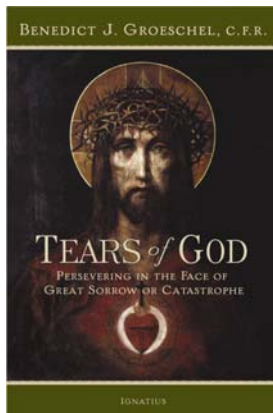


FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Celebrated priest-psychologist tackles great suffering and its worth

SAN FRANCISCO, March 12, 2009 – How does a person handle great sorrow or sudden catastrophe? How does one cope, make sense of it all, and go on living?

Beloved and best-selling author, teacher, psychologist and popular television host, Father Benedict Groeschel, C.F.R., has written a guide for all who grapple with those questions and who have suffered greatly or experienced enormous sorrow, even catastrophe or horror.

In Tears of God: Persevering in the Face of Great Sorrow or Catastrophe (Ignatius, 115 pp) the insightful Franciscan friar draws upon his own experience of disaster – being hit by a car and remaining unconscious for three weeks – to help others through theirs. Calamities such as a diagnosis of terminal illness, the death of a child, natural disaster, horrific accident, tragedy caused by an evil act, and war trauma are among those things Father Groeschel addresses.

Father Groeschel examines such evils in light of God's Providence, one's personal faith in God's goodness and mercy, and especially Christ's appalling suffering and death. He gives practical advice, as well as great spiritual direction, on agony and catastrophe ... and seeing beyond the apparent 'finality' of it all to the 'other side.'

All religions attempt to deal with catastrophe, but Christianity is the only one which speaks of a God who suffered a horrible catastrophe – crucifixion and death, says Father Groeschel. The Christian who places his suffering at the foot of the Cross will find answers that can be found nowhere else.

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“Ask yourself how Christ felt before Pilate, or when he was scourged and beaten so much that He almost died,” probes Father Groeschel. “What did he experience as He carried the heavy cross beam up the side of Calvary? What were his thoughts as He was dying of asphyxiation [suffocation] and loss of blood on the Cross? Ask yourself about the feelings, sentiments, pain, and dereliction the Son of Man felt on that horrible day?”

“Yet, had Jesus chosen to remain silent or be more diplomatic in His encounters with His enemies and with the Romans, He would not have been there that day before Pilate,” writes Groeschel.

He could have avoided it all. But He endured it for the sake of all humanity.

Then there’s the Resurrection to ponder.

“[When He arose], Christ did not come triumphantly before His enemies and walk into the Temple,” writes Groeschel. “Rather, he was mistaken for a gardener by Mary Magdalene. And in the midst of grief, sorrow or catastrophe,” according to Groeschel, “a Christian must be waiting for the coming of the Lord.”

Resurrection followed suffering and death in Christ’s life on earth, and it will in ours.

Tears of God also includes a special section of “Prayers and Meditations”, which includes well-known and lesser-known prayers to God in time of suffering and great loss. A selection of supportive Scripture quotations follows, along with a list of Additional Readings for gaining perspective on, and hope through, great suffering.

Denver Archbishop Charles Chaput, O.F.M. Cap., says, “*Tears of God* is a marvelous reflection on the meaning of sorrow, the skills to deal with it, and the constancy of God’s love. Father Groeschel is one of America’s finest spiritual writers – lucid, practical and compelling.”

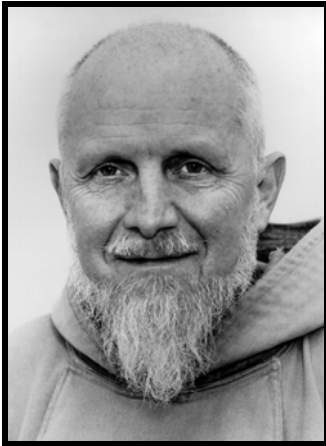
Archbishop of Chicago, Francis Cardinal George, has this to say. “This deeply moving book draws upon Father Groeschel’s own experience of catastrophic suffering and his insight as a psychologist and spiritual director. It is a book much needed.”

Best-selling author Fr. C. John McCloskey (*Good News, Bad News*) says, “This book helps us come to grips with the ongoing mysteries of evil in our lives that, if seen in the light of Christ’s death and resurrection, are only steps to be embraced on our way to eternal life in heaven. A truly comforting and encouraging book to embrace the crosses that God allows to come our way.”

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San Francisco-based Ignatius Press, founded in 1978, is one of the largest Catholic publishers in the world. Ignatius Press is the primary English-language publisher of Pope Benedict XVI. Dedicated to publishing and distributing information on the Catholic faith, Ignatius Press publishes over 40 books each year (with over 1,800 titles in print), and produces and licenses many fine films for distribution in North America. . Its author-roster includes some of the foremost names in the Catholic Church. Ignatius Press is also the publisher of *Catholic World Report* and *Homiletic & Pastoral Review* magazines. www.ignatius.com

Fr. Benedict J. Groeschel, C.F.R.



Fr. Benedict Groeschel, C.F.R., the popular psychologist, bestselling author and television host the world over, is known for his bold and powerful witness to the Gospel. For many years Fr. Groeschel has tirelessly worked with the poor and needy, spoken to millions of Catholics, and written numerous articles and books.

In May 1987 he founded, with eight other friars, the community of the Franciscan Friars of the Renewal. The Community, which follows the Capuchian Tradition, now has over 135 friars and 30 sisters. It is dedicated to preaching reform within the Church and caring for the homeless in the South Bronx and Harlem sections of New York City, as well as in London, Limerick, Honduras and Nicaragua.

Fr. Groeschel is Director for the Office for Spiritual Development for the Archdiocese of New York. In 1974 at the request of Terence Cardinal Cooke, he founded the Trinity Retreat in Larchmont, New York, which provides spiritual direction and retreats for clergy. John Cardinal O'Connor appointed him promoter of the cause of Canonization of the Servant of God, Terence Cardinal Cooke, in 1984.

Fr. Groeschel earned his doctorate in psychology from Columbia University in 1971 and is professor of pastoral psychology at St. Joseph's Seminary of the Archdiocese of New York. He is also adjunct professor at the Institute for Psychological Sciences in Arlington in Virginia. He has taught at Fordham University, Iona College, and Maryknoll Seminary.

He is chairman of the Good Counsel Homes and the St. Francis House, which provide residence and programs for homeless young mothers and homeless youth. For 14 years, Fr. Groeschel served as chaplain of the Children's Village in Dobbs Ferry, New York.

Fr. Groeschel is host of the popular TV program, “Sunday Night Live with Father Benedict Groeschel”, broadcast on EWTN, and is author of many books published by Ignatius Press, including:

- *Arise From Darkness: What to Do When Life Doesn't Make Sense*
- *The Reform of Renewal*
- *The Rosary: Chain of Hope*
- *A Still Small Voice: A Practical Guide on Reported Revelations*, and
- *The Drama of Reform*.

When Fr. Groeschel was nearly killed in a traffic accident in early 2004, tens of thousands prayed for his life. Miraculously, he lived. His newest book, *Tears of God*, addresses faith and personal catastrophe.

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***Tears of God:
Persevering in the Face of Great Sorrow or Catastrophe***

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1-800-651-1531

Description:

Fr. Benedict Groeschel, the best-selling author, TV show-host, beloved teacher, and psychologist, addresses this book to all who have suffered great sorrow or catastrophe in their lives and for those close to them. These types of disasters would include situations like the death of a child, fatal diagnosis, horrific accidents, natural calamities, tragedies caused by evil acts, war trauma, and even difficult situations of great tension.

In *Tears of God: Persevering in the Face of Great Sorrow or Catastrophe*, Fr. Groeschel studies catastrophes of all different kinds in relationship to three things: faith in Divine Providence, God's goodness and mercy, and Christ's suffering and death. Though all religions attempt to deal with catastrophe, Christianity is the only one which speaks of a God who suffered a terrible catastrophe – crucifixion and death. The Christian must, then, find his way at the foot of the Cross, and there discover answers which cannot be given by any other religious faith. He must follow the way of Christ to make his way through times of great testing and catastrophe, always looking beyond the apparent finality of it all to the 'other side.'

The mystery of pain and evil is a universal problem that affects everyone. All can benefit from this book which offers profound insights and advice from this world-renowned priest-psychologist.

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Broadcast Interview Questions

For

Fr. Benedict J. Groeschel, C.F.R.

Tears of God: Persevering the Face of Great Sorrow or Catastrophe

1. You'd written a book previously which deals with handling sorrow, entitled *Arise From Darkness*. Why did you write this book?
2. Perhaps you could tell us a bit about your own personal experience with catastrophe which was among the inspirations for writing *Tears of God*.
3. Can you describe about the actual psychology of undergoing catastrophe, and the grief, sorrow and 'pressing on' that follow?
4. You tell us in the book you know many who have survived the horror of the Nazi concentration camps. What do these survivors have in common?
5. What place does 'anger at God' have in someone's dealing with catastrophe?
6. Finally, what role does post-traumatic stress play in a person's dealing with horror or catastrophe, and how do they process their memories in a way which allows them to go forward. What roles does their faith in God play in all this?