“Only the power of Jesus can help us come out of these atrophied zones of the heart, these tombs of sin, which we all have.” —Pope Francis

BY ANNE GOWEN
Now a certain man was ill, Lazarus, the village of Bethany, about two miles off, and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to comfort them concerning the death of their brother. Now when Jesus heard that he had fallen ill, he remained for two days after hearing about him. Then after two days he said to his disciples, "Tell us, where is his house?" So the disciples said to him, "Lord, if you had been here, our brother would not have died." Jesus said to them, "But now I am here. The dead are raised to life. No one may bring them back to life." They said to him, "Master, the man was not worthy of death?" Jesus said to them, "Therefore did I say that you must believe. The dead are raised to life. No one may bring them back to life. But now I am here. The dead are raised to life. No one may bring them back to life." So the disciples went to him, "Tell us, where is his house?" They said to him, "Lord, if you had been here, our brother would not have died."

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Words of Pope Francis

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new life of joy and freedom.

2. Pope Francis speaks of the Year of Mercy as a time of

In his general audience in St. Peter's Square, the Pope encouraged believers to open their hearts and minds to the mercy of God. He urged Christians to be attentive to the needs of others and to offer them the gift of forgiveness. Pope Francis emphasized the importance of mercy in building bridges of understanding and reconciliation. He invited all to reflect on how they can live a life of mercy and how they can be instruments of God's love and mercy in the world.

In his homily at the Mass of the Lord's Supper, Pope Francis reflected on the institution of the Eucharist by Jesus. He highlighted the importance of the Eucharist in uniting the Church and in offering communion to all. Pope Francis encouraged believers to approach the Eucharist with a heart of mercy and a desire to share the gift of God's love with others.

Pope Francis concluded his homily by urging believers to respond to the call of mercy. He encouraged them to be instruments of God's love and mercy, to open their hearts to those in need, and to be guided by the example of Jesus. Pope Francis reminded believers that the Eucharist is a sacrifice of love and compassion, and he invited them to celebrate it with a heart of mercy and a mind open to the needs of others.

Reflect on how you can be an instrument of God's love and mercy in the world. Consider how you can respond to the call of mercy by being attentive to the needs of others and by offering them the gift of forgiveness.

Just as Jesus told the Jews to roll away the stone in front of the entrance of the tomb, let us roll away the stone of indifference and lack of compassion in our hearts. Let us be merciful and open our hearts to those who are in need. Let us follow the example of Jesus and be instruments of God's love and mercy in the world.

In the Gospel of Luke, we find another important element in the celebration of the Year of Mercy. In Luke 1, Jesus speaks of the Year of Mercy as a time of forgiveness and restoration. He invites us to be instruments of God's love and mercy, to be merciful and compassionate towards others.

Jesus offers a message of hope and forgiveness. He invites us to be merciful and compassionate towards others. He reminds us that God's love is available to all, and that we can be instruments of God's love and mercy in the world. Let us open our hearts to the message of Jesus and let us be instruments of God's love and mercy in the world.
If Lazarus was raised from the dead, what does it mean for your spiritual life? How do you live a new spiritual life in the way that Jesus did? What challenges do you face in your everyday life that are similar to the ones Jesus faced? How do you respond to those challenges with faith and hope?
1. Jesus had a very close relationship with Lazarus and his sis-

Understand?

2. God doesn't will or create sickness, but Jesus says that

Lazarus sickness will be for the glory of God and that he
will be glorified in it. How does he arise of Lazarus? De-
contra. Good's mercy in bringing good even out of sick-

3. In Luke 10:38-42, Martha seems to be portrayed as-

rations with faith?

4. Why does John include the detail that "Jesus wept" (1:35)?

5. What is the significance of Lazarus' bandages? What do

Hein, and why does he weep today?

When he saw Mary's grief? Why do you think Jesus wept

you think they symbolize?