a new life of virtue. This new life might include humility, generosity and charity; restraint, self-control, moderation and diligence. These reflect that the Lazarus story continues in our own experience.

The Lord Jesus is with us. The Holy Spirit is supporting us. God is creating new life within us.

My sisters and brothers, continue to be faithful. We are on the Way.